

Mobility: immigration alert

September 2022

Canada

Canada to lift remaining COVID-19 border requirements including vaccination, testing, and ArriveCAN as of 1 October

Executive summary

On 26 September 2022, Canada announced plans to lift the COVID-19 border requirements as of 1 October 2022. The plans include the lifting of vaccination requirements for entry to Canada, testing and isolation requirements, and the requirement to complete the ArriveCAN app, which will now be optional. Canada will also be removing requirements to conduct health checks for travel on air or rail and the requirement to wear mask while travelling.

Background and analysis

Under the current COVID-19 border requirements, all foreign nationals are required to be fully vaccinated in order to travel to Canada, with limited exemptions such as children of certain ages. All travelers are also currently required to complete the ArriveCAN app within 72 hours prior to their travel to Canada and report symptoms post arrival, as well as undergo arrival testing if randomly selected to do so.

Furthermore, domestic or international travelers are also required to wear mask on planes and trains. After over two years of the enforcement of various COVID-19 border measures and Canada having gotten through the peak of the Omicron waves, Canada has announced plans to lift the current remaining border measures.

Specifically, as of 1 October 2022, travelers will no longer need to complete the ArriveCAN app; provide proof of vaccination; undergo pre or post arrival testing; undergo COVID-19 related quarantine or isolation; or

monitor and report symptoms upon arrival to Canada. Travelers will also no longer be required to wear a mask on planes or trains, although it is still recommended.

What this means

The lifting of these COVID-19 border requirements will now allow those who did not previously fully meet the requirements to be “fully vaccinated” to travel to Canada. It is also expected to lead to faster check-in at airports as air carriers will no longer need to validate travelers’ information in ArriveCAN before boarding.

While the ArriveCAN app will no longer be mandatory, its use is still optional and still provides a convenience to international arriving travelers. Specifically, the ArriveCAN app can be used for the Advance CBSA Declaration feature, which should reduce inspection line wait times for travelers arriving at international airports in Canada.

We will continue to monitor these areas for further developments and provide updates and analysis as they become available. Please reach out to your EY Law professional with any questions in the meantime.



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