



## **Bahamas Tourism FAQ**

**As of 5.3.21**

The Islands of The Bahamas are currently open and welcoming visitors. Please note that entry protocols have been amended for vaccinated travellers. It is recommended that all travellers interested in visiting The Bahamas review requirements applicable to each member of their party at [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates) before booking a trip, to determine what steps need to be taken to be granted entry.

All travellers planning to visit The Bahamas should also be prepared to:

- Adhere to health and safety protocols as outlined on [bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates)
- Monitor business websites (airlines, hotels, attractions, etc.) for changes in protocols
- Avoid travelling when they feel ill
- Follow The Bahamas' "Healthy Traveller Campaign" which includes the ongoing practice of:
  - Physical distancing measures
  - Regularly washing hands
  - Wearing PPE such as face masks when appropriate

## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELLERS**

### **PRE-TRAVEL PROOF OF VACCINATION**

**I have been fully vaccinated for COVID-19, do I need to take a PCR or Antigen test to travel to The Bahamas?**

- Effective May 1, 2021, those travelling to The Bahamas from other countries who have been fully vaccinated, with proof they have passed the two-week immunity period, will be **exempt** from COVID-19 testing entry requirements.
- Effective April 21, 2021, Bahamian citizens and residents who are fully vaccinated – after receiving their second dose - are **exempt** from COVID-19 testing requirements when travelling inter-island from New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Exuma and Eleuthera.
- Fully vaccinated travellers will still be required to apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa and upload proof of vaccination in lieu of the COVID-19 PCR test results.
- Visitors who have been fully vaccinated will not be required to take a Rapid Antigen test on Day 5 of their visit or complete the daily Health Survey, but must follow all other on-island safety protocols during travel, including wearing a mask, physical distancing and regularly washing hands.

**What does it mean to be considered "fully vaccinated"?**

- For Bahamian Residents and Citizens, a person is "fully vaccinated" after they receive their second dose.
- For travellers from other countries, people are considered fully vaccinated:
  - 2 weeks after their second dose in a 2-dose series, such as the Pfizer, Moderna or AstraZeneca vaccines, or
  - 2 weeks after a single-dose vaccine, such as Johnson & Johnson's Janssen vaccine
- When entering or travelling throughout The Bahamas, vaccinated travellers must be able to show valid proof of vaccination (such as CDC or government issued vaccine record card) that confirms they have received Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson or AstraZeneca vaccines.



### **What vaccines are recognized by The Bahamas to be considered “fully vaccinated”?**

The Bahamas Government (Ministry of Health) will only be accepting vaccinations by Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca at this time.

### **BAHAMAS TRAVEL HEALTH VISA**

#### **Do I still need to apply for Bahamas Travel Health Visa if I am fully vaccinated?**

- Yes, all travellers, including visitors, returning citizens and residents arriving via commercial flights, as well as by private planes, private boats, yachts or pleasure craft, are required to apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa.
  - Households are encouraged to use one email address per family/household to receive responses. Groups may opt to use the same method of collecting responses through one email facility.
  - All travellers eighteen (18) years of age and older are required to complete an individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa application and upload their individual proof of vaccination.
  - Persons seventeen (17) years and younger are to add a profile within the account of the parent or guardian. Please ensure each application is submitted with the corresponding proof of vaccination.

#### **How do I apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa as a vaccinated traveller?**

- All travellers must apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa at [travel.gov.bs](https://travel.gov.bs) by selecting the International option and completing all required fields.
- Name of applicant must exactly match name on applicant’s valid passport.
- Fully vaccinated travellers will be required to upload proof of vaccination (such a CDC or government issued vaccine record card) confirming they have passed the two-week immunity period.
  - Proof of vaccination will be uploaded in lieu of the PCR test requirement for unvaccinated travellers.
  - Name and date of vaccination(s) must be clearly stated.
- As part of the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application, all travellers – vaccinated and unvaccinated – will be required to opt in to COVID-19 health insurance that covers them for the duration of their stay in The Bahamas. The cost of insurance is included in the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application fee.
- Bahamas Travel Health Visa applications take up to 48 hours to process and should be completed with adequate lead time.

#### **Where should I apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa?**

- Applicants should **only** apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa on [travel.gov.bs](https://travel.gov.bs), which is the official website developed by the Government of The Bahamas.
- Travellers **should not** use any third-party vendors claiming to have the ability to process Bahamas Travel Health Visas.
  - No additional third-party vendors are authorized to issue Bahamas Travel Health Visas.
  - The Government of The Bahamas is not responsible for any misfortunes that occur from using a third-party vendor including denied entry into the country or the loss of application fees.

#### **Is a Bahamas Travel Health Visa required for domestic inter-island travellers?**



- Yes, all those travelling inter-island – both residents and visitors – will be required to complete an electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa, via the domestic or international sections, as appropriate.
  - A person who has entered The Bahamas and is transiting through New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Exuma and Eleuthera to another island, within a period of less than 24-hours, does not need to apply for a second Bahamas Travel Health Visa.

