



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Secretary of Commerce
Washington, D.C. 20230

September 23, 2021

Dear Travel and Tourism Colleagues:

I am delighted that the United States has announced that as of November it will welcome international air travelers from 33 countries including China, India, and Brazil. From my first day on the job at the U.S. Department of Commerce, aiding the economic recovery of the travel and tourism industry has been a top priority and will remain so. Replacing the 212(f) travel restrictions with a data-backed, risk-based approach is the right decision given the science and what we know today. The new system that will be put in place is designed to implement strict protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and ensure the safety of the United States and all its people, as well as those visiting this country. International travelers will need to be fully vaccinated, have a negative COVID test, and provide additional contact information to the airlines.

In the coming weeks, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention will provide additional information on these requirements (e.g., type of allowable vaccines) and will issue a contact tracing order for airlines to aid in future contact tracing efforts in the event of COVID-19 transmission.

U.S. industry and I have advocated for this policy decision, which will restore our travel and tourism economy, strengthen our supply chains, and allow businesses to bring in necessary employees and customers – supporting jobs and prosperity in communities across the Nation. Our coordination demonstrates the importance of why public-private partnership has been and continues to be critical to the revitalization of our economy and this industry. I am grateful to industry leaders for your willingness to engage on these issues, sharing your challenges, insights, and recommendations. We are well on our way to building back better and as you prepare for the re-opening of international travel, let us continue our joint efforts to promote COVID-19 vaccinations nationwide to better protect our employees, customers, and communities. COVID-19 vaccines are the key to beating this pandemic and rejuvenating the travel industry, and we take this shared responsibility seriously.

Should you or your organizations have any questions, please contact Sarah Morgenthau at Sarah.Morgenthau@trade.gov or Zack Schwartz at ZSchwartz@doc.gov. We will ensure answers are provided over the coming weeks.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Gina Raimondo". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Gina" and last name "Raimondo" clearly visible.

Gina M. Raimondo