



American Society of
Travel Advisors

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Rochelle Walensky
Director
U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
395 E Street SW
Washington, DC 20024

Dear Director Walensky:

On behalf the American Society of Travel Advisors (ASTA) and the 140,000 Americans who work in the travel agency industry in the U.S., I write today to respectfully request that the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) immediately issue guidance to the traveling public. The CDC's numerous orders intended to slow the spread of the coronavirus (COVID-19) have created confusion, uncertainty and unpredictability, a chilling effect on future bookings and innumerable other challenges for our travel agency members.

As such, we respectfully request the following:

- That the CDC develop and publish a framework similar to those implemented at the state level to determine phases of safe reopening of travel based on positivity, infection and vaccination rates. Adoption of concrete milestones against which the enforcement of various travel-related policies can be measured will ensure that travel advisors, suppliers and consumers can make informed decisions.
- That CDC promulgate a rule or regulation to exempt those who have been fully vaccinated from the various CDC-ordered travel restrictions. As you know, the CDC has begun to issue vaccination cards to those individuals who have received one or more doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. Travel suppliers should be permitted to accept these vaccination records to exempt travelers from restrictions.
- That the CDC incorporate technology applications such as the International Air Transport Association's (IATA's) Travel Pass Initiative or the privately-funded Common Pass to relax travel requirements for those who can establish vaccination, immunity or a negative test result. Those that are vaccinated or have sufficient levels of antibodies to prevent the transmission of COVID-19 should be permitted to resume normal travel activities.

Thank you, on behalf of our 14,000-strong membership, for considering ASTA's views on this critical matter. If you or your staff have any questions about this request or the travel industry in general, don't hesitate to contact me or Eben Peck, ASTA's Executive Vice President of Advocacy, at (703) 739-6842 or epeck@asta.org.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Zane Kerby". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Zane" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Kerby".

Zane Kerby
President and Chief Executive Officer