

UNITED STATES: Immigration Application Processing Delays

Updated: 20 October 2021

The announcement regarding relaxation of the ban on travel to the U.S. from early November will bring relief to many travelers. Recently, U.S. authorities confirmed that regionally-based COVID-19 travel bans will be repealed and replaced by individual-based vaccination requirements as of 8 November 2021. Exact details of the upcoming vaccination requirements are still pending, including which vaccines and what types of proof will be accepted, but having an implementation date is welcome news throughout the industry.

As we plan for relaxations in travel, we are also anticipating further stress on U.S. consulates around the world, as there is a backlog of individuals waiting to travel. In many instances, travelers waited to process visas knowing it would be difficult to qualify for a National Interest Exception.

We are seeing wide swings in appointment availability; in some countries, appointments are available in a matter of weeks, while in others, there are delays well into 2022. These timeframes are directly related to how limited operations were, and/or continue to be, in various countries. We recommend that individuals request appointments well in advance of travel, as we expect appointment delays to continue into next year.

Contact your Newland Chase Client Services Manager to start your application.

This publication is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. Readers are reminded that immigration laws are subject to change. We are not responsible for any loss arising from reliance on this publication. Please contact Newland Chase should you require any additional clarification or case specific advice.

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