

COVID-19 Vaccination Guidelines for children under 12 years travelling from UK and other countries

Our requirements related to international travel are based on scientific evidence and global best practices. The purpose is to curtail the risk of virus importation, particularly that of the new variants.

Accordingly, the guidelines have been evolving with

- 1) intensity of transmission and
- 2) developing immunity through vaccination.

Bottom line is to apply the same requirements for inbound travellers that we expect from inland Pakistanis.

As disease intensity has gone down globally and vaccination rates are improving, the requirement of negative PCR tests on boarding and rapid tests on arrival have been lifted with a focus on vaccination.

We are currently vaccinating 12 plus children in Pakistan and requiring the same for inbound travellers from across the world. As we started vaccinating 12-18 population relatively late, the same group of inbound travellers were not required to show vaccination proof till April 2022. Now as of today, 84% of the Pakistani 12-plus population has been fully vaccinated while another 8% have received the first dose. Accordingly, the 12 plus inbound travellers are now required to possess evidence of vaccination.

However, in case of any valid reason for not vaccinating or an emergency travel, the mechanism has been out in place to accord exemptions as well.

As such the current requirements need to stay for epidemiological reasons and do not hamper inbound travel as such.