



## CITY OF ATLANTA

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ANDRE DICKENS  
MAYOR

June 3, 2022

Dr. Ashish K. Jha  
White House Coronavirus Response Coordinator  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave. NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Dr. Jha:

The purpose of this correspondence is to encourage you to consider repealing the pre-departure testing requirement for vaccinated air travelers into the United States. Many American cities are struggling to regain international visitors after more than two years of pandemic-related restrictions. In 2021, international visitation was a staggering 78% below pre-pandemic levels. Our constituents and businesses suffered greatly from this steep decline in international travel spending and will have difficulty fully recovering if this vital sector of the U.S. economy fails to rebound. Despite our access to new data and scientific advancements, increased vaccination rates, and a recent return to our normal day-to-day activities many early COVID related policies remain in place.

A new survey of vaccinated international travelers in France, Germany, the United Kingdom, South Korea, Japan and India found that the pre-departure testing requirement is a deterrent to travel. More than half of international travelers (54%) said the added uncertainty of having to cancel a trip due to U.S. pre-departure testing requirements would significantly impact their likelihood to visit the U.S.; and a large majority of adults surveyed (71%) agreed that they prioritize traveling to destinations without cumbersome entry requirements. Many foreign governments with similar infection, vaccination and hospitalization rates—including the United Kingdom, Germany and Canada—have already eliminated pre-departure testing requirements for vaccinated travelers.

As we continue to leverage science, increase vaccination rates, and return to our normal day-to-day activities, I hope that you consider revisiting the current policy and consider a repeal of these requirements when appropriate. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andre Dickens  
Mayor