

Covid-19 relief measures: immigration perspective

Country-by-country comparison

Information gathered with the collaboration of the IBA Immigration and Nationality Law Committee members



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Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures
Australia Contributor: Anne O'Donoghue	<p>The Australian government is establishing a Safe Travel Zone with New Zealand. From Friday 16 October 2020, a person can travel from New Zealand to Australia, quarantine-free, if they have been in New Zealand for 14 days or more and not been in a designated hotspot, and if they are travelling to Australia on a quarantine-free flight.</p> <p>Normal visa requirements will apply. Travellers returning to New Zealand from Australia will be required to comply with New Zealand's travel requirements. Quarantine-free travel from New Zealand will initially be to North South Wales and the Northern Territory only.</p> <p>From 8 May 2020: Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that international students could be allowed back into Australia as early as July, with the federal government confirming it will consider an exemption to the travel ban.</p> <p>From 28 March 2020: Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that all arrivals to Australia will go into mandatory quarantine for 14 days at designated facilities. Travellers will be transported directly to designated facilities after appropriate immigration, customs and enhanced health checks.</p>	<p>Leaving Australia: From 25 March 2020, Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents are restricted from travelling overseas.</p> <p>Temporary visa holders returning home: Temporary visa holders do not need an exemption to depart Australia. They can leave at any time, as long as border restrictions in their home country allow them to return.</p> <p>Exemption for Australians and permanent residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Your travel is part of the response to the Covid-19 outbreak, including the provision of aid. Your travel is essential for the conduct of critical industries and business (including export and import industries). You are travelling to receive urgent medical treatment that is not available in Australia. You are travelling on urgent and unavoidable personal business. Compassionate or humanitarian grounds. Your travel is in the national interest. <p>Foreign nationals The Australian government has encouraged all international visitors to depart if possible to do so.</p>	<p>There have been no announcements made by the government about financial assistance for temporary visa holders.</p> <p>The JobKeeper payments are not available for temporary visa holders (except for 444 visa holders).</p> <p>On 12 April 2020: The Red Cross has announced it will be receiving funds from the Australian Government for the next six months to deliver emergency relief and casework support to temporary visa holders who have no way to support themselves and who have urgent needs.</p> <p>Who is eligible? Visa holders may be eligible for Red Cross Safety Net support if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> are in Australia on a temporary visa; cannot access Centrelink, Medicare or similar services; are in urgent financial hardship; or have no income, savings or other financial support (including from family overseas). <p>On 5 March 2020: the government have made a number of changes to temporary visa holder arrangements during the Covid-19 crisis. There are 2.17 million people presently in Australia on a temporary visa.</p>	<p>Mandatory quarantine for arrivals Prime Minister Scott Morrison announced that all arrivals to Australia after midnight 28 March 2020 will go into mandatory quarantine in hotels or other facilities for 14 days.</p> <p>Enhanced health screenings for airline crew and passengers 25 March 2020: NSW Health Department has ordered nurses and biosecurity staff at Sydney International Airport to check the temperatures of all incoming passengers.</p> <p>Reporting ill travellers All aircraft entering Australian territory must report sick passengers and crew on the pre-arrival report.</p> <p>Self-isolate for 14 days From midnight 15 March 2020, all people entering Australian must self-isolate for 14 days. This period of self-isolation applies regardless of country of origin/transit or Australian immigration status. Failure to do so risks AUD1,000s in fines.</p>	<p>As of 8 November 2020, in Melbourne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The 25km travel limit will be removed. Gyms and fitness studios to reopen. Larger patron limits for restaurants, cafes and bars. <p>The Administrative Appeals Tribunal is taking steps to resume limited in-person hearings in their Adelaide, Brisbane, Canberra, Hobart, Perth and Sydney registries.</p> <p>As of 28 October 2020, in Melbourne:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> People can freely leave their homes. All retail stores, restaurants, cafes and bars will reopen with group limits of 10 patrons indoors. Household visits allowed but with conditions, to be revealed further. Outdoor gatherings of up to 10 people can take place. Weddings can have up to 10 people, and funerals up to 20 people. <p>As of 26 October 2020, zero new cases have been diagnosed in Victoria, and Melbourne will exit the 112-day lockdown.</p> <p>NSW-Victoria border restrictions: NSW Government temporarily closed the NSW-Victoria border. Anyone who has been in Victoria within the last 14 days must not enter NSW except in special circumstances</p> <p>Metropolitan Melbourne: from 13 September 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The curfew is changing to 2100-0500. Must be at home during curfew hours. The only reason leave home between 2100-0500 is to be work, medical care and car or in an emergency Exercise or socialise outdoors two hours a day which can be spread across two sessions. You are encouraged to socialise with either one friend or family member in your household.