#### Is there a fee for the Bahamas Travel Health Visa?

- Yes, there is a non-refundable fee for the Bahamas Travel Health Visa for vaccinated visitors, returning citizens and residents.
- All Bahamas Travel Health Visas include standard administrative costs, such as the application fee for the Health Visa, as well as related IT and distribution costs.
- The price of an individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa also includes insurance requirements.
  - Domestic Travel (within The Bahamas):
    - No cost for fully vaccinated citizens and residents
  - International Travel:
    - **RETURNING BAHAMIAN CITIZENS/RESIDENTS:**
      - \$10 (non-refundable) – for all returning citizens and residents of The Bahamas who are fully vaccinated
    - **U.S. & CANADIAN CITIZENS/RESIDENTS**
      - \$40 (non-refundable) – for fully vaccinated visitors
        - a. Includes cost of Travel Health Insurance
    - **TRAVELLERS FROM ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES:**
      - \$50 (non-refundable) – for fully vaccinated visitors
        - a. Includes cost of Travel Health Insurance

#### Exemptions:

- Children ten (10) years and under (insurance coverage included) are free.
- Pilot/crew of commercial airlines who remain overnight in The Bahamas are exempt.

#### When will I receive a response about my Bahamas Travel Health Visa?

- Bahamas Travel Health Visa applications take up to **48 hours** to process, so they should be completed with adequate lead time.
- Applicants will receive an automated response **within 1 hour** of submission indicating the application is being processed. Travellers should not apply again unless they do not receive the automated response within the hour.
- An approved Bahamas Travel Health Visa will receive a green code, and proof of confirmation should be presented at check-in and upon arrival in the destination.
  - If a Bahamas Travel Health Visa application is pending, visitor will receive a yellow code which means it requires additional review.
  - If a Bahamas Travel Health Visa application is denied, visitor will receive a red colour code and will not be permitted entry to The Bahamas.
- Travellers should **not** submit more than one application per person travelling (per trip). Do NOT submit multiple applications.
- For all questions regarding the Bahamas Travel Health Visa process, or to check on the status of your application, contact [healthvisa@bahamas.com](mailto:healthvisa@bahamas.com).

#### Why was my Bahamas Travel Health Visa application denied?



There are a number of reasons why Bahamas Travel Health Visa applications are not approved. Among the most common are:

- 1. Invalid proof of vaccination:** documentation submitted is not from a validated source (i.e. CDC or government issued vaccination card) as deemed by the Bahamas Ministry of Health upon review.
- 2. Does not prove 2-week immunity period:** travellers from other countries must have proof their vaccination was completed at least 14-days prior to arrival to account for immunity period.
- 3. Does not clearly show approved vaccine:** only vaccinations by Moderna, Pfizer, Johnson & Johnson and AstraZeneca will be accepted at this time.

#### **Is a print version of my electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa required?**

- Yes, please ensure you print your Approved (Green) Bahamas Travel Health Visa response issued electronically by the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and the Bahamas Ministry of Health.

#### **What if I do not complete the electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa application form?**

- Travellers who fail to complete an electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa application form will be denied entry to The Bahamas and are subject to fines and possible imprisonment.
  - Vaccinated travellers must provide valid proof of vaccination.

#### **How long are Bahamas Travel Health Visas valid for? Will visitors and residents be required to get a new Bahamas Travel Health Visa each time they travel?**

- For fully vaccinated travellers, Bahamas Travel Health Visas are valid for up to six (6) months from the date of their last dose of the vaccine, so multiple trips can be had in this period without having to upload the vaccine certificate again.

### **COVID HEALTH INSURANCE**

#### **Does The Bahamas require separate COVID Health Insurance?**

- All visitors entering The Bahamas – vaccinated and unvaccinated – are required to opt in to the Health Insurance coverage when applying for their Bahamas Travel Health Visa.
  - The COVID Health Insurance will cover visitors for the duration of their stay, in the event they become ill with COVID-19, while in The Bahamas.

#### **What is included as part of the COVID Health Insurance?**

- Coverage includes:
  - Medical expenses incurred on island due to COVID-19, up to \$50,000 (USD)
  - Trip interruption/delay for necessary quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, up to \$500 (USD) per day/\$7,000 (USD) max
  - Medical evacuation due to COVID-19, and subject to medical necessity, up to \$50,000 (USD)

#### **How much does the COVID Health Insurance cost?**

- The cost of the required COVID Health Insurance is included in the Bahamas Health Visa and paid in advance of travel.



## **ENTRY REQUIREMENTS: UNVACCINATED TRAVELLERS**

### **PRE-TRAVEL TESTING:**

**I am an unvaccinated traveller, is a negative COVID-19 PCR (Swab) Test required to enter The Bahamas?**

- Yes, COVID-19 PCR testing is required for all unvaccinated persons travelling to The Bahamas, as well as unvaccinated persons travelling inter-island from Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera or Harbour Island.
  - Unvaccinated persons must obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR (swab) test taken **no more than five (5) days prior to the date of arrival**. The name and address of the lab where the test was performed must be clearly displayed on the test result.
  - The day the test is taken is considered Day 0; for example, if a test was taken on Monday, travel must be completed by Saturday in order for the test to be valid for entry.
  - Upon arrival, any person presenting a test **older than five (5) days** will **not** be allowed entry into The Bahamas.
  - **Children age ten (10) and under**, as well as **pilots and crew of commercial airlines** who remain overnight in The Bahamas, **are exempt** from obtaining the PCR test.
  - **All travellers eighteen (18) years of age and older** are required to complete an individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa application. Those **persons seventeen (17) years and younger are to add a profile within the account of the parent or guardian**.

