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# Open Forum on Winter Travel

Tufts International Center  
November 12, 2021

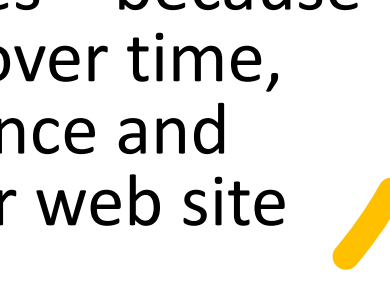
# Before We Begin

- Session will be recorded and made available to registered participants after the session
- Session will also be available on our Open Forum archives at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/covid-19-updates/open-forums/>
- Please use the Q&A feature to ask questions
- For ongoing updates, go to the International Center web site at **<https://icenter.tufts.edu>**

# Forum Topics

1. Update on International Air Travel to the US
2. Land and Ferry Travel to the US from Canada and Mexico
3. Travel Documents, Signatures, and other Travel Concerns
4. Other Matters

REMINDER: Throughout this session we will provide links to important web sites – because rules / requirements may change over time, consult original government guidance and sources or the International Center web site for most recent information.



# International Center Web Site

- Many of these updates and links to resources are available on the International Center web site at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/covid-19> and <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/travel>



# International Air Travel to the US



# October 25 Presidential Proclamation

- On **October 25** the White House issued a new Presidential Proclamation, *Advancing Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic*, ordering changes to requirements for international air travel to the US
- Changes went into effect on **November 8, 2021** and affects almost all non-immigrant air travelers, with limited exceptions
- Tufts international students, scholars, and employees on nonimmigrant visas should be aware of these changes if planning to enter or re-enter the US after November 8

## Important Links

- White House Fact Sheet:  
<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2021/10/25/fact-sheet-biden-administration-releases-additional-detail-for-implementing-a-safer-more-stringent-international-air-travel-system/>
- CDC Implementation: go to  
<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>