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<p>Australia (continued)</p> <p>Contributor: Anne O'Donoghue</p>	<p>From 20 March 2020: At 2100 AEDT, Australia closed its borders to all non-citizens and non-residents. This is to seek to mitigate the impact of Covid-19 in Australia.</p> <p>Exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australian citizens; Australian permanent residents; New Zealand citizens usually resident in Australia; Immediate family members of an Australian citizen or permanent resident (including spouses, dependent children and legal guardians); or Additional exemptions as determined by the Commissioner. <p>All persons entering Australia will need to self-isolate for 14 days from date of arrival. They must self-isolate at home or in a hotel.</p> <p>It is unclear precisely how long this travel ban will be in place, but we note that it could be months before it is lifted. Australian Treasurer Josh Frydenberg on behalf of the Australian Government, has suggested that this travel restriction could remain in place for up to six months, subject to medical advice.</p>	<p>Leaving Australia: From 25 March 2020, Australian citizens and Australian permanent residents are restricted from travelling overseas.</p> <p>Temporary visa holders returning home: Temporary visa holders do not need an exemption to depart Australia. They can leave at any time, as long as border restrictions in their home country allow them to return.</p> <p>Exemption for Australians and permanent residents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> your travel is part of the response to the COVID-19 outbreak, including the provision of aid your travel is essential for the conduct of critical industries and business (including export and import industries) you are travelling to receive urgent medical treatment that is not available in Australia you are travelling on urgent and unavoidable personal business compassionate or humanitarian grounds your travel is in the national interest. <p>Foreign nationals The Australian Government has encouraged all international visitors to depart if possible to do so.</p>	<p>Temporary Skill Shortage visa holder (SC 482) Visa holders who been stood down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Temporary Skill Shortage visa holders who have been stood down, but not laid off, will maintain their visa validity and businesses will have the opportunity to extend their visa as per normal arrangements. Businesses will also be able to reduce the hours of the visa holder without the person being in breach of their visa conditions or the business being in breach of their employer obligations. These visa holders will also be able to access up to AUD10,000 (approx. US\$6,100) of their superannuation this financial year. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You can leave home for four reasons, with limitations: shopping for food or other essential items, exercise, permitted to work, caregiving, for compassionate reasons or to seek medical treatment. <p>Metropolitan Melbourne: from 16 September 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No restrictions on the reasons to leave home. Keeping at least 1.5 metres from others. Groups of up to ten people will be able to meet outdoors. Restrictions easing to allow for cafes, restaurants, beauty and personal care, and some outdoor entertainment venues to open. Restaurants will open in predominantly outdoor capacity, with a group limit of ten people Must not travel to metropolitan Melbourne except for permitted work purposes, care and compassionate reasons or shopping for food and supplies, if necessary. <p>New South Wales: from 14 September 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No more than 20 visitors at a home No more than 20 people can gather outside in a public place No more than 150 people subject to the 4 square metre rule Businesses that prepare and serve food and drink to customers on the premises or for takeaway need to have a Covid-19 safety plan All businesses can now open and operate under the one person 4 square metre rule. Some businesses subject to specific restrictions about maximum number of people permitted at the venue, such as hospitality venues and places of worship. Some venues are also required to register as a Covid-19-safe venue.



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<p>Australia (continued)</p> <p>Contributor: Anne O'Donoghue</p>	<p>There have been no announcements made by the government about financial assistance for temporary visa holders.</p> <p>The JobKeeper payments are not available for temporary visa holders (except for 444 visa holders).</p> <p>On 12 April 2020: The Red Cross has announced it will be receiving funds from the Australian Government for the next six months to deliver emergency relief and casework support to temporary visa holders who have no way to support themselves and who have urgent needs.</p> <p>Who is eligible? Visa holders may be eligible for Red Cross Safety Net support if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • are in Australia on a temporary visa; • cannot access Centrelink, Medicare or similar services; • are in urgent financial hardship; or • have no income, savings or other financial support (including from family overseas). <p>On 5 March 2020: the government have made a number of changes to temporary visa holder arrangements during the Covid-19 crisis. There are 2.17 million people presently in Australia on a temporary visa.</p> <p>Temporary Skill Shortage visa holder (SC 482) Visa holders who been stood down:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temporary Skill Shortage visa holders who have been stood down, but not laid off, will maintain their visa validity and businesses will have the opportunity to extend their visa as per normal arrangements. • Businesses will also be able to reduce the hours of the visa holder without the person being in breach of their visa conditions or the business being in breach of their employer obligations. • These visa holders will also be able to access up to AUD10,000 (approx. US\$6,100) of their superannuation this financial year. 	<p>NSW: from 13 June 2020, the following activities will be allowed, with the four square metre rule applied at all times:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fitness, gyms, pilates, yoga and dance studios can reopen with up to ten people per class and 100 people in an indoor venue; • Community centres can reopen; • Tattoo and massage parlours can reopen with up to ten clients. <p>3 June 2020: the Australian government has prohibited the export of some equipment that could help efforts to stop the spread of Covid-19, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • disposable face masks, gloves and gowns; • goggles, glasses or eye visors; • alcohol wipes; and • hand sanitiser. <p>Exemptions to these measures apply: https://covid19.homeaffairs.gov.au/imports-and-exports.</p>