**Is this also true for domestic inter-island travellers?**

- **Yes, unvaccinated** persons travelling inter-island from Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera or Harbour Island to any other islands are required to undergo a PCR test no more than five (5) days prior to travel and produce a negative result.

**Can an unvaccinated Bahamas citizen or resident planning to travel abroad for five (5) days or less take a PCR test in The Bahamas prior to travel and present that negative test result upon return?**

- If an **unvaccinated** Bahamas citizen or resident travels internationally, they must secure a test in the destination they visited before travelling back to The Bahamas. Any PCR test taken in The Bahamas prior to travel will not be valid for re-entry.

**Where can I get a COVID-19 PCR (swab) test prior to travel?**

- Contact your health care professional to obtain a PCR.

**Can I use my Antigen or Antibody Test to enter the Country?**

- No, only a negative PCR (swab) test from a referenced lab will be considered a VALID test to be granted entry into The Bahamas.

### **BAHAMAS TRAVEL HEALTH VISA**

**Who needs to complete an electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa application?**

- All travellers – vaccinated and unvaccinated – including visitors, returning citizens and residents arriving via commercial flights, as well as by private planes, private boats, yachts or pleasure craft, are required to apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa at [travel.gov.bs](https://travel.gov.bs) by selecting the International option and completing all required fields.



- Households are encouraged to use one email address per family/household to receive responses. Groups may opt to use the same method of collecting responses through one email facility.
- All travellers eighteen (18) years of age and older are required to complete an individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa application.
- Persons seventeen (17) years and younger are to add a profile within the account of the parent or guardian.

#### How do I apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa as an unvaccinated traveller?

- All travellers must apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa at [travel.gov.bs](https://travel.gov.bs) by selecting the International option and completing all required fields.
- Unvaccinated travellers entering the country, or travelling inter-island from Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera or Harbour Island, must first obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken no more than five (5) days prior to the date of arrival, to be uploaded with their complete Bahamas Travel Health Visa application.
  - Travellers should upload ALL pages of the test results report, even if there are multiple pages.
  - Please ensure your test results state clearly the following information:
    - Name of Applicant (must match the name used on the application form)
    - Confirmation of a negative result
    - Type of test – PCR (not an antigen test nor an antibody test)
    - Date the test was administered (collection date of swab), **not to exceed five (5) days prior to the date of arrival**
    - Name and address of the **accredited** lab where test was performed
      - For U.S. travellers, an accredited lab can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/clia/LabSearch.html>
      - For travellers from other countries, labs that have been accredited by the local medical health officials should be used.
  - Each applicant eighteen (18) years of age or older will be required to complete their own Bahamas Travel Health Visa application and upload their individual negative test results.
  - Persons seventeen (17) years and younger are to add a profile within the account of the parent or guardian. Please ensure each application is submitted with the corresponding test results.
  - **Children age ten (10) and under are exempt** from requiring a negative COVID-19 PCR test; they will, however, be required to have their application submitted by a parent/guardian.
    - Proof of age must be uploaded (applicable passport page, birth certificate and/or other government-issued ID).
- As part of the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application, travellers will be required to opt in to COVID-19 health insurance which covers them for the duration of their stay in The Bahamas. The cost of insurance is included in the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application fee.
- Bahamas Travel Health Visa applications take up to 48 hours to process and should be completed with adequate lead time.

#### Where should I apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa?

- Applicants should **only** apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa on [travel.gov.bs](https://travel.gov.bs), which is the official website developed by the Government of The Bahamas.



- Travellers **should not** use any third-party vendors claiming to have the ability to process Bahamas Travel Health Visas.
  - No additional third-party vendors are authorized to issue Bahamas Travel Health Visas.
  - The Government of The Bahamas is not responsible for any misfortunes that occur from using a third-party vendor including denied entry into the country or the loss of application fees.

#### **Is a Bahamas Travel Health Visa required for domestic inter-island travellers?**

- Yes, all those travelling inter-island – both residents and visitors – will be required to complete an electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa application, via the domestic or international sections, as appropriate.
  - Unvaccinated domestic travellers from Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera or Harbour Island to any other island are required to first obtain a negative COVID-19 PCR (swab) test taken **no more than five (5) days prior to the date of arrival**.
    - A person who has entered The Bahamas and is transiting through New Providence, Grand Bahama, Abaco, Exuma and Eleuthera to another island, within a period of less than 24-hours, does not need to apply for a second Bahamas Travel Health Visa.

