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Dr. Ashish Jha

Coronavirus Response Coordinator  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Dr. Jha:

I write today to urge the federal government to repeal the inbound testing requirement for vaccinated air travelers to the United States. Lifting this requirement would help accelerate the economic recovery of cities like Minneapolis. Given the abundance of public health measures we have at our disposal like vaccination and booster shots, I join mayors from across the country in arguing that the existing requirement is no longer necessary.

American cities are still struggling to regain international visitors after more than two years of pandemic-related restrictions. In 2021, international visitation was 78% below pre-pandemic levels. Our constituents and our businesses suffered from this steep decline in international travel spending, and they cannot fully recover until this vital sector of the U.S. economy rebounds. 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.

The pre-departure testing requirement is also a deterrent to vaccinated Americans traveling abroad, as many are concerned by the prospects of a delayed return to the U.S. 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this request.

Yours Truly,

Mayor Jacob Frey,  
City of Minneapolis