

REVISED



GOVERNMENT OF THE
VIRGIN ISLANDS

MINISTER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
HONOURABLE CARVIN MALONE

COVID-19

TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

7th MAY 2021

Page 1

COVID-19 TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS UPDATE

Non-domestic travel requirements in view of the ongoing COVID-19 response.

Effective May 15, 2021, travellers who have been **fully vaccinated** with the final dose administered at least 14 days before travel will be **immediately released from quarantine** once their **arrival test is negative**.

This would not apply to persons travelling from or through Brazil or India.

The list of **restricted countries** under the Immigration and Passport (Prohibition of Entry) Order, 2021 has been amended to **apply only to Brazil and India**. Persons travelling from those countries, who are granted permission to enter the Virgin Islands, will be required to quarantine for a period of fourteen (14) days on arrival.

FULLY VACCINATED TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

Fully vaccinated travellers from all other countries will require:

- BVI Gateway Traveller Authorisation Certificate at a cost of \$105.00 (reduced from \$175.00)

- Proof of a negative RT-PCR COVID-19 test taken 3-5 days before arrival
- Proof of vaccination status
- RT-PCR COVID-19 testing upon arrival
- Quarantine **until the return of a negative test result**

TRAVEL WITH UNVACCINATED CHILDREN

Where fully vaccinated persons are travelling with one or more unvaccinated child:

- Children aged 5-17 will be tested on arrival
- Children will be released from quarantine together with their parents/guardians once the test results for the entire group are negative, but must remain within their family bubble
- Unvaccinated children will be subject to a further test on day four

"The COVID-19 pandemic continues to accelerate, and we are deeply saddened by its rising death toll as health systems and economies far and near buckle under the strain of second and third waves of infection. While we continue our phased reopening of the BVI to international travellers, we must be mindful and cognisant of the realities in the region and around the world."

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Page 2

We cannot be paralysed by fear – but - at the same time, we must take note of what the realities and real possibilities are when COVID-19 is able to get past the stop gaps – especially where the risks from these gaps can be minimised by preventative actions and cautions.

VACCINATED AND HOME QUARANTINE

A fully vaccinated traveller may be approved for home quarantine in a residence where all the adult occupants are fully vaccinated, once the traveller, or travelling party, is provided with a separate bedroom.

VACCINATED BVI DAY TRIPPERS

Concessions have been made for **fully vaccinated** persons who have been present in the Virgin Islands for more than 14 consecutive days and wish to travel to the US Virgin Islands, St. Maarten, or Puerto Rico for a period not longer than 24 hours:

With effect from the 15th of May 2021, 'day trippers' to these neighboring jurisdictions will be exempted from quarantine and the COVID-19 test upon re-entering the BVI; but would be required to take a PCR test seven (7) days after returning to the Territory.

Day Tripper requirements:

- a) A person seeking to be certified as a 'day tripper' should apply for re-entry through the Gateway prior to departure from the Virgin Islands

- b) The Gateway fee would be reduced to \$70.00
- c) 'Day trippers' would be allowed to travel with children who are under five (5) years old
- d) Refusal by a returning 'day tripper' to undergo Day 7 testing would attract a fixed penalty of five thousand dollars (\$5,000) or a court penalty of ten thousand dollars (\$10,000) on summary conviction

UNVACCINATED TRAVEL REQUIREMENTS

To re-open the Territory to tourism and the need to mitigate the risks arising from increased travel, particularly arising from new COVID-19 variants, the quarantine period for **unvaccinated travellers is extended from four (4) days to seven (7) days.**

Where people are travelling in **mixed groups** with some individuals unvaccinated, **the entire party will be treated as unvaccinated** and will also be **required to quarantine for seven (7) days** upon arrival.

PARTIALLY VACCINATED

In the case of persons who are only partially vaccinated, meaning that they have received one dose of a two-dose vaccine, or whose final vaccine dose was administered less than two weeks before

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7th MAY 2021

Page 3

arriving in the Territory, a 4-day quarantine period would be required, with PCR testing administered on arrival and on day 4.

RAPID TEST CONSIDERATION

Recommendations for rapid or PCR testing for frontline workers and Public Officers will be presented by the Health Emergency Operations Centre.

"We will continue to sound the alarm that vaccination is our best defense against the relentless COVID-19 pandemic. New, more aggressive strains continue to emerge, as the virus mutates and spreads rapidly from one region of the world to another, increasing the risk of severe sickness and death."

EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SUMMARY

COVID-19 active cases

25 active cases recorded, and in one case there was no recent travel history, which means that the virus was acquired locally.

12,496 doses of the AstraZeneca vaccine have been administered in the Territory to date, including 10,462 first doses and 2,034 second doses.

"Without apology, it is this Government's intention to intensify the education process aimed at encouraging the remaining 6,538 persons to voluntarily be vaccinated at any of the centres by the 31st of May 2021. Following this date, an assessment would be

made in relation to the remaining doses, of which I hope there would be NONE. For the next 25 days all hands and voices would be required to assist in our ambitious goal.

While this may anger some anti-vaxxers, it is our duty to be steadfast in purpose, in this regard. Several leaders are grappling with the question of mandatory vaccination as a means of keeping their populations safe while reopening their internal economies. To be clear, the Virgin Islands Government will not be requiring mandatory vaccinations for its residents. There is no room for irresponsible TABLOID JOURNALISM in this regard. The choice is yours to freely make.

Let us be resolute, we will continue to educate, encourage and enlist the support of the entire community to get vaccinated in order to safeguard your own health, protect those around you, and help to achieve herd immunity as we further reopen our Territory's borders and tourism industry and the wider economy."