



# Mobility: Immigration alert

October 2021

## India

### New policies for inbound travelers

#### Executive summary

The Indian Government implemented new policies for inbound travelers on 25 October 2021.

#### Background

The Indian Government categorizes countries as either “at risk” (i.e., countries with elevated COVID-19 infection rates) or “not at risk” (i.e., those that are not included in the list of “at risk” countries). In addition, certain countries are known as “Category A” countries due to reciprocal agreements with India, further to which India recognizes the COVID-19 vaccines that are approved in Category A countries (and vice versa), and by the World Health Organization (WHO). Category A countries may be considered “at risk” or not. Click [here](#) for the list of “at risk” and Category A countries.

#### Travel from “at risk” countries

Effective 25 October 2021, individuals traveling to India from “at risk” countries must take a reverse transcription polymerase chain reaction (RT PCR) COVID-19 test upon arrival and isolate for seven days in a private residence or hotel. These travelers must take another RT PCR COVID-19 test on their eighth day in India, and test negative, to end their mandatory isolation period. Travelers who test negative for COVID-19 on their eighth day in India must monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19 for seven days following the end of their isolation period. Travelers who test positive for COVID-19 on their eighth day in India must remain in isolation and seek medical guidance/treatment from a local hospital or medical facility. The above requirements apply, irrespective of the traveler’s COVID-19 vaccination status.

#### Travel from countries that are not “at risk”

Effective 25 October 2021, individuals traveling to India from countries that are not considered “at risk” are not required to take a RT PCR COVID-19 test or isolate after entering India. However, they are required to monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19 for their first 14 days in India. Notwithstanding the above, all travelers are subject to random health screenings upon arrival in India, and those who present symptoms of COVID-19 may be required to isolate after entry, even if they traveled from a country that is not at risk. The above requirements apply, irrespective of the traveler’s COVID-19 vaccination status.

#### Travel from Category A countries

Effective 25 October 2021, fully vaccinated individuals (i.e., those who received the final dose of an approved COVID-19 vaccine at least 15 days prior to their trip) who travel to India from Category A countries are subject to the same testing and isolation rules as travelers from countries that are not considered to be “at risk” (i.e., they are not required to take a RT PCR test or isolate after entering India, but they must monitor their health for their first 14 days in India).

Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated individuals traveling to India from Category A countries are subject to the same rules as travelers from “at risk” countries (i.e., they must take RT PCR COVID-19 tests and isolate after entry, and may only end their isolation after testing negative for COVID-19 on their eighth day in India). These travelers must monitor their health for symptoms of COVID-19 for seven days following the end of their isolation period.

### Pre-travel requirements

All India-bound travelers, including Indian citizens, are still required to take a RT PCR COVID-19 test no more than 72 hours prior to travel, and test negative, to be admitted, irrespective of their COVID-19 vaccination status. All travelers must also fill out a self-declaration form no more than 72 hours prior to travel. For more information, click [here](#).

### Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, please contact any of our immigration professionals.

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