



U.S. Department of  
Homeland Security

# DHS to Require Non-U.S. Individual Travelers Entering the United States at Land Ports of Entry and Ferry Terminals to be Fully Vaccinated Against COVID-19

**Release Date:** January 20, 2022

*New Requirements at Land Ports of Entry and Ferry Terminals Will Protect Public Health While Facilitating Cross-Border Trade and Travel*

WASHINGTON – Beginning on January 22, 2022, DHS will require non-U.S. individuals seeking to enter the United States via land ports of entry and ferry terminals at the U.S.-Mexico and U.S.-Canada borders to be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and provide related proof of vaccination, as COVID-19 cases continue to rise nationwide. These new restrictions will apply to non-U.S. individuals who are traveling for both essential and non-essential reasons. They will not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals.

“Starting on January 22, 2022, the Department of Homeland Security will require that non-U.S. individuals entering the United States via land ports of entry or ferry terminals along our Northern and Southern borders be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and be prepared to show related proof of vaccination,” **said Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas**. “These updated travel requirements reflect the Biden-Harris Administration’s commitment to protecting public health while safely facilitating the cross-border trade and travel that is critical to our economy.”

These changes – which were [first announced](/news/2021/10/29/dhs-releases-details-fully-vaccinated-non-citizen-travelers-enter-us-land-and-ferry) in October 2021 and made in consultation with the White House and several federal agencies, including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention

(CDC) – will align public health measures that govern land travel with those that govern incoming international air travel. (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/international-travel/index.html>).

Non-U.S. individuals traveling to the United States via land ports of entry or ferry terminals, whether for essential or non-essential reasons, must:

- verbally attest to their COVID-19 vaccination status;
- provide proof of a CDC-approved COVID-19 vaccination, as outlined on the CDC website (<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html>);
- present a valid Western Hemisphere Travel Initiative (<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/western-hemisphere-travel-initiative>) (WHTI)-compliant document, such as a valid passport, Trusted Traveler Program card, or Enhanced Tribal Card; and,
- be prepared to present any other relevant documents requested by a U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officer during a border inspection.

COVID-19 testing is not required for entry via a land port of entry or ferry terminal.

Although these new vaccination requirements do not apply to U.S. citizens, Lawful Permanent Residents, or U.S. nationals, all travelers are reminded to bring a WHTI (<https://www.cbp.gov/travel/us-citizens/western-hemisphere-travel-initiative>)-compliant document when re-entering the United States. Non-U.S. individuals attempting to enter the United States irregularly, through any illegal means or without proper documentation, will continue to be expelled pursuant to CDC's Title 42 public health order.

To help reduce wait times, travelers can take advantage of facial biometrics (<https://biometrics.cbp.gov/>) and CBP One™ (<https://www.cbp.gov/about/mobile-apps-directory/cbpone>), which is a single portal for CBP mobile applications and services.

To learn more about the updated requirements for travelers, review the DHS fact sheet (</news/2021/10/29/fact-sheet-guidance-travelers-enter-us-land-ports-entry-and-ferry-terminals>).

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Topics: Border Security (</topics/border-security>), Transportation Security (</topics/transportation-security>).

Keywords: Border Security (</keywords/border-security>), Coronavirus (COVID-19) (</keywords/coronavirus-covid-19>), Customs and Border Protection (CBP) (</keywords/cbp>), Travel (</keywords/travel-tips>).

Last Published Date: January 20, 2022