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<p>Australia (continued)</p> <p>Contributor: Anne O'Donoghue</p>	<p>Visa holders who been laid off:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Those who are laid off (that is, they are unemployed) should find another employer within 60 days or make arrangements to depart Australia, where possible. Those visa holders who have been laid off due to Covid-19 should leave the country in line with existing visa conditions if they are unable to secure a new sponsor. However, should a four-year visa holder be re-employed after the Covid-19 pandemic, their time already spent in Australia will count towards their permanent residency skilled work experience requirement. <p>Covid visa – Subclass 408 new stream announced – Australian Government Endorsed Events</p> <p>This stream will allow holders of temporary visas who are engaged in or have the relevant skills to undertake critical work relating to supply of essential goods and services, provided the applicant falls within the class of persons specified by the instrument. It must be part of responses to workforce shortages during the Covid-19 pandemic in relation to areas including, but not limited to, agriculture, aged care and public health. The fee has been waived for applicants who fall within the class of persons specified by the instrument.</p> <p>The purpose of this is to provide a pathway for former and current holders of temporary visas to remain lawfully in Australia and who would otherwise be required to depart Australia who, but for the Covid-19 pandemic, are unable to leave Australia.</p> <p>They may be eligible for a Temporary Activity (subclass 408 Australian Government Endorsed Event Stream) visa during the Covid-19 pandemic if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> their visa is about to expire; their visa has already expired; they cannot leave Australia; or they are working in a critical sector, such as health, aged care or agriculture. <p>Working Holiday Makers (SC 417, 462)</p> <p>To support the critical sectors of health, aged and disability care, agriculture, food processing, and childcare, the government is providing flexible arrangements with regard to ongoing employment of Working Holiday Makers (WHMs).</p> <p>WHMs working in these critical sectors will be exempt from the six-month work limitation with one employer and will also be eligible for a further visa to continue working in these sectors if their current visa is due to expire in the next six months.</p> <p>If a WHM is working in the critical sectors of health, aged and disability care, agriculture, food processing or childcare but is not eligible for a further WHM visa and is unable return to their home country, they can apply Temporary Activity (subclass 408) Australian Government Endorsed Event (AGEE) stream visa.</p>	<p>NSW – from 1 June 2020, the following restrictions have been eased:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Travel to regional NSW for a holiday; Visits to museums, galleries and libraries; Pubs, clubs, cafes and restaurants can have up to 50 customers; Beauty and nail salon operators can begin treatment; and Up to 20 people can attend weddings, 50 at funerals and 50 at places of worship. <p>Biosecurity</p> <p>Australia has announced major biosecurity measures and travel restrictions in efforts to limit the spread of Covid-19. This has caused enormous disruption to temporary visa holders seeking to enter or returning to Australia.</p> <p>The Australian government is constantly evaluating and changing policy in light of the evolving Covid-19 situation.</p> <p>Cruise ship passengers</p> <p>The Australian government has restricted all cruise ships entering Australia until 15 June 2020, including direct arrivals and round trip cruises.</p> <p>All travellers arriving in Australia will undertake mandatory 14-day quarantine at designated facilities in their port of arrival.</p>

Country	Relief measures for temporary visa holders (continued)	Other relief measures
<p>Australia (continued)</p> <p>Contributor: Anne O'Donoghue</p>	<p>Student visa holders The government taking a flexible approach in relation to student visa conditions where Covid-19 and associated travel restrictions have prevented conditions being met, such as attendance at class or use of online learning.</p> <p>Government has temporarily relaxed the enforcement of the 40-hour work limitation for the following critical sectors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International students who are existing workers in major supermarkets to help get stock onto shelves due to high demand (implemented 7 March); • International students who are existing workers in aged care sector are able to work more than 40 hours a fortnight (implemented 18 March). <p>Student visa holders enrolled in nursing can undertake work to help and support the health effort against Covid-19 as directed by health officials.</p> <p>Students who have been in Australia longer than 12 months who find themselves in financial hardship will be able to access their Australian superannuation (up to AUD10,000).</p> <p>Seasonal worker or Pacific Labour Scheme Subclass 403 visa holder in the Pacific Labour Scheme Can apply for another subclass 403 visa in the Pacific Labour Scheme where the applicant and employer are endorsed by the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to participate in the scheme. This visa will allow them to stay lawfully in Australia and continue working, if they wish to do so.</p> <p>Subclass 403 visa holder in the Seasonal Worker Program This visa cannot be extended. However, the Australian Government has introduced new measures for those working in critical sectors in response of Covid-19. They may be eligible for a Temporary Activity (subclass 408 Australian Government Endorsed Event Stream) visa during the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>	<p>No further stay condition (includes 8503, 8534 and 8535) This means you cannot apply for most visas onshore. If your visa has less than two months' validity remaining visa holders can request to waive this condition. The Department announced extra resources have been diverted to the No Further Stay waiver section to deal with increased volume of requests to allow onshore visa holders to extend their stay.</p> <p>New Zealand 444 Special Category Visa (SCV) New Zealanders and Australians have reciprocal arrangements whereby we can each stay and work in each other's country.</p> <p>If visa holder is a protected SCV New Zealand citizen and meet other eligibility requirements, they will be eligible for all welfare payments, including Job Seeker and Job Keeper payments.</p> <p>If visa holder is not a protected SCV New Zealand citizen and holds a TY 444 visa, they will still be eligible for the Job Keeper payments through their employer.</p>



