Regional Travel Bans Have Been Replaced with a COVID Vaccination Requirement

President Biden recently issued a Proclamation on Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel during the COVID-19 Pandemic [1]. The proclamation, which became effective on November 8, 2021, includes these key points:

- The proclamation revokes the regional travel bans [2] restricting travel from China, India, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, the Schengen Area, the United Kingdom, and Ireland.
- Beginning on November 8, nonimmigrant foreign nationals, such as F and J students and scholars, will need proof that they are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 [3] and proof of a negative COVID-19 test [4] taken within three days before their flight in order to board a flight to the United States.
- There are some exceptions to the vaccination requirement. It does not apply to anyone under age 18 or to travelers from countries with limited access to COVID-19 vaccines [5].
- The proclamation does not apply to U.S. citizens or permanent residents (green card holders), but all unvaccinated travelers – including U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and nonimmigrants eligible for exceptions to the vaccine requirement will be subject to stricter COVID-19 testing requirements [6].

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

- CDC (Centers for Disease Control: Requirement for Proof of COVID-19 Vaccination for Air Passengers [3]
- U.S. Department of State: Updated Requirements for Air Travelers to the U.S. due to COVID-19 [7]
- “Find out if you can board a flight to the United States” travel assessment [8]

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