

Reopening of the U.S - MX Border

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Institutional context

In March 2020, the United States placed restrictions on border crossing with Mexico to slow the spread of COVID-19. These restrictions were reviewed on a monthly basis by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). There have been important economic impacts along the U.S. - Mexico border due to the closing of the border. Before the pandemic, more than 500 thousand people entered the United States through the U.S. - Mexico border daily. Businesses in cross-border communities rely on these travelers to remain profitable. The San Ysidro Border of Commerce estimates that restriction of non-essential cross-border travel has caused around \$7.5 million dollars of losses weekly for San Diego's retail sector.

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After bilateral negotiations led by Mexican Foreign Minister, Marcelo Ebrad, and the Chief Officer for North America, Roberto Velasco, activities in the U.S. - Mexico border resumed on November 8th, 2021. People who are fully vaccinated, with vaccines authorized by the World Health Organization (WHO), will be now able to travel through land and air to the United States.

As a follow-up to this dialogue, the Mexican government formed a working group with American authorities from the White House, the DHS, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Centers for Disease Control and Preventions. Through this working group, both nations seek to work in coordination for an efficient and safe flow of people.