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Austria Contributor: Valentina Arnez	<p>Flights operate irregularly and border controls are in place at these internal land borders: Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Slovakia. The following entry restrictions apply until at least May 1 2020:</p> <p>Air travel From 19 March until at least 30 April, flights deriving from the following countries are banned from landing in Austria: China, France, Iran, Italy, the Netherlands, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, the United Kingdom. This does not apply to cargo flights, ambulance and emergency flights, or repatriation flights.</p> <p>On entering Austria by air, the following persons need to place themselves into immediate 14-days self-quarantine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austrian citizens; • EU/EEA/Swiss citizens; • third-country national family members of Austrian citizens or EU/EEA/Swiss citizens who live in the same household; • third-country nationals with – Visa D, a residence permit, or another residence documentation issued by an Austrian authority. <p>Austrian citizens and EU/EEA/Swiss citizens who present a medical certificate, confirming that they have tested negative for Covid-19, are exempt from quarantine.</p> <p>The following need to present a medical certificate showing they are Covid-19 negative when entering Austria by air:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • third-country nationals entering Austria from inside of the Schengen Area; • third-country nationals entering from anywhere, who are members of diplomatic corps, official humanitarian emergency forces, care-givers, transit-passengers, seasonal workers in the agriculture/forestry sector and persons who are necessary for the distribution of goods. <p>Other third-country nationals entering from outside the Schengen Area (without a valid Austrian visa or residence permit), cannot enter Austria by air. Exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • members of the crew of passenger or cargo flights; • emergency or ambulance flights; • repatriation flights or transportation flights; • flight personnel; • members of the Austrian armed forces returning from duty; or • persons who are entering Austria due to compelling reasons in the interest of the Austrian Republic, or due to extraordinary circumstances in relation to immediate family. 	<p>Travel restrictions have been in place for some areas since mid-March, but foreigners could leave after a two-week quarantine.</p> <p>There are no outbound travel border restrictions, but some neighbouring countries such as the Czech Republic prohibit entry via the land borders.</p> <p>Until at least 28 April 2020, Austria is executing border controls on all internal land borders to the following countries: Switzerland, Liechtenstein, Germany, Italy, the Czech Republic, Slovakia.</p> <p>Flight operations at Vienna International Airport are extremely limited. Most flights still operating are return flights for Austrian citizens.</p>	<p>Third-country nationals with a valid Visa D or a residence permit issued by an Austrian authority entering Austria by air, are required to put themselves into immediate 14-day self-quarantine. The same requirement applies if they re-enter by land provided, they have already taken residence in Austria.</p> <p>If the residence permit expires while in Austria, an extension application can be submitted to the immigration authority by email or post.</p> <p>If the visa or the visa-free stay in Austria expires, a visa (extension) can be applied for under exceptional circumstances in Austria at a regional police department.</p>	<p>Anyone required to present a medical certificate, proving to be tested negatively for Covid-19, must take care that their certificate is no older than four days when entering Austria.</p> <p>Those required to place themselves into an immediate 14-day self-quarantine can be freed from this requirement if they are tested negatively for Covid-19. This can be provided when entering Austria or at any later stage.</p> <p>People who are exempt from putting themselves into a self-controlled-quarantine or from the requirement to present a medical certificate, can be asked to take part in a medical control regarding any Covid-19 infection, on the request of the Health Authority. Within this medical control the authority can ask questions about previous travel to other countries as well as any contact with Covid-19 patients. The Authority can take the person's body temperature.</p>	<p>As Austrian Immigration Authority offices are also closed to the public it is not possible to collect newly-issued residence permits in person. However the authorities have introduced delivering approved residence permits via regular postal services.</p> <p>Relief measures have been taken for seasonal workers who are already in-country – their stay can be extended even if their visa has expired.</p> <p>Furthermore, the government has introduced a number of measures to support Austrian businesses and to prevent large-scale lay-offs through short-time work models. Different funding opportunities are also in place as well as tax deferrals.</p>

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Austria (continued) Contributor: Valentina Arnez	<p>Travel by land (rail or road)</p> <p>Rail traffic (passenger transport excluding cargo trains and trains on transit through Austria) from Italy, Switzerland, Liechtenstein are banned from arriving in Austria. Rail traffic from Frankfurt and Munich to Austria is currently permitted.</p> <p>On entering Austria by land, the following persons need to place themselves into immediate 14-day self-quarantine:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Austrian citizens; • Persons who are usually resident in Austria. <p>The following persons must present a medical certificate showing negative Covid-19 test results when entering Austria by land:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • EU citizens; • third-country nationals. <p>Exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repatriation transfers; • Distributions of goods; • Commuters; • Transit through Austria, if their exit from Austria is secured; • Extraordinary circumstances in relation to immediate family reasons; • Emergency medical treatment in Austria. 				