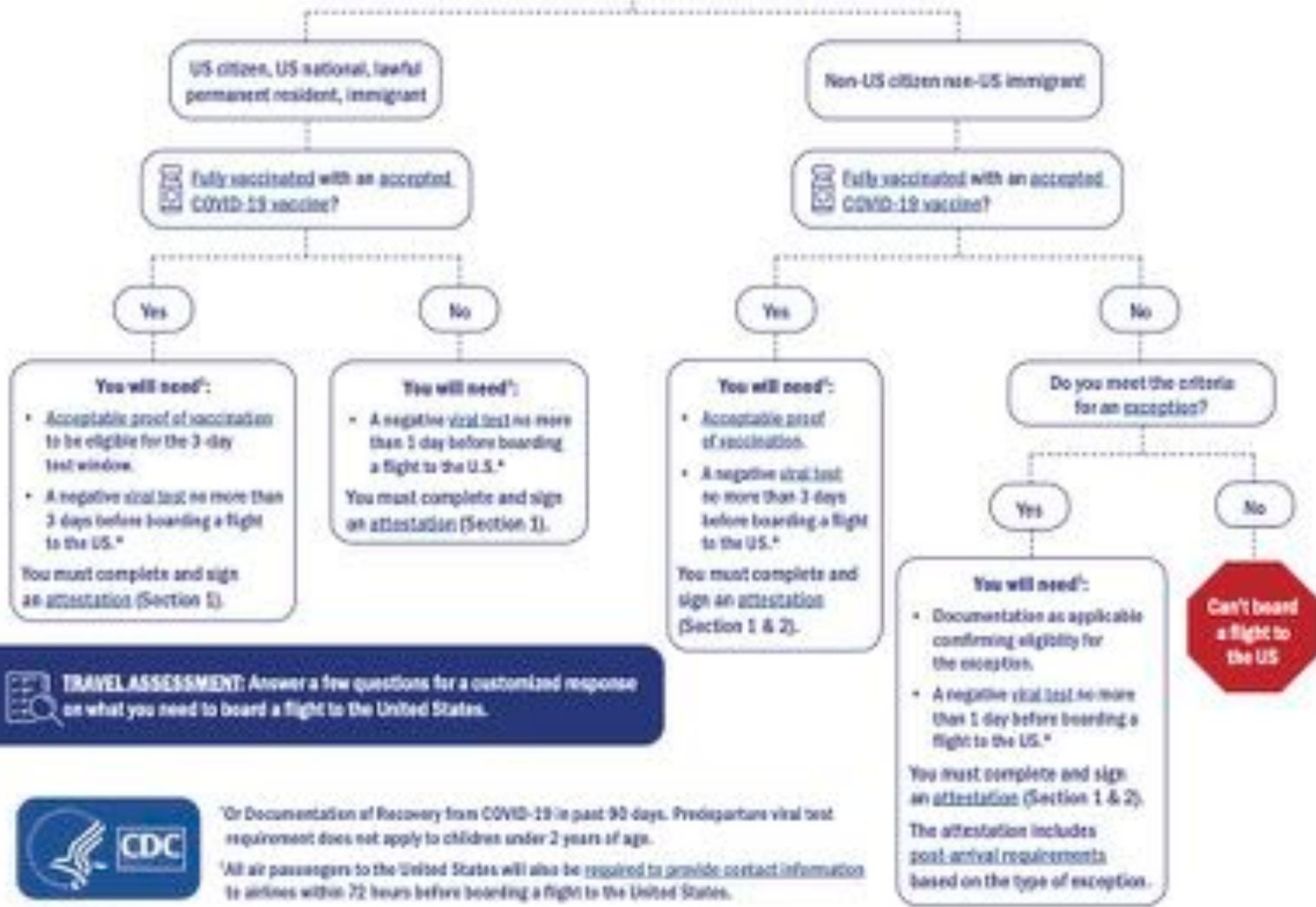
# Implementation of Proclamation







# TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES FROM A FOREIGN COUNTRY BY AIR



**TRAVEL ASSESSMENT:** Answer a few questions for a customized response on what you need to board a flight to the United States.



\*Or Documentation of Recovery from COVID-19 in past 90 days. Predeparture viral test requirement does not apply to children under 2 years of age.  
\*All air passengers to the United States will also be required to provide contact information to airlines within 72 hours before boarding a flight to the United States.

10/23/2020

# Revoked: Country- Specific Entry Restrictions

- The October 25 Proclamation revokes country-specific restrictions that were created during the pandemic, affecting travelers seeking to come to the US from **China, India, Iran, Brazil, South Africa, the Schengen Area countries and the UK and Ireland**
- With the revocation of these country-specific restrictions, the National Interest Exception (NIE) process is also canceled and NIEs are no longer valid or needed

# New: COVID-19 Vaccination Requirement

- Now nonimmigrant visa holders traveling to the US must show proof of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- Acceptable vaccines include US FDA approved or WHO Emergency Use Listing (EUL) approved COVID-19 vaccines
- If you were vaccinated with a non WHO EUL approved vaccine, consult with your doctor or health care provider about your vaccination status

# FDA / WHO EUL- Approved Vaccines

- For a current list of accepted vaccines, as well as definitions of “fully vaccinated,” go to <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/order-safe-travel/technical-instructions.html> and <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/vaccines/fully-vaccinated-guidance.html#annex>
- Current list of accepted vaccines (11/11/2021):

Janssen / J&J	Pfizer-BioNTech
Moderna	AstraZeneca
Covaxin	Covishield
BIBP/Sinopharm	Sinovac
- Consult with your doctor or health care provider if you have concerns about your vaccination status

# Exceptions to the Vaccination Requirement

- Go to <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/travel-assessment/foreign-not-fully-vaccinated.html>
- Some important exceptions worth noting;
  - Children under 18
  - Non-immigrants with valid visas from countries with limited vaccine availability (except for B tourists and visitors)