#### **Is there a fee for the Bahamas Travel Health Visa?**

- Yes, there is a non-refundable fee for the Bahamas Travel Health Visa for unvaccinated travellers, which will be dependent on length of stay.
- All Bahamas Travel Health Visas include standard administrative costs, such as the application fee for the Health Visa, as well as related IT and distribution costs.
- The final price of an individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa for visitors, returning citizens and residents is dependent on length of stay and any applicable testing, health care related costs or insurance requirements. (More details on rapid testing below)
  - Domestic Travel (within The Bahamas):
    - \$25 – for unvaccinated citizens and residents
  - International Travel:
    - **RETURNING BAHAMIAN CITIZENS/RESIDENTS:**
      - \$40 (non-refundable) – for all unvaccinated returning citizens and residents of The Bahamas
    - **U.S. & CANADIAN CITIZENS/RESIDENTS**
      - \$40 (non-refundable) – for unvaccinated visitors staying up to four (4) nights and five (5) days
        - a. Includes cost of Travel Health Insurance; a day five rapid antigen test is not required
      - \$60 (non-refundable) – unvaccinated visitors staying longer than four (4) nights and five (5) days
        - a. Includes costs of Travel Health Insurance and rapid antigen test on Day 5
    - **TRAVELLERS FROM ALL OTHER INTERNATIONAL COUNTRIES:**
      - \$50 (non-refundable) – for unvaccinated visitors staying up to four (4) nights and five (5) days
        - a. Includes cost of Travel Health Insurance; a day five rapid antigen test is not required



- \$70 (non-refundable) – unvaccinated visitors staying longer than four (4) nights and five (5) days
  - a. Includes costs of Travel Health Insurance and rapid antigen test on Day 5

Exemptions:

- Children ten (10) years and under (insurance coverage included) are free.
- Pilot/crew of commercial airlines who remain overnight in The Bahamas are exempt.

### When will I receive a response about my Bahamas Travel Health Visa?

- Bahamas Travel Health Visa applications take up to **48 hours** to process, so they should be completed with adequate lead time.
- Applicants will receive an automated response **within 1 hour** of submission indicating the application is being processed. Travellers should not apply again unless they do not receive the automated response within the hour.
- An approved Bahamas Travel Health Visa will receive a green code, and proof of confirmation should be presented at check-in and upon arrival in the destination.
  - If a Bahamas Travel Health Visa application is pending, visitor will receive a yellow code which means it requires additional review.
  - If a Bahamas Travel Health Visa application is denied, visitor will receive a red colour code and will not be permitted entry to The Bahamas.
- Travellers should **not** submit more than one application per person travelling (per trip). Do NOT submit multiple applications.
- For all questions regarding the Bahamas Travel Health Visa process, or to check on the status of your application, contact [healthvisa@bahamas.com](mailto:healthvisa@bahamas.com).

### Why was my Bahamas Travel Health Visa application denied?

There are a number of reasons why Bahamas Travel Health Visa applications are not approved. Among the most common are:

#### COVID Testing Reasons for Denial

1. **Incorrect COVID-19 test provided.** Only PCR tests are accepted. Rapid Antigen or Rapid Antibody COVID tests are **NOT** accepted. (Please note: additional details on how to upload a COVID-19 PCR test result to your visa application are outlined in questions above).
2. **Submitted PCR test has a positive result.** Only negative results are accepted.
3. **Incorrect name.** The name of patient on the submitted PCR test result **must** match the name of the traveller submitting the application for the Bahamas Travel Health Visa.
4. **Test results do not meet time criteria.** PCR test must be administered (based on collection date of swab), within five (5) days of the date of arrival. Any tests older than five days will be considered expired by the arrival date.
5. **PCR test result has insufficient information.** Test result must display: patient name, date sample was collected, type of test performed, test result, and name and full address of lab facility to be valid.
6. **PCR test result is illegible.** Please reapply and upload a clearer image.
7. **Lab facility where PCR test was performed is not accredited.** Only results from accredited labs are accepted. For U.S. travellers, an accredited lab can be found at <https://www.cdc.gov/clia/LabSearch.html>

### Is a print version of my electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa required?





- Yes, please ensure you print your Approved (Green) Bahamas Travel Health Visa response issued electronically by the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism and the Bahamas Ministry of Health.

#### **What if I do not complete the electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa application form?**

- Travellers who fail to complete an electronic Bahamas Travel Health Visa application form will be denied entry to The Bahamas and are subject to fines and possible imprisonment.
  - Vaccinated travellers must provide valid proof of vaccination.
  - Unvaccinated travellers must provide a negative COVID-19 PCR Negative (Swab) Test from an accredited lab.

#### **How long are Bahamas Travel Health Visas valid for? Will visitors and residents be required to get a new Bahamas Travel Health Visa each time they travel?**

- For unvaccinated travellers, Bahamas Travel Health Visas are only valid for the duration of each individual traveller's trip. A new Bahamas Travel Health Visa application must be completed for each individual trip to or within The Bahamas.

