

Global Immigration: Weekly round-up of COVID-19 updates

11 June 2021

In brief

During the G7 summit, the UK Prime Minister, Boris Johnson, and the US President, Joe Biden, have committed to resuming travel between the UK and the US. Whilst no date has yet been confirmed, it is expected that the relaunch of travel will occur soon.

Similarly, Australia's Prime Minister, Scott Morrison, and Singapore's Prime Minister, Lee Hsien Loong, also discussed, during the G7 summit, the resumption of an Australia/Singapore travel bubble, with Singapore students in Australia being identified as piloting the arrangement in order to facilitate their studies. Mutual recognition of health and vaccination certificates (likely in an online version that can be verified by both countries) will be central to the rollout of the travel bubble. Other than New Zealand (where a travel bubble has been implemented), Singapore is the only country that Australia is currently considering a travel bubble with.

In detail

Americas

Canada – Potential easing of quarantine measures for some fully vaccinated travellers

On 9 June 2021, Canada's Health Minister, Patty Hajdu, said that fully vaccinated Canadian citizens and permanent residents may soon be exempt from the two-week quarantine. Currently, all eligible arrivals must await their on-arrival COVID-19 test result at a government designated airport hotel and if negative, are required to complete the balance of the 14-day quarantine at home. This update would effectively remove the initial three-day mandatory hotel quarantine period, as fully vaccinated eligible travellers could await their on-arrival test in self-isolation at home. If the result is negative, the 14-day quarantine period would no longer apply.

The update does not include any easing of restrictions for other travellers and foreign national visitors and those with temporary status (as well as unvaccinated Canadian citizens and permanent residents) will continue to be required to stay at a designated hotel quarantine facility and quarantine for 14 days.

Whilst no official start date has yet been announced, it is being reported that the gradual easing of quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated citizens may occur by July 2021.

The takeaway – *As yet, no official date for rollout of this proposed easing to quarantine measures has been made. The proposal would ease restrictions for Canadian citizens and permanent residents who have been fully vaccinated (which means two weeks must have passed after receiving the final dose of an approved vaccine).*

For all other individuals and travellers, it is expected that the current quarantine requirements will continue to apply, until further notice.

APAC

Taiwan – Travel restrictions to remain in place until 28 June 2021

On 11 June 2021, the authorities in Taiwan confirmed that the current travel restrictions will remain in place until 28 June 2021 (subject to further extension). During this period, visa application services at TECO will also remain suspended.

The takeaway – *During this period, all foreign nationals who do not hold a valid ARC are restricted from entering Taiwan. Those with upcoming travel plans or upcoming applications with TECO should contact their PwC contact to discuss next steps and options available.*

Philippines – Update to entry restrictions

The Philippines government is now permitting the entry and return of Filipino nationals from restricted countries (including India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Oman and UAE) either via a repatriation or non-repatriation flight.

Filipino nationals who will be returning to the Philippines via the non-Philippine government repatriation flight are required to present a negative RT-PCR test result, taken within 48 hours prior to boarding the flight; and comply with a strict 14-day facility-based quarantine.

Foreign nationals coming from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Oman and the United Arab Emirates are still not allowed entry in the Philippines until at least 15 June 2021 (subject to extension).

In addition to the above, the Philippines government has also confirmed that all travellers fully vaccinated in the Philippines will be eligible to undergo a shortened seven day facility quarantine (rather than the full 14 days) unless they appear symptomatic on arrival (in which case further tests and health assessment will be carried out).

The takeaway – *Fully vaccinated travellers are those who have confirmation of receiving a vaccine approved by the Philippines, where the last dose of the vaccine programme was more than two weeks before the date of travel to the Philippines.*

Filipino nationals returning from high risk countries (as listed above) must complete the full 14-day quarantine period and testing requirements.

Europe

France – New country traffic light system implemented

On 9 June 2021, France implemented a new system which categorises all countries as either green, amber or red.

Non-essential travel is permitted for travellers from green countries (currently EU countries, Andorra, Australia, Iceland, Israel, Japan, Liechtenstein, Monaco, New Zealand, Norway, San Marino, Singapore, South Korea, Switzerland and Vatican City; however this list is under regular review and may be updated at short notice).

Fully vaccinated travellers from green countries do not need to present a negative COVID-19 test or quarantine. However, they will need to show evidence of having received a complete dose of an EU approved vaccine at least two weeks after

the second dose. All other unvaccinated travellers from green list countries must present a negative COVID-19 PCR taken no more than 72 hours before boarding. Travellers from green list countries will be exempt from quarantine.

Amber list countries are all countries not on the red or green lists. Entry is permitted for fully vaccinated travellers from amber countries; as well as essential travel for French/EU nationals and residents, UK nationals who benefit from the withdrawal agreement, certain students, health or research professionals, and transiting passengers who remain in the transit zone for 24 hours. Fully vaccinated travellers will need to show evidence of having received a complete dose of an EU approved vaccine at least two weeks after the second dose and present a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours. All other eligible but unvaccinated travellers from amber list countries must present a negative COVID-19 PCR taken no more than 48 hours before boarding and will be subject to quarantine.

Essential travel only is permitted from red countries (currently Argentina, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, India, Nepal, Pakistan, South Africa, Surinam, Sri Lanka, Turkey and Uruguay) for French/EU nationals and residents, VLS family reunification visa holders, transport staff, transiting travellers remaining in the international transit zone under 24 hours (there may be limited other exemptions and individuals should reach out to their PwC contact for a full assessment on options).

Travellers from red list countries must present a negative COVID-19 PCR taken no more than 48 hours before boarding and will be subject to quarantine on arrival.

The takeaway – Travellers with upcoming plans to visit France should ensure that they are aware of the categorisation of the country they are travelling from ahead of travel and ensure they meet all testing and quarantine requirements.

Let's talk

For a deeper discussion of how this impacts your business, please contact your Global Mobility Services engagement team or one of the following professionals:

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Meet the [Global Mobility Services global leadership team](#)

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