# Limited Vaccine Availability Exception

- Go to [https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/order-safe-travel/technical-instructions.html#anchor\\_1635183102468](https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/order-safe-travel/technical-instructions.html#anchor_1635183102468), Table 4
- Exception to COVID-19 vaccination requirement for entry may be granted for persons with valid visas entering from certain countries with limited vaccine supply
- Most recent list was from October; list will be updated every three months

# Limited Vaccine Availability Countries – Exception

- **As of October 2021**, current list includes: Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Armenia, Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Egypt, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Kenya, Kiribati, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Mali, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Syria, Tanzania Togo, Uganda, Vanuatu, Yemen, Zambia
- Applies to persons with valid passports and visas from this country
- B-1/B-2 visitors cannot use this limited vaccine exception
- Check the CDC web site for the most recent list

# Negative COVID-19 Viral Test Results

- <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>
- Prior to boarding, air travelers must show a negative COVID-19 viral test result taken in the three days prior to flight departure
- For those who qualify for a vaccine exception, the test must have been taken no more than one day prior to flight departure
- Children under 2 may be exempt from a test, but testing is still recommended



# Children & Dependents

- Children under the age of 18 are exempt from the COVID-19 vaccination requirement
- Unvaccinated children between the ages of 2 and 17 are required to take a COVID-19 test prior to departure
- Unvaccinated children travelling with a fully vaccinated adult can take a test within 3 days of departure, but unvaccinated children traveling alone or with an unvaccinated adult will have to take a COVID test within one day of departure

# Tufts vs US Federal Government Exceptions

- Tufts will continue to maintain a vaccination requirement for students and others coming to campus for instruction, teaching, work
- Some Tufts student / staff / employees were granted a medical or religious exception to Tufts University's vaccination policy
- Note that the University's exceptions policy is separate from US federal government COVID-19 travel policy requirements as just discussed: international air travel requires you to meet the US policy or qualify for an exception as provided for under the US policy



# Land and Ferry Travel to the US

# Traveling to US from Canada and Mexico

- Air travel from Canada and Mexico to the US is subject to the same international air travel rules discussed in the previous slides
- Land (car / rail) and ferry travel from Canada and Mexico to the US is now permitted for both essential travel (employment, study) and non-essential travel (personal / vacation travel)
  - **Non-essential travel:** must show proof of COVID-19 vaccination in order to enter the US
  - **Essential travel:** proof of vaccination not required at this time, but will be required effective January 2022
- <https://www.dhs.gov/news/2021/10/29/fact-sheet-guidance-travelers-enter-us-land-ports-entry-and-ferry-terminals>

# Travel Documents, Signatures, and Other Travel Concerns

Name \_\_\_\_\_

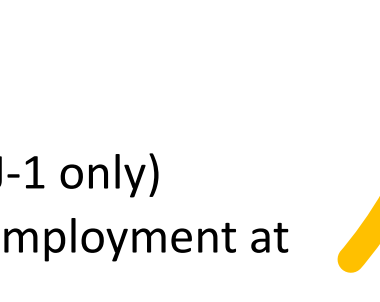
Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_




# Still Required for US Entry (General Documents)

In addition to documentation for COVID vaccination and test results, all non-immigrant travelers should present the following for entry to the US:


- 1. Unexpired passport** valid at least six months into the future on date of entry
  - 2. Valid US entry visa** (e.g., F-1, J-1, H-1B)
    - Canadian citizens are exempt from the visa requirement
  - 3. Visa Certificate or I-797 Approval Notice**
    - Form I-20 for F-1 students
    - Form DS-2019 for J-1 students and scholars
    - Form I-797 for H-1B employees
  - 4. Supporting documents**
    - I-901 SEVIS fee payment receipt (F-1 / J-1 only)
    - Evidence of admission / attendance / employment at Tufts
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# Travel Signatures

- Continuing (already active) F-1 students and J-1 students and scholars who plan to travel internationally need to obtain a travel endorsement signatures on their I-20 (F-1) or DS-2019 (J-1) if returning for Spring 2022
  - **J-1 students and scholars:** You must have your DS-2019 form signed in the original and should arrange to come to an International Center location during walk-in hours prior to traveling
  - **F-1 students:** Electronic I-20s are now permitted (see next page)
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# Electronic Delivery of Form I-20 for F-1 Students

