



# Immigration News Highlights

Issue 07 – 15 February 2022



The KPMG team regularly monitors recent developments across the globe in the Immigration space and publishes them as Immigration News Highlights. Please find the key developments that occurred over the last week enumerated below.



## Americas

### Brazil

#### **[CBP Announces Global Entry Partnership with Brazil](#)**

U.S. Customs and Border Protection announced the launch of a full Global Entry arrangement with the Government of Brazil allowing expedited clearance for pre-approved, low-risk travelers upon arrival at United States airports. [Read more.](#)

### Canada

#### **[Supplementary Information for the 2022-2024 Immigration Levels Plan](#)**

The Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship (IRCC) Canada released the Government of Canada's Immigration Levels Plan for 2022-2024 aiming to invite 431,645 new permanent residents in 2022, 447,055 in 2023 and 451,000 in 2024. [Read more.](#)

### Canada

#### **[Launching a new online case status tracker for family class permanent residence applications](#)**

The Government of Canada launched a new digital case status tracker that will allow family class permanent residence applicants, sponsors, and their representatives to check their application status online. Initially, the tracker will be available for permanent residence applicants in the spouse, partner, and dependent child categories. [Read more](#)



## Asia Pacific

### Hong Kong

#### **[COVID-19: Hong Kong Extends Ban on Flights from India, US, Seven Other Countries](#)**

Hong Kong will extend travel ban for travelers coming from Australia, Canada, France, India, Pakistan, the Philippines, the US, Nepal, and the UK through 4 March 2022 due to the rate of COVID-19 infections. [Read more](#)

### India

#### **[No quarantine, testing for vaccinated passengers, India eases entry norms](#)**

India removed the quarantine and pre-arrival testing requirements for fully vaccinated passenger coming from 82 countries. The measure entered into force on 14 February 2022. [Read more](#)

### India

#### **[India, Australia deal may have visa benefits for students](#)**

India and Australia plan to provide an additional three to five years to Indian students in Australia. The measure is a part of a bilateral agreement between the two countries. [Read more](#)

#### Indonesia

##### [Indonesia eyes lifting all quarantine requirements in April](#)

Indonesia is considering removing all quarantine restrictions for inbound travelers starting from April 2022 as the hospitalizations and fatality rates continue to decline in the country. Also, the country will reduce the quarantine period from five to three days from 21 February 2022 for travelers who have received a booster dose. [Read more](#)

#### Japan

##### ['Kishida says Japan will consider easing COVID border controls](#)

Japan is considering easing border controls for foreign students and business travelers from March 2022. The country plans to ease restrictions after considering the virus cases in the country. [Read more](#)

#### Kuwait

##### [Kuwait: Deadline extended to obtain work permit for business visa holders](#)

The labor authorities in Kuwait extended the deadline for holders of entry business visas to obtain work permits until March 31, 2022. The deadline was extended due to COVID-19 infections in the country. [Read more](#)

#### Saudi Arabia

##### [New travel restrictions take effect in Saudi Arabia](#)

From 9 February 2022, all Saudi citizens above the age of 16 must take a booster dose of the coronavirus vaccine for travel outside the Kingdom. Also, a negative antigen test is required within 48 hours of departure or entry in the kingdom. [Read more](#)

#### Taiwan

##### [CECC explains its plans for adjusting entry restrictions and quarantine policies](#)

On 14 February 2022, the Central Epidemic Command Center (CECC) announced its plans to reduce the mandatory quarantine period for foreign travelers to 10 days from 14 days. [Read more](#)



## Europe and Africa

#### Belgium

##### [Belgium to Relax National COVID-19 Rules – No More Closing Hours](#)

The Belgian authorities stated that person-based entry rules will continue to apply based on the vaccination or recovery status of a person despite easing COVID-19 restrictions in the country. All vaccinated and recovered travelers are only required to fill a pre-arrival arrival form while additional entry requirements are applicable for unvaccinated travelers. [Read more](#)

#### Botswana

##### [Botswana adjusts country entry restrictions](#)

Effective from 14 February 2022, only vaccinated travelers and citizens will be allowed to enter Botswana. Citizens and foreign visitors need to provide a proof of COVID-19 vaccines to be granted access at any port of entry into Botswana. Also, the country completely restricted the entry of unvaccinated travelers. [Read more](#)

#### Czech Republic

##### [Czechia Extends Entry Rules as All EU/Schengen Area Countries Continue to Be Affected by COVID-19](#)

The Czech Republic's Ministry of Health announced that all European Union/Schengen Area countries, except for the Vatican City State, will continue to be part of the dark red list due to increased infection rates. A pre entry test and an arrival form are compulsory for all travelers – vaccinated and unvaccinated, coming from a dark-red listed country. Vaccinated travelers coming from an EU dark-red listed country are exempt from a pre-entry test. [Read more](#)

