

Frequently Asked Questions: Guidance for Travelers to Enter the U.S. at Land Ports of Entry

(as of November 1, 2021)

1. When are the U.S.-Mexico ports of entry opening for leisure travelers?

On Nov. 8, 2021, documented non-citizens who are fully vaccinated against COVID-19 will be able to cross the land borders with Canada and Mexico or arrive in the United States by passenger ferry for non-essential reasons, such as to visit friends or family or for tourism. These travelers are required to be prepared to attest to vaccination status and present proof of being fully vaccinated to a CBP officer upon request. Starting in January, both essential and non-essential travelers will be required to be fully vaccinated.

2. What documentation should I bring with me to cross the border?

Valid travel documents, and proof of COVID-19 vaccination

3. What vaccines are going to be accepted when visiting the United States?

Pfizer/BioNTech, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson vaccines, as well as vaccines listed for [Emergency Use \(EUL\) by the World Health Organization](#), such as AstraZeneca

4. Which vaccines will not be accepted when visiting the United States?

Vaccines that are not listed above will not be accepted.

5. If a vaccine requires two doses, do I need both doses of the approved COVID-19 vaccine to cross the border?

Yes, 2 weeks (14 days) after your second dose of an accepted 2-dose series COVID-19 vaccine

6. I just got my second COVID-19 vaccine dose. How long should I wait to cross the border? Can I cross the border immediately after getting the second dose?

You must wait 2 weeks (14 days) after your second dose of an accepted 2-dose series COVID-19 vaccine

How the 14 days will be calculated:

- Your last dose must have been given a full 14 days before travel to the United States.
- You are considered fully vaccinated on the 14th day after the vaccination series was completed. For example, if your last dose was any time on October 1st, then October 15th would be the first day that you meet the 14-day requirement.

7. I haven't had the COVID-19 vaccine yet. Can I cross the border by bridge and get the vaccine?

No, you must be fully vaccinated

8. Will unvaccinated children 12 years old and younger enter the United States? If so, under what circumstances?

Children under 18 years of age will be excepted from the vaccination requirement at land and ferry POEs when it goes into effect on November 8

9. Will unvaccinated children 18 years old or younger be able to cross the border?

Children under 18 years of age will be excepted from the vaccination requirement at land and ferry POEs when it goes into effect on November 8

a. Can my unvaccinated child under 18 years old get the COVID-19 vaccine in Texas? If so, do I have to say it at the border entry point?

Yes, they can be vaccinated while visiting Texas. No that information is not required to gain entry.

b. When will the vaccine for children under 12yo be available?

That information is not available at this time.

10. Which border crossing bridges will be open? (Texas)

All bridge crossings will be open, but please go online to check hours of operation

11. What are the hours of operation for the Hidalgo Bridge? (details)

Hidalgo-Reynosa bridge is open 24/7

12. What are the hours of operation for the Anzalduas Bridge? (details)

Northbound hours of operation for Anzalduas Bridge are 6am-4pm. Travelers must be on the US side of the Anzalduas bridge prior to 4pm.

13. How long will I be waiting on the bridge?

[Travelers should plan](#) for longer than normal wait times and long lines at U.S. land border crossings when planning their trip and are reminded to exercise patience

14. Will there be public restrooms on the bridge?

There will be no restrooms available while waiting on the bridge, so please make sure to use the restroom before getting in line. The last public restrooms available will be at the toll booths in Mexico on the Hidalgo-Reynosa and Anzalduas bridges, but it is up to the discretion of the toll operators if they will be open. Please plan accordingly

15. I'm a Mexican National and got my COVID-19 vaccine in the USA therefore I have an US COVID-19 Record Card. Will the Record Card suffice at the border entry point or do I need a Mexican Vaccine Certificate?

COVID-19 vaccination record cards from the US will be accepted as long as they are approved vaccines.

16. What kind of vaccine documentation is going to be accepted at the entry point?

Non-citizen travelers should be prepared to (1) provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination, as [outlined on the Centers for Disease Control](#) (CDC) website; and (2) verbally attest to their reason for travel and COVID-19 vaccination status during a border inspection

All forms of proof of COVID-19 vaccination must have:

- Personal identifiers (at a minimum, full name and date of birth) that match the personal identifiers on the passenger's passport or other travel documents
- Name of official source issuing the record (e.g., public health agency, government agency, or other authorized vaccine provider)
- Vaccine manufacturer and date(s) of vaccination

17. I don't have the Mexican Vaccine *Certificate*, but I have the Vaccine *Voucher*. Can I still cross the border?

Yes, as long as the voucher contains the following information:

- Personal identifiers (at a minimum, full name and date of birth) that match the personal identifiers on the passenger's passport or other travel documents

- Name of official source issuing the record (e.g., public health agency, government agency, or other authorized vaccine provider)
- Vaccine manufacturer and date(s) of vaccination

18. Do I have to wear a face mask at the bridge?

It is not mandatory to wear a face mask at the bridge crossing

19. What are the age restrictions for people when entering the USA?

There are no age restrictions

20. I have my vaccine certificate but I'm sick with COVID-19. Can I still cross the border?

It is recommended that you do not travel if you currently have the COVID-19 virus

21. I haven't gotten the COVID-19 vaccine hence I don't have a vaccine certificate but I have a COVID-19 negative lab test result. Can I still cross the border?

No, you must be vaccinated and show proof of vaccination to cross the border

22. Do I need the vaccine certificate AND a COVID-19 negative lab test result to cross the border?

No, if you have been vaccinated and have proof of vaccination, you do not need a negative lab result.

23. Do United States citizens need to show their vaccine certificate when returning to the U.S.?

U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents and those traveling for essential reasons are exempt from the non-essential travel restrictions on entry at U.S. land borders.

24. I am foreigner currently living in Mexico... do the same protocols apply to me?

Yes, the same protocols apply

25. Where can I book my hotel stay in McAllen?

We recommend booking your hotel room in advance. You can make hotel reservations at the [McAllen Experience](#) website.

26. What happens if I'm running out of gasoline while waiting on the bridge?

Gasoline will not be available to vehicles while on the bridge. Please plan accordingly and make sure you have enough gasoline while waiting on the bridge.

More information can be found on the [Center for Disease Control](#) and [Department of Homeland Security websites](#)