



India COVID-19 Travel Update – February 22, 2021

Entry and Exit Requirements

- Are U.S. citizens permitted to enter India? Yes, depending on the purpose of travel.
 - Travel to India for tourism and most other short-term purposes is still not permitted.
 - However, some additional categories of travelers including certain business travelers, as well as individuals moving to India as residents, are permitted.
 - For complete information on travel restrictions and any possible exceptions, please consult the Indian Ministry of Home Affairs or the Ministry of Civil Aviation. The U.S. embassy strongly urges any U.S. citizens considering travel to India to carefully review the information available from the Government of India. Please note these regulations are subject to change with little notice. The U.S. embassy's ability to intervene on behalf of travelers denied entry into India is extremely limited, and travelers denied entry at Indian ports of entry will likely be immediately reboarded and returned on flights back to the United States.
- Is a negative COVID-19 test (PCR and/or serology) required for entry? Yes, as of February 22, 2021 all international travelers arriving in India must upload a negative RT-PCR report to [the Air Suvidha portal](#) taken within 72 hours of the start of their journey.
- All international passengers must visit the [the Air Suvidha portal](#) and submit a self-declaration form **at least 72 hours prior to departure** for India.
- Are health screening procedures in place at airports and other ports of entry? Yes, the type of screening depends upon where the traveler

is coming from and/or transiting through.

- Travelers coming from or transiting through the UK, Europe, Brazil, South Africa, or the Middle East must submit to and pay for a confirmatory molecular test upon arrival. All other international travelers must submit to thermal (fever) screening upon arrival. Passengers who are symptomatic or screened positive for fever or virus will be taken to designated isolation facilities for further evaluation and testing.
- The information on these passengers will be shared with Ministry of Health and Family Welfare staff for further follow-up.

Quarantine Information

- Are U.S. citizens required to quarantine? Yes, U.S. citizens traveling from or transiting through the UK, Brazil, and South Africa will have to quarantine at least seven (7) days even if they test negative upon arrival. Any U.S. citizen who tests positive for COVID upon arrival or who presents with a fever during thermal screening will be subject to quarantine. (See the chart above.)
 - Additionally, U.S. citizens who test negative for COVID but were seated in the same row as, three rows before, or three rows behind a traveler arriving from the UK, South Africa, or Brazil who tests positive for COVID upon arrival will also be placed in institutional quarantine for at least seven (7) days pending additional testing.
 - Some states require quarantine for all individuals arriving from outside their borders with no exemptions. During the 14-day quarantine period, travelers are not permitted to use any form of public transportation or appear in any public location.

A. Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) Cardholders

The Government of India has decided to permit all OCI/PIO card holders regardless of which country passport they hold.

B. Visa

- i. The Government of India has restored most of the visas, which had been suspended earlier. However, these do not include electronic visas (e-Visa) of any type, Tourist Visa and Medical Visa, which continue to remain suspended.
- ii. Below is the list of some of the categories where in case the applicant

has a valid regular paper visa (and not an electronic visa), there is no need for a fresh visa:

- a. Entry (X) Visas
- b. Business (B) Visas
- c. Employment (E) Visas
- d. Student (S) Visas

iii. In case the validity of such a visa has expired, an application to obtain a fresh visa of appropriate category may be made with the Embassy/concerned Consulate depending on the location of the applicant.

iv. In case of Medical Visas, including for Medical Attendants, foreign nationals intending to visit India for emergency medical treatment, may also make an application with the Embassy/concerned Consulate.

v. Foreign nationals not covered by the above categories requiring travel to India urgently due to a family emergency may make an application for Entry Visa. Such visas will be issued on a case-to-case basis depending on the merit of the case.

vi. Nationals of Nepal and Bhutan are permitted to travel to India from any country (including any third country).

vii. Tibetan migrants who have residence in India and holding Certificate of Identity issued by the Ministry of External Affairs and Return Visa to enter India, are permitted to travel to India. In case the visa has expired, an application for fresh visa may be made with the Embassy/concerned Consulate.

For any queries, the applicants may contact the Embassy or the respective Consulates depending on their location.