

COVID-19 Travel Restrictions and Exceptions

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Currently there are four presidential proclamations that suspend entry into the United States of all noncitizens who were physically present in any of 33 countries during the 14-day period before entry into the United States:

- [**Presidential Proclamation 9984 \(China\)**](#)
- [**Presidential Proclamation 9992 \(Iran\)**](#)
- [**Presidential Proclamation 10143 \(Schengen Area, United Kingdom, Ireland, Brazil, and South Africa\)**](#)
- [**Presidential Proclamation 10199 \(India\)**](#)

The Secretary of State has made a **national interest determination** regarding categories of travelers eligible for exceptions to the 14-day travel restrictions. If you are otherwise subject to the proclamations due to your presence in a restricted country, you may qualify for a National Interest Exception (NIE):

- Students with valid F-1 visas intending to begin or continue an academic program, including OPT, commencing August 1, 2021 or later do not need to contact an embassy or consulate to seek an individual NIE to travel. You may enter the United States no earlier than 30 days before the start of your academic studies.
- Students seeking to apply for new F-1 visas should check the status of visa services at the nearest embassy or consulate; those applicants who are found to be otherwise qualified for an F-1 visa will automatically be considered for an NIE to travel.
- J-1 exchange students should consult with the website of the [**nearest U.S. Embassy or Consulate**](#) for instructions on applying for an NIE (includes [**J-1 exchange students transiting through a restricted country**](#)).

If you have a connecting flight through a restricted country, contact the airline before traveling to confirm you will be able to transit.

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