

TRAVEL AND HOSPITALITY

Travel restrictions give conflicting messages as delta spreads

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The U.S. State Department is warning against travel to the United Kingdom. Image credit: Four Seasons Hotels & Resorts

By LUXURY DAILY NEWS SERVICE

With global concerns over the COVID-19 delta variant growing, international travel restrictions and recommendations continue to change easing in some cases, tightening in others.

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On July 19, the U.S. State Department and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention both issued warnings against travel to the United Kingdom due to rising COVID-19 cases. Meanwhile, Canada is easing into reopening its borders by welcoming U.S. travelers as soon as next month.

Travel trouble

Both the State Department and CDC raised their travel advisories for the U.K. to their highest levels, urging Americans to avoid traveling to the country due to a "very high" level of COVID-19.

"Because of the current situation in the United Kingdom, even fully vaccinated travelers may be at risk for getting and spreading COVID-19 variants," the CDC said in its [updated notice](#).

Despite climbing COVID-19 infections, England lifted restrictions on social contact, large events and closed settings, such as nightclubs. Mask mandates are also ending, although face mask use will still be encouraged ([see story](#)).



Travel between the U.K. and U.S. remains restricted. Image credit: Walpole

Many other countries that rely on tourism are currently categorized as "level 4" by the CDC, including Fiji, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, Costa Rica and Seychelles.

While non-binding, Due to the very high spread of COVID-19, travelers are encouraged to avoid level 4 countries entirely due to the very high spread of COVID-19. At minimum, the CDC recommends travelers are fully vaccinated.

The CDC is also encouraging unvaccinated travelers to avoid nonessential trips to "level 3" countries with high levels of COVID-19, including France, Italy, the Bahamas and Thailand.

Meanwhile, after the U.S.-Canada border was closed in March 2020, Canada is ready to welcome fully vaccinated U.S. visitors on Aug. 9. The country then plans to reopen to all fully vaccinated international travelers on Sept. 7.

Nonessential travelers to Canada will not be required to quarantine if they can prove their vaccination status and are not showing COVID-19 symptoms.

U.S. borders remain closed to travelers from both Canada and Mexico.

The Biden administration has also kept in place a Trump-era ban on non-U.S. citizens who have been in the U.K., the Schengen area, Ireland, South Africa or Brazil in the previous 14 days from entering the country, regardless of vaccination status.

Some governments, from the state to national levels, have implemented the use of digital health credentials to verify COVID-19 vaccination status. According to Deloitte, these "vaccine passports" may prove essential in protecting both consumers and employees as well as speed up economic recoveries ([see story](#)).

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