

**NATIONAL INTEREST EXCEPTION
FROM PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION 10294: ADVANCING THE SAFE
RESUMPTION OF GLOBAL TRAVEL DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC**

On October 25, 2021, President Biden issued Presidential Proclamation 10294, entitled “Advancing the Safe Resumption of Global Travel During the COVID-19 Pandemic,” which suspends and limits the entry into the United States of non-citizens by air travel who are non-immigrants (“noncitizen nonimmigrants”) and who are not fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Presidential Proclamation 10294 contains specified exceptions, including a specific exception for noncitizen nonimmigrants “whose entry would be in the national interest,” and entrusts the Secretary of Homeland Security (along with the Secretary of State and the Secretary of Transportation) to make this determination.

On February 12, 2022, in light of recent geopolitical tensions involving Ukraine, the Department of State issued a [Level 4 Travel Advisory](#), warning individuals not to travel to Ukraine and recommending that individuals in Ukraine depart immediately via commercial or private means. On that same date, the Department of State ordered the departure of most U.S. direct hire employees from Embassy Kyiv due to the continued threat of Russian military action. Given the rapidly deteriorating security situation in Ukraine, and the need to ensure that individuals traveling with U.S. citizens and lawful permanent residents can safely depart the country, I have determined that a temporary exception for the noncitizen nonimmigrants described below is in the national interest.

Specifically, I hereby determine that it is in the national interest to permit the entry of noncitizen nonimmigrants who (1) are traveling with a U.S. citizen or lawful permanent resident; (2) were physically present in Ukraine as of February 10, 2022; and (3) possess valid travel documents allowing them to travel to the United States. Accordingly, and consistent with this Exception, these individuals will be permitted to enter the United States without showing proof of COVID-19 vaccination prior to traveling to the United States.

I have consulted with officials from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), in determining the scope and duration of this Exception. Subject to the requirements of Presidential Proclamation 10294 and the implementing Order from the CDC, such individuals will need to attest to having made arrangements to receive a COVID-19 test within three to five days of arrival in the United States, to self-quarantine for seven days, to self-isolate in the event of a positive COVID-19 test or the development of COVID-19 symptoms, and to become fully vaccinated for COVID-19 within 60 days of arrival in the United States if intending to stay in the United States for more than 60 days.

Noncitizen nonimmigrants subject to this Exception will be required to meet applicable requirements for entry to the United States and comply with all other applicable COVID-19 guidelines for traveling to and within the United States.

This Exception shall be effective immediately and will remain in effect until 11:59 P.M. EST, March 1, 2022. I reserve the right to alter any terms of this Exception at any time.



Alejandro N. Mayorkas

Secretary

U.S. Department of Homeland Security