

Update: Booster requirement for Hawaii gets a target date

(Courtesy of Clint Henderson, The Points Guy)

Hawaii will soon require visitors have a booster shot to visit the islands without having to quarantine. It's a big change to the state's "Safe Travels" program.

The target date is now Feb. 18, according to Honolulu Mayor Rick Blangiardi. In a report on [KHON in Hawaii](#), Blangiardi said, "The overriding recommendation is if you are eligible to get a booster, get a booster. Whether or not we make it part of Safe Access Oahu, tied to Feb. 18, is still something we are evaluating."

The Feb. 18 date has not yet been confirmed by the state of Hawaii.

Hawaii Gov. David Ige made the announcement of a booster requirement earlier in January as cases of coronavirus continue to surge across parts of the United States, in large part due to the highly contagious omicron variant.

Under the current rules, you only need to show proof of vaccination or a negative COVID-19 test taken within three days of your arrival to skip quarantine.

The new requirement for proof of booster will be unveiled in the next week or two so visitors have time to adjust to the new rules. According to [Hawaii News Now](#), Ige said, "We know that the community needs time to react to that, so we would have to provide at least two weeks for those who may not be up to date to go to have the opportunity to go and get vaccinated if they need to."

The governor also told local media last week that he is in talks with mayors and other leaders to potentially require proof of booster shots for entry to restaurants and for activities and events, but nothing is imminent on that front.

Maui has [already said](#) that a booster will be required to be considered fully vaccinated locally.

In other, better news for visitors, the length of quarantine if you don't qualify for an exemption has been shortened to five days.

The new Hawaii Safe Travels rules

Hawaii [launched a quarantine exemption](#) for fully vaccinated travelers back in July.

According to the state of Hawaii, here are the steps:

- Upload documentation proving vaccination to the state's [Safe Travels](#) portal *prior* to travel.
- Sign the online legal attestations on [Safe Travels](#), confirming the uploaded documentation is true and accurate.
- Bring hard copies of your vaccination card to show screeners and agents at the gate for your departing plane.

The assumption is that you will also need proof of a vaccine booster at some point in February, but details are not available just yet.

If you are going to test out of quarantine instead of showing proof of vaccination, do note the state of Hawaii has [strict rules around testing](#):

“The test has to be taken 72 hours from the final leg of departure **and** the negative COVID-19 test result uploaded to the Safe Travels platform or printed out and in hand prior to departure to Hawaii in order to avoid the five-day (number of required days changed on January 3, 2022) quarantine.”

Visitors who are traveling between islands are not subject to quarantine, so once you are in Hawaii, you can travel freely interisland.