- The Student and Exchange Visitor Program is now permitting indefinite use of electronically delivered I-20s
  - You can request an updated i-20 (including travel signatures) through the International Center portal → go to <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/travel/travel-signatures/>
  - A PDF version of Form I-20 will be sent to you electronically (by Box)
  - Print out and sign the I-20 for use in travel
  - **I-20s delivered to you electronically should still be printed on paper when traveling, applying for visas, etc. – do not just keep a copy on your phone, laptop, etc.**
  - You can also bring your original I-20 to the International Center for a wet ink signature, if you prefer
- 



# Visa Renewals

- Remember that you need a valid US entry visa to enter / re-enter the US
  - Exception: you can re-enter on an expired visa if you are already in the US and making short trips (30 days or less) directly to / returning directly from Canada, Mexico, and certain Caribbean islands
- Still seeing long waits for visa appointments (if needed – visa interviews are being waived in many situations for persons applying for new visas if they were previously issued a visa in the same category)
- If you need a new visa to enter the US, consider rescheduling travel to summer when you would have more time to obtain a visa; otherwise, consult with the information provided by the US consulate

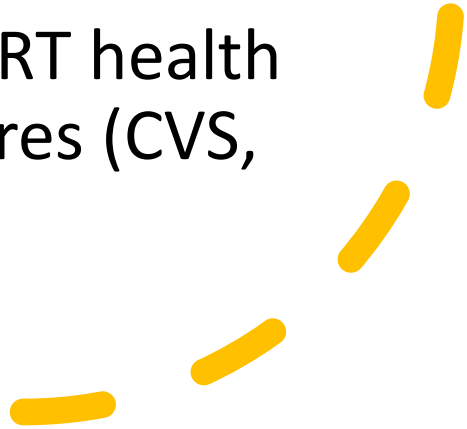


# Entering Other Countries

- Remember when traveling to other countries – even in transit situations – it is still advisable to research in advance the COVID and visa requirements for those countries
- COVID-19 continues to be a major global health crisis and periodic country-specific lockdowns, shutdowns, and travel barriers are still happening



# COVID-19 SMART Health Card

- As the global population is becoming increasingly vaccinated, some countries are starting to use SMART Health Cards with proof of COVID-19 vaccination
  - SMART Health Cards are generally digital records of vaccinations and other health information that can be read through a QR code or similar technology
  - Still very 'new' technology – only a few US states are issuing COVID-19 SMART health card records, plus some drug stores (CVS, etc.)
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# Other Matters



# Getting Things Done

- For our standard operating hours, walk-in hours, on-line appointment scheduling, and other services refer to our **Guide to Getting Things Done with the International Center**
- Go to <https://icenter.tufts.edu> to find our guide
- Walk-in hours are limited to specific dates and times, but we will start to announce expanded availability for winter travel signatures starting in late November

# International Center Portal Service Announcement

- For international students only – scholars and department administrators not affected
- The International Center Portal, at <https://icenterportal.tufts.edu>, will be undergoing maintenance from **November 18 – 21**.
- Please do not submit any online requests (travel signatures, OPT / CPT approvals, reduced course load, new or reprinted I-20s, STEM updates, address updates, etc.) using the Portal until you receive an email confirming the system has returned to normal functioning.

# Upcoming International Center Holidays

## **Thanksgiving Holiday**

- Closes 12pm on Wednesday, November 24
- Closed Thursday and Friday, Nov. 25 – 26

## **Winter Holiday**

- Closes 12pm on Thursday, December 23
- Reopen Monday, January 3<sup>rd</sup>
- Emergency contact information will be posted on our web site
- Also refer to Travel Emergency information at <https://icenter.tufts.edu/immigration/travel/travel-emergencies/>



# Questions?

Thank you for coming!

