

# Mobility: immigration alert

January 2022

## Canada

### Canada introduces new travel restrictions for unvaccinated foreign nationals

#### Executive summary

On 15 January 2022, the Government of Canada imposed new travel restrictions requiring that all foreign nationals entering Canada must be considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19, subject to very limited exemptions. Canadian citizens, permanent residents, persons registered under the Indian Act, and protected persons remain exempt from the requirement to be fully vaccinated until 28 February 2022.

With the new restrictions, there are now very limited exemptions for a foreign national to enter Canada unless they are fully vaccinated. To be considered fully vaccinated, a person must have received the full series of vaccine that is approved by Government of Canada at least 14 days prior to entering Canada. Vaccines accepted by the Government of Canada are those that are manufactured by Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca/COVISHIELD, and Janssen (Johnson & Johnson). Bharat Biotech (Covaxin, BBV152 A, B, C), Sinopharm (Beijing), BBIBP-CorV (Vero Cells) and Sinovac (CoronaVac, PiCoVacc). Travelers can receive their vaccine in any country and must provide evidence supporting full vaccination.

#### Exceptions

- Those who hold, or who have been approved for, a work permit issued based on a positive LMIA, or who are LMIA-Exempt pursuant to an international agreement or to serve Canadian interests, and the work permit was approved pursuant to a job offer to work in certain agricultural and food-processing occupations;
- Those who have been approved for permanent residence who are seeking to “land” at a port of entry and hold a Confirmation of Permanent Residence (COPR) and, if from a visa-required country, a Permanent Resident Visa
- Minors under the age of 18 seeking to enter Canada to reunite with an immediate or extended family member who is a citizen, permanent resident, accompany a fully vaccinated foreign national, or attend a designated learning institution
- Dependent adults, defined as someone “who is 18 years of age or older if they are dependent on one or more other persons for care or support by reason of mental or physical limitation”
- On compassionate grounds; this exemption requires applicants to submit a request to the Public Health Agency of Canada (PHAC) to receive authorization prior to travel for a number of reasons, such as attending a funeral or caring for the elderly
- Those who the Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship or the Minister of Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness exempts on the basis of national interest in exceptional circumstances (for example, foreign nationals seeking entry to contribute to critical infrastructure)
- Protected persons, holders of Temporary Resident Permits, and those seeking refugee protection in Canada at a land border with the United States
- Those who seek to enter Canada to deliver, install, maintain, or repair medically necessary equipment.



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Even if foreign national qualifies for an exemption to the requirement to be fully vaccinated, they must still satisfy all other entry requirements, such as the requirement to hold a valid visa or eTA depending on their country of citizenship. They must also comply with all quarantine restrictions imposed on their stay, with most unvaccinated travellers being required to quarantine for a minimum of 14 days and provide evidence of negative COVID-19 tests after arrival.

**Upcoming requirements for certain foreign nationals leaving Canada**  
Until 28 February 2022, foreign nationals in Canada who are not fully vaccinated will be allowed to leave Canada. After that date, they will need to be fully vaccinated to board a flight or train in Canada, whether travelling domestically or internationally.

We will continue to monitor and review future developments. Should you have any questions with respect to these new measures, please do not hesitate to contact your EY Law LLP professional.

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