#### **COVID HEALTH INSURANCE**

##### **Does The Bahamas require separate COVID Health Insurance?**

- All visitors entering The Bahamas – vaccinated and unvaccinated – are required to opt in to the Health Insurance coverage when applying for their Bahamas Travel Health Visa.
  - The COVID Health Insurance will cover visitors for the duration of their stay, in the event they become ill with COVID-19, while in The Bahamas.

##### **What is included as part of the COVID Health Insurance?**

- Coverage includes:
  - Medical expenses incurred on island due to COVID-19, up to \$50,000 (USD)
  - Trip interruption/delay for necessary quarantine or isolation due to COVID-19, up to \$500 (USD) per day/\$7,000 (USD) max
  - Medical evacuation due to COVID-19, and subject to medical necessity, up to \$50,000 (USD)

##### **How much does the COVID Health Insurance cost?**

- The cost of the required COVID Health Insurance is included in the Bahamas Health Visa and paid in advance of travel.

#### **UPON ARRIVAL: FULLY VACCINATED TRAVELLERS**

##### **Do I need to quarantine upon arrival in The Bahamas?**

- No, there are currently no quarantine requirements for those travelling with approved Bahamas Travel Health Visas.

##### **Can I travel to every island in The Bahamas?**

- All islands in The Bahamas are open to international and domestic arrivals, including commercial and private aircraft, as well as private yachts and pleasure crafts.
- From time to time, the Government of The Bahamas may restrict travel into or out of certain islands.



- Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

**I'm fully vaccinated, am I still required to take a Rapid COVID-19 Antigen test on Day 5 of my stay?**

No, beginning May 1, 2021, all fully vaccinated travellers are **exempt** from rapid antigen testing requirements.

**Am I required to complete a daily Health Questionnaire as a vaccinated traveller?**

No, fully vaccinated travellers are **exempt** from completing the daily Health Questionnaire.

## **UPON ARRIVAL: UNVACCINATED TRAVELLERS**

**Do I need to quarantine upon arrival in The Bahamas?**

- No, there are currently no quarantine requirements for those travelling with approved Bahamas Travel Health Visas.

**Can I travel to every island in The Bahamas?**

- All islands in The Bahamas are open to international and domestic arrivals, including commercial and private aircraft, as well as private yachts and pleasure craft.
- From time to time, the Government of The Bahamas may restrict travel into or out of certain islands.
  - Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

**Are there additional testing or monitoring requirements for unvaccinated travellers on island?**

Yes, upon arrival, there are requirements in place for unvaccinated travellers to keep our visitors and residents safe:

1. **Day 5 Rapid Antigen Testing (if applicable, based on length of stay and vaccination status):** All **unvaccinated** persons who enter The Bahamas or are travelling inter-island from Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera or Harbour Island, and are staying in their destination for longer than four (4) nights and five (5) days will be required to take a rapid COVID-19 antigen test.
  - All visitors departing on or before Day 5 will **not** be required to obtain this test.
  - The day of arrival is considered Day 1 of a person's stay.
2. **Daily Health Questionnaire:** All **unvaccinated** persons travelling into and throughout The Bahamas will be required to complete a short daily Health Questionnaire.
  - The questionnaire must be completed upon arrival and **each day** thereafter for up to 14 days, or the duration of their stay, whichever is shorter.
    - This includes the day of departure, if travelling less than 14 days.
  - Vaccinated travellers **are exempt** from completing the daily Health Questionnaire.

Any visitor who exhibits COVID symptoms upon arrival or at any time during their stay will be required to take a rapid antigen test and receive a negative result before being permitted to continue with their vacation.

- If a person tests positive, they will be required to follow up with a COVID-19 PCR (swab) test.

**Are there any testing requirements for hotel check-in?**



- All unvaccinated persons arriving at a hotel or other accommodations in Nassau & Paradise Island and Abaco (excluding Green Turtle Cay, Grand Cay, Man-O-War Cay and Elbow Cay) must present a negative COVID-19 PCR (swab) test or a rapid antigen test to check in as a guest or utilize facilities on the hotel premises, including restaurants, casinos, etc.

#### **Who has to take a rapid antigen test?**

- All **unvaccinated** persons who enter The Bahamas or are travelling inter-island from Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera or Harbour Island, and are staying in their destination for longer than four (4) nights and five (5) days will be required to take a rapid COVID-19 antigen test on the fifth day of their stay.
- Fully vaccinated travellers and children age ten (10) and under **are exempt** from taking rapid antigen tests.

#### **Do I need to take a rapid antigen test if I'm travelling domestically inter-island?**

- All **unvaccinated** persons travelling from Nassau & Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera or Harbour Island to another island for longer than four nights and five days will be required to take a rapid antigen test on the fifth day of their stay.
- Fully vaccinated travellers and children age ten (10) and under **are exempt** from taking rapid antigen tests.

#### **What happens if I don't take a rapid antigen test on the fifth day of my stay?**

- An unvaccinated person staying longer than four nights and five days who fails to undergo a rapid antigen test on the fifth day of their stay is liable to a fine of \$1,000 (USD) or possible imprisonment.

