

Israel's Updated Rules on Quarantine for Foreign Business Travelers

The Israel Ministry of Health Ministry has issued new guidelines, effective immediately, relating to the quarantine requirements for foreign business travelers to Israel. The guidelines also include detailed new information on eligibility for the Israeli "Green Pass."

Quarantine of Foreign Business Travelers

Israel and the European Union (EU) recently reached an agreement to mutually recognize vaccination certificates. The agreement allows travelers access to the Green Pass programs of the respective treaty countries. Because similar agreements have not yet been reached with other countries, the new quarantine guidelines distinguish between travelers from countries in the EU agreement, and travelers from the rest of the world.

The guidelines significantly relax the quarantine requirements for many foreign business travelers, and in this regard provide updated definitions of who is considered "vaccinated" or "recovered."

Updated Definition of "Vaccinated"

The new Health Ministry guidelines define "vaccinated" to mean the following:

- A person who has received two shots abroad of a recognized COVID-19 vaccine, and less than 6 months have passed since the second shot; or
- A person who has received two shots and a booster abroad of a recognized COVID-19 vaccine, and less than six months have passed since the booster shot.

The guidelines contain the following chart listing the vaccinations recognized in Israel:

Vaccinations Recognized in Israel



| Manufacturer | Vaccine | Vaccine type | Number of doses | Timing |
|----------------------------------|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------|
| Pfizer | BNT162bq2 | mRNA | 2 (3) | 0, 21 days (5 mos.) |
| Moderna | mRNA-1273 | mRNA | 2 | 0, 28 days |
| Janssen (Johnson and Johnson) | Ad26.COV2.S | Viral vector | 1 | 0 |

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|--------------------------|------------|--------------|---|--|
| Astra-Zeneca | AZD1222 | Viral vector | 2 | 0, 8 to 12 weeks |
| Serum Institute of India | Covishield | Viral vector | 2 | 0, 84 days (a 0, 28 day program is being examined) |
| Sinopharm | BBIBP-CorV | Inactivated | 2 | 0, 3-4 weeks (a shorter period may also be recognized) |
| Sinovac | CoronaVac | Inactivated | 2 | 0, 2-4 weeks (a shorter period may also be recognized) |

Updated Definition of “Recovered”

The new Health Ministry guidelines define “recovered” to mean the following:

- A person who tested positive on a PCR test; more than 6 months have passed since the PCR test; and the person has received at least one vaccination dose.
- A person who has not been vaccinated; tested positive on a serology test; and thereafter received at least one vaccination dose.

American And Other Non-EU Foreign Business Travelers

The updated rules for vaccinated or recovered business travelers from the United States and other non-EU countries are as follows:

Upon arrival in Israel, the business traveler must take **both** a serological and a PCR test at an airport testing station. Thereafter, the traveler must quarantine for 24 hours, or upon receipt of positive serological **and** negative PCR results, the earlier of the two. Departure from quarantine requires confirmation from the Health Ministry, which is obtained by dialing 5400*.



EU Foreign Business Travelers

The updated rules for vaccinated or recovered business travelers from EU countries are as follows:

In the 24 hours prior to arriving in Israel, the business traveler is required to submit an online [entry statement/health declaration](#). Upon arrival, the traveler takes a PCR test at an airport testing station (EU travelers are exempt from the serological test). Thereafter, he or she must quarantine for 24 hours, or upon receipt of a negative PCR test result, the earlier of the two.

Where Can One Quarantine?

Generally, foreign business travelers may quarantine at a hotel or other accommodation, as long as they remain completely separated from others for the duration of the isolation period. Transportation to the place of isolation may be made by taxi.

Note: Regardless of the country of origin, a foreign business traveler not considered “vaccinated” or “recovered” per the above definitions is required to quarantine for a minimum period of 7 days (negative PCR upon arrival, negative PCR on Day 7).

The Israeli Green Pass

The Israeli Green Pass is required for access to a host of events and facilities, such as conferences and exhibitions, event venues, places of worship with more than 50 people, restaurants and bars.

EU business travelers automatically receive a Green Pass by e-mail, per the address indicated in their online entry statement/health declaration. As of this week, non-EU business travelers may apply for an Israeli Green Pass from the Health Ministry by dialing 5400*.

Tip for foreign business travelers: Be sure to have your passport when presenting an Israeli Green Pass at an event or facility, for identification purposes.

Safe travels!

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