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Belgium Contributor: Massimo Maesen	<p>The extra-Schengen travel restriction, in place until 15 June, has been extended to 30 June.</p> <p>Travel restriction Extra-Schengen: There is already an extra-Schengen travel restriction in place, until 15 May, which they now would like to extend to 15 June. Belgian Border Authority has confirmed already they will probably follow the invitation of the EU Commission.</p> <p>See the communication of the EU Commission. https://ec.europa.eu/info/site/s/info/files/assessment-application-temporary-restriction-travel_en.pdf.</p> <p>Travel restriction Intra-Schengen: In Belgium there is also a travel restriction on intra-Schengen travel (to and from Luxembourg, Netherlands, France and Germany) in place until 8 June.</p> <p>All non-essential travel from third countries (outside the Schengen Area/EU) to Belgium have been temporarily suspended until 15 May 2020.</p> <p>This temporary travel restriction does not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> all EU citizens and citizens of the Schengen Associated States, and their family members; and third-country nationals who are long-term residents under the Long-term Residence Directive and persons deriving their right to reside from other EU Directives or national law or who hold national long-term visas. 	<p>The generally applicable principle is that any non-essential travel abroad is prohibited.</p> <p>As essential reasons for travelling abroad, the following trips are currently being considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> relocation abroad in the context of professional activities, including commuting; relocations to continue medical care; travel to provide assistance or care for an elderly, minor, disabled or vulnerable person; travel to take care of animals; relocation in the context of co-parenting; relocations to persons of Belgian nationality with or without main residence in Belgium, long-term residents in Belgium and persons with legal residence in Belgium to be picked up abroad and brought back to Belgium; relocation to bring family members abroad to perform work for essential reasons; movement of Belgian nationals to their main residence abroad; relocation to a partner who does not live under the same roof; relocation in the context of the execution of deeds (if necessary and not possible digitally); movements relating to funerals/burials/cremations relocations in the context of civil/religious marriages. 	<p>Employees who cannot leave Belgium because of <i>force majeure</i> (eg, quarantine, flight cancellations, closing of borders etc) and whose residence authorisation is about to expire, can apply for a temporary extension of stay for up to 90 days in principle.</p> <p>This applies to both visa and visa waiver nationals.</p> <p>Applications can be filed by email.</p> <p>The following information/documentation must be submitted:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> copy of passport; copy of 'declaration of arrival'; letter explaining why it is impossible to leave the Schengen Area on the planned date; documents confirming the impossibility; travel cost insurance, valid for the duration of the extension; Belgian residence address and email address. <p>The federal immigration office will process the application and will forward the decision to the applicant by email.</p>	<p>The generally applicable principle is that any Belgian national with or without primary residence in Belgium, long-term residents in Belgium and persons with legal residence in Belgium can return to Belgium, subject to two conditions that the person is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> placed in home isolation for 14 days; and prohibited from working outside of their home for 14 days, even if they are employed in an essential sector. Teleworking is permitted. <p>These two conditions apply to the returnee and apply to all possible transport modes (air, land and sea) used during their return.</p> <p>In the case of a return via a domestic or foreign airport, these two conditions also apply to the person who will collect the returner(s), but not to the rest of the family living under the same roof. The person picking up is preferably a family member, but if the members of the family are employed in an essential sector, it is not recommended that they collect the returning person.</p>	<p>The regional ministries have taken a number of urgent measures to ensure continuity of service and to deal with a number of urgent problems resulting from the strict Covid-19 measures currently in place in Belgium.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> application via email; temporary extension of residence and work authorisation/work permit for employees who cannot return to their home country (maximum three months) – expedited work authorisation/work permit application; incomplete applications will not be declared inadmissible after 15 days; periods of temporary unemployment shall be taken into account in the calculation of the salary threshold