#### **Where can I take a rapid antigen test if I'm staying longer than four (4) nights and five (5) days?**

- All visitors and returning citizens and residents staying longer than four nights and five days will receive a reminder 24 hours prior to the required test with information on where and how to obtain a test.
- An approved list of testing sites is available at [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).
  - Tests in Nassau & Paradise Island will be conducted at Doctors Hospital or at an approved medical clinic.
  - Tests in Grand Bahama Island and the Family Islands will be conducted at an approved medical clinic.

#### **Are there any documents I need to bring when getting my rapid antigen test?**

- All persons taking a rapid antigen test on the fifth day of their stay are required to bring and present their Bahamas Travel Health Visa with QR code. Tests cannot be properly recorded without the QR code that corresponds to each person's individual Bahamas Travel Health Visa.

#### **How much does the rapid test cost?**

- The cost of the rapid antigen test is included in the Bahamas Travel Health Visa fee and paid in advance of travel.

#### **How long until rapid test results are ready?**

- The rapid tests are easy, quick and will yield results in 60 minutes or less, with results being provided electronically by SMS text message and email.

#### **What if I have a positive result on my rapid antigen test?**



- All positive test results are reported to the Ministry of Health's Surveillance Unit, which will conduct additional clinical screening per their own mandates.
- If an on-island rapid antigen test returns positive, that person will be required to follow up with a COVID-19 PCR (swab) test. They will be required to self-isolate until the result of the test is known.
- With a positive result, the traveller may either:
  - Leave the destination via approved medical transportation (using either insurance or personal resources)
  - Quarantine at their booked place of stay
    - There is no mandatory government facility where visitors will be sent.

#### **What happens if I don't complete the daily Health Questionnaire?**

- Compliance with the daily Health Questionnaire is required for all **unvaccinated** travellers, and those who fail to comply will be subject to penalties.
  - Unvaccinated citizens and residents who fail to complete the daily Health Questionnaire will be required to submit to a mandatory quarantine at a government identified facility.
  - Unvaccinated visitors who fail to complete the daily Health Questionnaire will be deported.

#### **How will the Ministry combat the risk of asymptomatic persons?**

- The Ministry is implementing these new protocols to mitigate the risk by ensuring multiple testing touch points which include testing prior to arrival, as well as tracking, monitoring and an additional test 5 days after arrival.

## **ON ISLAND EXPERIENCE: TOURISM PROTOCOLS (ALL TRAVELLERS)**

### **Restaurants, Businesses and Attractions**

#### **Are on-island businesses, restaurants and attractions operating normally?**

- Notwithstanding any public health restrictions that may be implemented from time to time, all travellers abiding by these new protocols will be permitted to move about and explore the beauty and vibrant culture of The Bahamas beyond the confines of their hotel or other accommodations.
- Conditions and instances of the virus can be different on each of the 16 islands available to welcome visitors, which may lead to increased restrictions for businesses, restaurants, beaches and attractions.
  - The current situation in **Grand Bahama Island, Nassau & Paradise Island, Abaco, Exuma and Eleuthera** requires increased restrictions.
  - Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://www.bahamas.com/travelupdates).

#### **What are the requirements for travellers who are staying on an island that has curfew or lockdown measures in place?**

- Visitors will be required to adhere to all island restrictions, including curfew and lockdown measures, applicable to the island where they are staying.
- Hotel guests must stay within hotel grounds for the duration of the lockdown or curfew period; however, they are permitted to move about the property and access all available amenities.
- Current curfews are as follows:
  - Nassau, Grand Bahama Island, Abaco, Eleuthera (excluding Harbour Island and Spanish Wells) and Exuma (excluding Exuma Cays):



- Daily: 10 p.m. – 5 a.m.

#### **What is the status of beaches?**

- Beaches are operating normally, with a few exceptions:
  - Beaches and parks on Eleuthera and Exuma are currently operating with reduced hours:
    - Monday through Sunday: 5 a.m. – 10 p.m.
  - Beaches and parks on Abaco and Grand Bahama Island are currently operating with reduced hours:
    - Monday through Sunday: 5 a.m. – 8 p.m.

#### **What is the status of restaurants?**

- Restaurants on most islands are allowed to operate indoor and outdoor dining, as well as curbside pickup, delivery, drive thru and takeaway; however, some restrictions are in place by island:
  - Restaurants on Nassau & Parade Island are allowed to operate:
    - Monday through Saturday between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. for outdoor dining, curbside pickup, delivery, drive thru and takeaway
    - On Sundays, outdoor dining is now permitted at restaurants.
  - Restaurants on Abaco are allowed to operate:
    - Monday through Sunday between the hours of 6 a.m. and 9 p.m. for outdoor dining, curbside pickup, delivery, drive thru and takeaway

#### **When do I have to wear a face mask?**

- All travellers must wear a face mask in any situation where it is necessary to enforce physical distancing guidelines, such as:
  - When entering and transiting air and sea terminals
  - During security and customs screenings
  - At baggage claim
  - When checking in and boarding aircraft, vessel or other form of transportation
  - When travelling in a taxi
  - When standing in lines
  - When entering any establishment
  - While checking into a hotel

#### **Do I have to wear a face mask at the beach?**

- Face masks are not mandatory on the beach but must be worn in all other public spaces that surround the beach and while entering and exiting the beach.
  - Social distancing is mandatory on the beach.