#### Denmark

##### [Adjustment of SIRI's practice when processing applications for extensions in the area of work](#)

Denmark's immigration agency (SIRI) will now assess whether the foreign national's salary corresponds to Danish standards when the foreign national applies for an extension of his or her residence and work permit under specific schemes. The measure will into force from 1 March 2022. [Read more](#)

**Estonia****[Estonia Updates Quarantine Rules for Vaccinated EU/Schengen Area Travelers](#)**

Estonia removed mandatory quarantine requirements for fully vaccinated, recovered, or tested negative for the COVID-19 virus travelers. However, unvaccinated, and unrecovered travelers from EU risk areas are required to undergo quarantine upon their arrival in Estonia. [Read more](#)

**Finland****[Finland Scraps Pre-Entry Testing Requirement for Third-Country Travelers](#)**

All vaccinated travelers of third countries can enter Finland without presenting a COVID-19 test result from 15 February 2022. Additionally, unvaccinated, and unrecovered arrivals are required to undergo a RT-PCR test performed 72 hours or an antigen test performed 48 hours before departure. [Read more](#)

**Finland****[Long-term national D visa to expedite entry of foreign labor](#)**

The Government of Finland proposed a long-term national D visa to expedite entry of foreign labor in the country. The visa is related to work-based immigration and a fast track procedure for entry into the country and will be provided to senior specialists, start-up entrepreneurs and their family members in the first phase. [Read more.](#)

**France****[France Lifts COVID-19 Testing Requirement for Vaccinated British Travelers](#)**

As of 12 February 2022, a pre-entry test is no longer required for fully vaccinated travelers coming from the UK. A negative COVID-19 test is still required for unvaccinated British travelers along with an essential reason to travel and a sworn statement. [Read more.](#)

**France****[France Plans to Abolish Testing Requirement for Fully Vaccinated Travelers](#)**

France plans to remove the pre-entry testing requirement for fully vaccinated travelers coming from certain European countries. A pre-entry test will still be required for all vaccinated and unvaccinated travelers coming from third countries. [Read more](#)

**Germany****[Germany Places 2 More Countries on High-Risk List & Removes Another 9](#)**

Germany added Iran and the Solomon Island to its high-risk list. Travelers from these countries were subject to stricter entry rules requiring them to register their proof of vaccination or recovery. Moreover, a quarantine period is required for unvaccinated travelers. The German authorities also removed nine countries from its high-risk list. [Read more](#)

**Greece****[Greece Explains New Travel Rules Amid COVID-19](#)**

The Greek Aviation Authority (CAA) announced that only travelers having a European Digital COVID-19 Certificate gateway are exempt from the testing requirement. Further, the CAA added more countries outside the European Union whose fully vaccinated travelers are exempted from a pre-entry test. Arrivals coming from other countries are required to undergo a RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry or an antigen test taken within 48 hours of entry. [Read more](#)

**Greece****[Greece signs MoU to recruit 4,000 Bangladeshi workers each year](#)**

Bangladesh and Greece signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) under which Greece will provide temporary work permits for five years for 4,000 new Bangladeshi workers each year. [Read more.](#)

**Lithuania****[Lithuania Abolishes Quarantine Requirement for Travelers from Third Countries](#)**

As of 14 February 2022, all vaccinated travelers coming from an eligible third country can enter Lithuania are exempted from the self-isolation. The vaccines must have been administered within the last 270 days, but not in the last 14 days. Unvaccinated travelers are required to present a negative RT-PCR test taken within 72 hours of entry or a negative antigen test taken within 48 hours of entry. [Read more.](#)

## Malta

### [Malta Now Accepts Vaccination Certificates Issued by 2 More Third Countries](#)

The Maltese authorities announced that vaccine certificates issued by Jordan and Maldives will be recognized as a valid proof of vaccination. The measure is effective as of 7 February 2022. [Read more.](#)

## Portugal

### [These 2 EU Countries Have Removed Testing Obligation for Travelers Holding EU Digital COVID-19 Certificates](#)

Portugal and Greece plan to remove the pre-entry testing requirement for vaccinated travelers. The measure aims to align the travel restrictions with the European Union's rules of travel. [Read more](#)

## South Africa

### [South Africa looking into a remote working visa – here's what it should allow](#)

South Africa's president stated that the country is reviewing a provision of a remote working visa which will allow digital nomads and their dependents to stay for longer in the country. The remote visa will likely require a proof of employment outside of South Africa. [Read more](#)

## Spain

### [Spain to Ease Entry Rules for Non-EU Nationals Aged Between 12 & 17](#)

The Spanish Government eased the entry restrictions from travelers between the age of 12 and 17 from 11 February 2022. Travelers in these age group do not require a vaccine certificate before entry but must provide a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours of entry. [Read more](#)



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