

However, ASTA's proposed modification would help remove a number of practical challenges to our members and their clients," wrote Zane Kerby, president and CEO of ASTA, who sent the letter on behalf of the association's 17,000 travel advisor members.

"These challenges range from uncertainty as to the availability of timely testing in-destination to avoid disruption to their return trip to the financial and psychological burdens associated with being prevented from returning home due to a positive (or false positive) test result, to a general chilling effect on international travel bookings," Kerby said.

Additionally, he said that the [CDC's shortening of the testing window](#) from 72 to 24 hours, which was implemented late last year after the Omicron variant of the virus emerged, "has only exacerbated these challenges."

Exempting the more than 200 million Americans who are fully vaccinated from the order would reflect the scientific consensus that widespread vaccinations are the single most important element of the fight against COVID-19, while allowing the travel industry's recovery to begin in earnest.

Executives at ASTA believe that the CDC's testing order, which was issued in January 2021, is outdated and functioning as a roadblock to full recovery within the travel industry. An additional benefit of its removal, Kerby said, is the hope that it would provide an incentive for unvaccinated individuals to get the shot.

Close

This website uses cookies to enhance user experience and to analyze performance and traffic on our website. By using this site, you agree to the use of cookies. You may change your cookie settings at any time, but the site may not function properly. [Cookie Policy](#)