#### **What if I don't wear a face mask?**

- All persons, including Bahamian residents and visitors, are subject to a fine of \$250 or a penalty of one month imprisonment, or both, if they are found not wearing face masks in areas where it is required.

#### **What is the WTTC SafeTravels Stamp and what does it mean that The Bahamas has one?**

- The World Travel & Tourism Council (WTTC), alongside its members, governments, health experts, and other industry associations are working together to achieve effective recovery protocols by developing meaningful action plans that optimise sector-wide recovery efforts.



- The SafeTravels Stamp was created for travellers to recognize destinations and businesses around the world which have adopted the SafeTravels health and hygiene global standardized protocols – so consumers can experience ‘Safe Travels’.
- The Bahamas is proud to have been recognized as a SafeTravels destination by the WTTC for our travel protocols.

#### **What is the “Clean & Pristine” Certification?**

- A Certification Agency has been established - representing a collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism & Aviation, Ministry of Health, and other regulatory agencies - to enforce a “Clean & Pristine” Certification Program.
- **All** tourism related, customer-facing entities in The Bahamas must verify they have in place and are adhering to the Government approved health and safety guidelines to receive Clean & Pristine certification. Adequate signage outlining policies will be clearly displayed at all locations, helping to guide staff and visitors.

#### **What are the safety measures in place for frontline staff and those who work in the tourism industry at all points of entry?**

- **All** tourism related, customer-facing entities in The Bahamas must verify they have in place and are adhering to the Government approved health and safety guidelines outlined by the Clean & Pristine certification (more on Clean & Pristine certification below).
- All visitors, staff and residents are required to practice social distancing and adhere to mandatory mask wearing in public places.

#### **What does this mean for Taxis and Independent Cars?**

- Passengers to wear masks at all times throughout journey
- Passengers should not ride in front seat
- Vehicles to reduce the maximum number of people by 50%:
  - Sedans = 2 persons or a family travelling together
  - SUVs = 4 persons

#### **What does this mean for Hotels, Resorts and Vacation Rentals?**

- Extensive health and safety protocols enforced; details will be clearly stated by specific institutions
- Enhanced cleaning for guest rooms
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant readily available
- Employee health monitoring
- Limiting number of guests in elevators

#### **What does this mean for Restaurants, Food & Beverage Services?**

- Buffets discontinued until further notice
- All meals must be served at individual tables where social distance is adhered to, or meals must be prepackaged.
- Disposable menus offered or displayed on monitors or chalkboards
- Seating to accommodate for physical distancing of guests; limiting number of guests

#### **What does this mean for Excursions, Tours, Local Attractions and Shopping?**

- Maximum number of guests and duration of guest visit limited
- Guests to use personal gear (such as snorkelling gear) as appropriate



- Guests will not be allowed to touch products unless purchasing
- Cashless sales encouraged
- Beach chairs to allow 6ft. physical distancing between family units; gatherings limited to 5 persons
- Cleaning timetable / checklist to be maintained

#### **What does this mean for Vessel and Water Taxi operations?**

- Maximum number of passengers on board reduced by 50%
- Passenger seating assigned to ensure proper distancing
- Vessel sanitizing:
  - Before any passenger embarks
  - Between all passenger exchanges
  - On high touch surfaces consistently during passage
  - At end of each day

## **DEPARTURE PROCESS: TESTING PROCEDURES FOR THOSE TRAVELLING TO THE U.S. (ALL TRAVELLERS)**

### **PRE-DEPARTURE TESTING:**

#### **Is a negative COVID-19 test required to enter the U.S.?**

- Yes. As of January 26, 2021, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) requires all persons flying to the U.S. from an international destination to obtain a verifiable negative COVID-19 viral test (PCR or Antigen) taken no more than three (3) days **prior to the date of the flight**.
  - This new regulation applies to all travellers ages 2 and older, including U.S. citizens and legal permanent residents who have been visiting The Bahamas.
  - As air passengers travelling to the U.S., the CDC requires that you have a paper or electronic copy of your test result for review by the airline before you board and for potential review by public health officials after you arrive in the U.S.
- For full details on the latest requirements for entering the U.S., please visit <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/testing-international-air-travelers.html>

#### **Do I need to quarantine upon entry to the U.S.?**

In addition to testing requirements for air passengers, travellers will also be required to comply with other applicable CDC guidelines concerning international travel, including recommended periods of self-quarantine or self-isolation after entry into the United States.

Upon entry to the United States, the CDC recommends that unvaccinated travellers:

- Receive another test 3-5 days after travel and stay home or otherwise self-quarantine for 7 days after travel. Even if the test is negative, travellers should stay home for the full 7 days.
- For those that do not get tested, they are required to stay home for 10 days.
- [State and local](#) recommendations or requirements related to travel will also apply to each individual.

