

UNLOCKING THE WORLD

Travel to Mexico during Covid-19: What you need to know before you go

CNN staff • Updated 29th November 2021



Editor's Note — Coronavirus cases remain high across the globe. Health officials caution that travel increases your chances of getting and spreading the virus. Staying home is the best way to stem transmission. Below is information on what to know if you still plan to travel, last updated on November 29.

(CNN) — If you're planning to travel to Mexico, here's what you'll need to know and expect if you want to visit during the Covid-19 pandemic.

The basics

Mexico is open to travelers. There is no need to provide a negative PCR test or quarantine on arrival, though most resorts ask guests to fill out health questionnaires.

The land border between Mexico and the United States has been reopened to nonessential travel since November 8, 2021

Vaccinated American air travelers returning to the US need a negative Covid-19 test taken within three days of their departing flight. Unvaccinated Americans will need to present a negative test taken within one day of departure for the US.

The US Embassy says results for PCR and antigen tests are reliably available within 72 hours in Mexico.

As of November 27, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention maintained Mexico's travel advisory rating at level 3 -- "high" risk. Level 4 is "very high" risk. The CDC advises travelers to be fully vaccinated before traveling to Mexico.

What's on offer

You'll find incredible food, sensational beaches, charming towns and historical remains. While the beach resorts around Cancun attract the bulk of visitors, those who want more than a fly and flop go for Mexico City's cultural heft, the coastline of Baja California and traditional towns such as Oaxaca.

Who can go

Mexico has had some of the world's loosest border restrictions with anyone allowed to travel by air for business or leisure.

On Monday, November 29, Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador said "there is no reason to worry" for now about the Omicron Covid-19 variant." He also ruled out reimposing restrictions for now, saying his government would instead focus on boosting vaccination rates.

The United States, the European Union and other major destinations have already moved to block arrivals from seven southern African nations, including South Africa, Namibia and Botswana.

What are the restrictions?

Travelers to the country must complete a health declaration form and scan the QR code it generates on arrival.

There is no need to take a test before departure or undertake any form of quarantine. Those concerned they may have symptoms should ask for the Sanidad Internacional health organization.

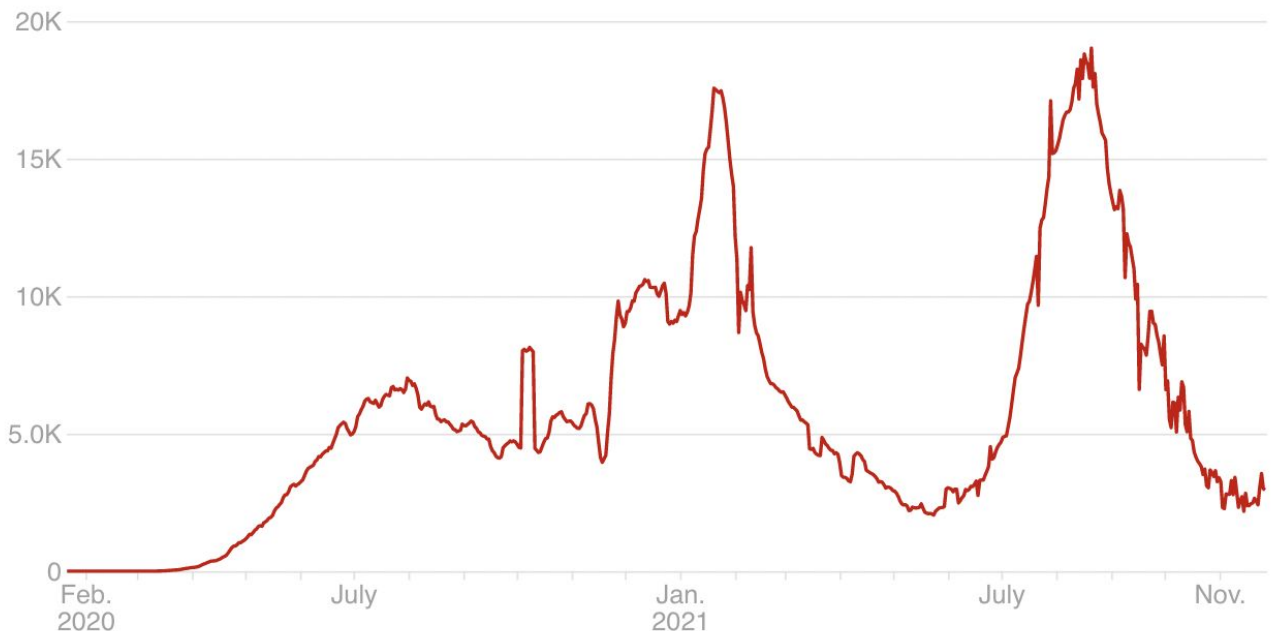
What's the Covid situation?

Mexico has had around 3.88 million cases of Covid-19 and almost 294,000 deaths as of November 27 (although some believe the actual numbers are higher). López Obrador has come under fire for taking a laissez-faire approach to the virus. Restrictions have not been far reaching and life has gone on as normal for many, which critics say has led to high death and infection rates.

As of November 27, Mexico had administered more than 131.6 million doses of vaccine, or about 101 doses per 100 people.

Daily reported Covid-19 cases

Mexico



CNN The chart is based on seven-day rolling averages to show the trend without the dips or spikes caused by delays in reporting, changes in data collection methods, or government revisions.
Last updated: November 29, 2021 at 2:45 p.m. ET
Graphic: Henrik Petterson and Byron Manley, CNN

What can visitors expect?

Mexico has a [four-tier traffic light system](#) of restrictions, with red signifying maximum restrictions, orange limiting capacity in public spaces and at work to 30%, yellow allowing for all work to resume and public gatherings to take place, and green meaning there are no restrictions in place. [See a color-coded map here.](#)

As of November 27, all states but one were categorized as green. That includes Quintana Roo, where popular tourist destinations Cancun and Playa del Carmen are located; Baja California Sur, home to Cabo San Lucas; and the bustling capital, Mexico City. Only Baja California, home to border city Tijuana, was orange.

Visitors are likely to find situations differ depending on where in the country they travel, with local restrictions varying. See [the Local Resources section](#) of the US Embassy website for specific information.

Useful links

[Sanidad Internacional](#)

[Covid-19 government page](#)

[US Embassy in Mexico](#)

Our latest coverage

Find out how Mexico has tried to balance its health needs vs. an economy heavily dependent on tourism [by clicking here.](#)

Ever wondered what it was like to move to Mexico in a pandemic? [Kim Kessler did.](#) So did this adventurous couple, who [booked an Airbnb together](#) for several months despite being virtual strangers.

If you're not ready yet to take the plunge, you'll find inspiration with the [prettiest towns in the country](#) and an [insider's guide to tequila.](#)

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