If you are fully vaccinated, per CDC guidelines you should continue to follow CDC's recommendations for traveling safely and get tested 3-5 days after travel.

- You do not need to get tested before leaving United States unless your destination requires it.
- You do not need to self-quarantine after arriving in the United States.



### **I have been fully vaccinated, but have come in contact with someone who is infected, do I need to quarantine upon arrival in the U.S.?**

- Based on current [CDC guidance](#), people who have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 do not need to quarantine if they are exposed to the coronavirus, as long as they meet all of the following criteria:
  - Are fully vaccinated (i.e.,  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of the second dose in a 2-dose series, or  $\geq 2$  weeks following receipt of one dose of a single-dose vaccine)
  - Are within 3 months following receipt of the last dose in the series
  - Have remained asymptomatic since the current COVID-19 exposure
- Persons who do not meet all 3 of the above criteria should continue to follow the CDC's current [quarantine guidance](#) after exposure to someone with suspected or confirmed COVID-19.

### **What happens if I don't take a test and want to travel to the U.S.?**

- Airlines are required by the CDC to confirm the verifiable negative PCR test or a negative antigen test result for all passengers before they board, and will deny boarding to any person who does not present a negative test or documentation of recovery.

### **What if I recently recovered from COVID-19?**

- The CDC does not recommend getting tested again in the three months after a positive viral test, as long as the person does not have symptoms of COVID-19.
- If you have had a positive viral test in the past 3 months, and you have met the CDC's criteria to end isolation, you may travel instead with documentation of your positive viral test results and a letter from your healthcare provider or a public health official that states you have been cleared for travel. The positive test result and letter together are referred to as "documentation of recovery."
- Documentation of recovery will be accepted by airlines to board a flight to the U.S.

### **What counts as a verifiable test result?**

- A verifiable test result must be in the form of written documentation (paper or electronic copy) of a laboratory test result. Testing must be performed using a viral test (PCR or antigen), and negative results must be provided to the airline prior to boarding.
- The test result documentation must include information that identifies the passenger, a specimen collection date and the type of test.
  - A negative test result must show test was done within the 3 days before the flight.
  - A positive test result must show the test was done within the 3 months before the flight and must be accompanied by a letter from a healthcare provider or public health official confirming clearance for travel.

### **I am an unvaccinated traveller staying in The Bahamas longer than four nights and five days, and therefore a rapid antigen test is already included as part of my Bahamas Travel Health Visa. Does this test qualify for entry into the U.S.?**

- Yes. The Bahamas' travel and entry protocols require all unvaccinated visitors and returning citizens and residents staying in The Bahamas longer than four nights and five days to take a rapid antigen test on the fifth day of their stay.
- **If taken no more than three (3) days before departure to the U.S., this rapid antigen test can act as the negative test result required by the CDC.**





**What if I am not required to take a rapid antigen test while travelling in The Bahamas? (applies to those who are vaccinated or unvaccinated and staying less than four nights and five days) How can I secure a rapid test to return to the U.S.?**

- Persons who need to secure a rapid antigen test in order to travel to the U.S. have plenty of options in The Bahamas. A number of testing sites throughout The Bahamas are approved to administer rapid antigen tests, which means travellers and residents alike readily have access to the viral tests now required to enter the U.S.

**Where can I take a rapid antigen test?**

- An approved list of testing sites is available at [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).
  - Tests in Nassau & Paradise Island will be conducted at Doctors Hospital or at an approved medical clinic.
  - Tests in Grand Bahama Island and the Family Islands will be conducted at an approved medical clinic.

**How much does the rapid test cost?**

- For those visitors staying in The Bahamas longer than four nights and five days, the cost of the rapid antigen test is included in the Bahamas Travel Health Visa fee and paid in advance of travel.
- For all visitors staying less than four nights and five days, as well as Bahamian citizens and residents planning to travel to the U.S., the cost of the rapid test is \$25.

**How long until rapid test results are ready?**

- The rapid antigen tests taken in The Bahamas are easy, quick and will yield results in 60 minutes or less, with results being provided electronically by SMS text message and email.

## **POTENTIAL FOR CHANGES TO REQUIREMENTS**

**What is the plan for the tourism industry, should The Bahamas see a dramatic rise in cases?**

- Due to fluidity of the COVID-19 situation, both in The Bahamas and worldwide, protocols are subject to change.
- The Bahamas is an archipelago with more than 700 islands and cays, spread over 100,000 square miles, which means conditions and instances of the virus can be different on each of the 16 islands available to welcome visitors.
- Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://bahamas.com/travelupdates).

**Will persons wishing to travel from an island with a higher number of cases be permitted to enter an island with a low number of cases?**

- All travellers must follow appropriate testing, visa and insurance protocols based on vaccination status to be granted entry to any island.
- Per the current Emergency Orders, there are restrictions for persons travelling from an island with mandatory lockdown orders in place.
  - A person should not be permitted to travel from an island for which notice has been given of an impending lockdown order or for which additional measures and restrictions have been imposed.



- Travellers should check the status of their island destination before travelling, by visiting [Bahamas.com/travelupdates](https://www.bahamas.com/travelupdates).