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Belgium Contributor: Massimo Maesen	<p>Only a very limited number of travellers with an essential function or need can apply for visas/are allowed to travel to Belgium. These include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> healthcare professionals, health researchers, and elderly care professionals; seasonal and frontier workers transport personnel engaged in goods haulage and other transport staff to the extent necessary; diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and humanitarian aid workers in the exercise of their functions; passengers in transit; passengers travelling for imperative family reasons; persons in need of international protection or for other humanitarian reasons. 	<p>Relocations to a second residence abroad are hereby excluded.</p> <p>Carrying a proof of identity is not mandatory, but highly recommended.</p> <p>Germany has no controls at its borders with Belgium. So no document other than the identity card is required. However, Belgium limits the crossing of its borders to essential movements. More information is provided at: https://www.bmi.bund.de/SharedDocs/kurzmeldungen/EN/2020/03/corona-ein-und-ausreise-en.html.</p> <p>France has instituted a strict 'shelter' measure on its territory until 15 April 2020. Border controls are present at the borders and certificates must be presented. Belgium also limits the crossing of its borders to essential movement. More information at: https://www.gouvernement.fr/info-coronavirus.</p> <p>To date, Luxembourg has not introduced controls at its borders with Belgium. However, Belgium limits the crossing of its borders to essential movements. More information at: https://meco.gouvernement.lu/en/dossiers/2020/coronoavirus-entreprises.html.</p> <p>The Belgian/Dutch border is strictly monitored. Only the border crossing for essential movements is permitted. Today there is a vignette system that allows professions from critical sectors to take precedence at the border crossing. See: https://crisiscentrum.be/sites/default/files/20200321_vignette_bel_vital_secteur_e.pdf.</p>		<p>These two conditions do not apply to cross-border workers, drivers of professional transport companies and persons who have made an essential movement abroad, with the exception of persons who have collected returning persons from a foreign airport.</p>	<p>The regional ministries have taken a number of urgent measures to ensure continuity of service and to deal with a number of urgent problems resulting from the strict Covid-19 measures currently in place in Belgium.</p> <p>For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> application via email; temporary extension of residence and work authorisation/work permit for employees who cannot return to their home country (maximum three months) – expedited work authorisation/work permit application; incomplete applications will not be declared inadmissible after 15 days; periods of temporary unemployment shall be taken into account in the calculation of the salary threshold.

Relief measures by country

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Brazil Contributor: Carolina Carnaúba	<p>Closure of Brazilian land, air and maritime borders to foreigners of any nationality from 30 March until 30 April, 2020.</p> <p>Citizens from Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, French Guiana (France), Guyana, Paraguay, Peru and Suriname who arrive through a land border will be barred from entry until 2 May 2020.</p> <p>Citizens from Venezuela arriving through a land border will be denied entry until 1 May 2020.</p> <p>Citizens from Uruguay arriving through a land border will be denied entry until 20 May 2020.</p> <p>Exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brazilian citizens or foreigners who have acquired Brazilian citizenship; • immigrants who already possess a valid Temporary or Indefinite Period Residence Permit and have already been registered with the Federal Police; • foreign employees working for an international organisation, duly accredited within Brazil; • foreign employees accredited before the Brazilian government; • a foreigner who is the spouse, partner, child, parent or curator to a Brazilian citizen, or whose entry into Brazil has been authorised for a specific reason by the Brazilian government with a view to public interest, or a bearer of a National Migratory Register Card (<i>Registro Nacional Migratório</i>); 	<p>Brazilian flight operators have drastically reduced the number of domestic flights over the national territory, and foreign-based companies have also reduced the number of flights departing from Brazil.</p> <p>In addition, quarantine measures have been effected in many states and cities nationwide affecting individuals living in Brazilian territory. As a result, the movement and displacements in-between cities has fallen sharply.</p> <p>States such as São Paulo have enacted quarantine measures, closing all non-essential activities until 10 May 2020. Rio de Janeiro followed with similar measures, but has been assessing the situation every 15 days, therefore the current quarantine measures are in place until 30 April 2020.</p>	<p>Migratory documents were extended automatically since 16 March 2020 for the period of the state of emergency due to Covid-19. This comes as a relief for immigrants whose Residence Permits are due to expire soon or have expired since 16 March 2020.</p> <p>Furthermore, foreigners under a tourist/business visa who arrived in Brazil before 16 March 2020 (when the Federal Police automatically extended the expiration date of migratory documents) and were unable to extend in-country their stay in Brazil are allowed to stay in the country as long as the public emergency lasts.</p> <p>The only peculiar situation is of foreigners/immigrants whose migratory documents had expired before 16 March 2020, yet remain in the country. They are allowed to remain in the country regardless of sanctions, however once the public emergency situation is lifted, they might need to settle their migratory situation by paying fines for overstay.</p>	<p>The National Health Agency on Sanitary Inspections (ANVISA) has implemented a protocol on Brazilian points of entry according to the guidelines of the World Health Organization (WHO).</p> <p>There are no mandatory quarantine measures applicable to individuals arriving through any point of entry in Brazil (airport, port or land border), however the ANVISA has reinforced its recommendations and warnings that if someone is found with flu-like symptoms when arriving from abroad, they should avoid physical contact with other persons, especially with elderly and chronically ill patients, and should stay at home for at least 14 days. They should immediately seek hospital care if they experience shortness of breath.</p>	<p>Cuban doctors already stationed in Brazil were called to treat patients during the Covid-19 public emergency crisis by a specific call from the Ministry of Health.</p>

Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions (continued)
Brazil (continued) Contributor: Carolina Carnaúba	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• cargo transportation;• a passenger in international transit, as long as they do not leave the transit area of the airport and the destination country accepts their entry; and• landing of aircraft for technical reasons, as long as there is no need for any passengers whose nationality is under entry restrictions to enter Brazilian borders. <p>Several Brazilian consulates abroad have suspended in-person activities. This means that requesting business visas and Temporary Residence visas have been halted for an indefinite period. However, as a general guidance, a consulate's operation should be assessed on a case-by-case basis.</p> <p>Since 20 March 2020, the Ministry of Justice, responsible for approving Residence Permits, has been analysing applications but not publishing their Approval Notice in the National Gazette. Therefore, immigrants haven't been able to collect their visas from consulates and enter Brazil to begin their assignments.</p> <p>If the activities performed by the company which is employing the immigrant in Brazil are deemed of public interest, it may qualify for an exception to the rule mentioned above, nevertheless, the activities performed by the immigrant should also be vested in public interest.</p> <p>The Federal Police, a governmental entity responsible for performing compulsory registration of foreigners arriving to Brazil, has suspended its activities since 16 March 2020 for an indefinite period.</p>



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Canada Contributors: Catherine Sas, Jacqueline Bart and Yusra Siddiquee	<p>From 26 March 2020: The Government of Canada has mandated an immediate 14-day quarantine for all Canadians returning to Canada as of 2359 on 25 March 2020. The government has advised that this mandated quarantine will be enforced under the Quarantine Act.</p> <p>On 21 March 2020: Canada also restricted the entry of all foreign nationals seeking to enter Canada from the United States, including US citizens if they are seeking entry for an optional or discretionary purposes such as tourism, recreation or entertainment.</p> <p>From 19 March 2020: All Canadians returning home from travel outside of Canada urged to self-isolate for 14 days.</p> <p>From 18 March 2020: The Government of Canada, in conjunction with the United States, closed the Canada-US border to all non-essential travel.</p> <p>From 18 March 2020: In order to enhance screening for the virus, all international flights will be directed to land only at Canada's international airports in Montreal, Toronto, Calgary and Vancouver. This does not apply to domestic travel from within Canada or flights from the US, Mexico, Caribbean or St Pierre and Miquelon.</p>	<p>From 28 March 2020: All air operators must conduct a health check of travellers before they board a flight within Canada or departing from Canada, based on guidance from the Public Health Agency of Canada. Passengers that present Covid-19 symptoms must be refused by air operators.</p> <p>14 March 2020: The Public Health Agency of Canada has advised travellers to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada.</p> <p>The Government of Canada is continually assessing travel risks for Canadians. An official global travel advisory is in effect: to avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada until further notice.</p> <p>In addition, a pandemic Covid-19 travel health notice with travel health advice for Canadians has also been issued. It may be increasingly difficult to travel in and out of some destinations.</p> <p>As foreign governments implement strict travel restrictions and as fewer international transport options are available, there may be difficulty returning to Canada.</p>	<p>IRCC is providing automatic 90-day extensions for all further steps in processing of applications for both permanent and temporary residence. Previous requests for information will automatically be given a further 90-day response period. All IRCC (Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada) appointments will be cancelled until 13 April 2020.</p> <p>International students in Canada who are now receiving online instruction in response to COVID 19, will still be eligible for a Post-Graduation Work Permit.</p> <p>Many Visa Application Centres (VACs) have either closed or are operating on a significantly reduced capacity. Expect delays in all overseas processing of applications.</p> <p>On 7 February 2020: The IRCC introduced Covid-19 special measures to facilitate the entry of foreign nationals or permanent residence to return to Canada or to remain in Canada.</p> <p>The special measures address four specific categories of individuals:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Permanent resident visa holders or permanent residents; • Canadian citizenship applicants; • Temporary or permanent residents abroad; and • Temporary residents in Canada who are unable to leave. <p>The special measures provide an opportunity for persons to leave China (or other nations) as quickly as possible, remain in Canada until the outbreak is contained, and to extend the validity of documents and/or reschedule appointments for other applicants. In general, IRCC is demonstrating considerable flexibility to accommodate individuals who have been affected as a result of this pandemic.</p>	<p>All asymptomatic persons returning to Canada are subject to a mandatory 14-day isolation period. Travellers are required to travel directly to their accommodation in Canada without delay, and remain there for 14 consecutive days. During their travel from the port of entry to their destination, they are not permitted to stop for any reason.</p> <p>If individuals are experiencing any symptoms, they must not use public transport to travel to their accommodation.</p> <p>Once in isolation, individuals are not permitted to leave their homes, unless it is to seek medical attention. They are not permitted to receive any visitors. If isolating in a shared space, they must keep a distance of at least two metres from others at all times.</p> <p>There are limited exemptions from this requirement for persons providing essential service to Canadians.</p> <p>Violations may incur penalties of up to CAD750,000 (approx. US\$530,000) in fines and/or up to six months' imprisonment.</p> <p>Travellers with symptoms within the 14 days of arrival in Canada need to contact their provincial health authority or health care provider and advise them about their travel history.</p>	<p>Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau convened an Incident Response Group on Covid-19, which has been meeting since the end of January, and, on 5 March, he created a Cabinet Committee on the federal response to Covid-19. Chaired by the Deputy Prime Minister and vice-chaired by the President of the Treasury Board, the committee meets regularly to ensure whole-of-government leadership, coordination, and preparedness to limit the health, economic and social impacts of the virus.</p> <p>From 26 March 2020: All in-person Service Canada Centres have closed.</p> <p>From 24 March 2020: Parks Canada temporarily suspended all motor vehicle access to all national parks, national historic sites and national marine conservation areas. These measures are effective as of 0001 on 25 March 2020.</p> <p>A 'State of Emergency' has been declared in all Provinces and Territories, 17–27 March 2020.</p> <p>Emergency measures have resulted in mandated self-isolation, school closures, closure of restaurants, bars and restricted public gatherings and businesses closed except those deemed 'essential services' for each jurisdiction.</p>



Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures
Canada (continued) Contributors: Catherine Sas, Jacqueline Bart and Yusra Siddiquee	<p>From 16 March 2020: The Government of Canada has banned the entry of all non-Canadian or non-permanent residents to Canada.</p> <p>Exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Immediate family members of Canadian citizens or permanent residents; ▪ Crew members; ▪ Persons assisting with the Covid-19 response; ▪ Persons providing an essential service; ▪ Persons whose presence is found to be in the national interest; ▪ Holders of valid work or study permits; ▪ Persons with written notice of approval of a work permit application; ▪ Persons with written notice of approval of a study permit prior to 18 March 2020; ▪ Students in the health field; ▪ Emergency service providers; ▪ Licensed healthcare professionals with proof of Canadian employment; ▪ Persons delivering medical equipment or other medical deliveries required for patient care; or ▪ Persons whose applications for permanent residence were approved as of 18 March 2020. <p>From 7 February 2020: IRCC closed all 11 of its Visa Application Centres (VACs) in China</p> <p>Boarding an aircraft also prohibited in all cases where foreign national exhibits a fever and cough, or a fever and breathing difficulties.</p>	<p>The Public Health Agency of Canada has also advised against all travel on cruise ships.</p>	<p>Those who hold a valid work permit or have consular approval of a work permit application are exempt from travel bans to Canada, as are students who hold a valid study permit or who received consular approval of their study permit application prior to 18 March 2020.</p> <p>Those currently in Canada whose status is about to expire must apply online for an extension to their status prior to expiry. There is no fee waiver. Applicants must apply online and meet all requirements, including associated fees.</p>	<p>Employers responsible for newly arriving temporary foreign workers (TFWs) employees complying with public health requirements re: self-isolation and quarantine, including separate accommodations if symptoms. All TFWs are subject to 14-day isolation. TFWs can be housed together as long as they are not mixing with people in 14-day isolation and are social distancing. Employers must cover all these housing costs.</p> <p>No work is permitted during 14-day isolation but employers must meet all obligation during that time (eg, accommodation, pay, benefits etc).</p> <p>On arrival, officers will ask all travellers whether they have a cough, fever or difficulty breathing, and visually inspect them for signs of illness. If a traveller shows signs of an infectious disease, officials will contact a quarantine officer, who will perform a more detailed assessment. If necessary, a quarantine officer may order traveller be taken to hospital or undergo a medical examination and inform the local public health authority.</p>	<p>Liquor stores are deemed 'essential services' in most jurisdictions.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Citizenship ceremonies and citizenship tests have been cancelled as of 14 March 2020 until further notice. • The IRB (Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada) has postponed all in-person hearings and mediations (other than detention hearings) effective from 17 March 2020 until 5 April 2020. Further extensions of time have been introduced for the various stages of refugee processing and are set out in a Practice notice at: https://irb-cisr.gc.ca/en/legal-policy/procedures/Pages/rpd-covid19.aspx. <p>Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada is continuing to update and publish policy guidelines as the Covid-19 situation evolves.</p> <p>It is anticipated that further clarification regarding the ability of visa-exempt foreign nationals to apply for a work permit at the port of entry without prior consular approval will be provided shortly.</p>



Relief measures by country

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France Contributor: Karl Waheed	<p>The borders of the Schengen Area have been closed for 30 days from 17 March 2020.</p> <p>Non-EU nationals are not allowed to enter during this period of time.</p> <p>Exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> French citizens and their family members; EU citizens and their family members; residence permits holders and their family members. <p>French consulates abroad will not issue any visa (long stay visas, short term visas and visas for overseas territories) until further notice.</p>	<p>France and its EU partners have decided to drastically reduce international travel through the closure of the Schengen Area's external borders.</p> <p>France has also decided to reduce travels and displacements on its national territory.</p> <p>A quarantine which had been in place for 15 days since 17 March has been extended until at least 17 April.</p>	<p>Emergency Law No 2020-290 of 23 March 2020 to deal with the Covid-19 epidemic, and Order No 2020-328 of 25 March 2020 have been promulgated.</p> <p>The new legislation confirms the three-month extension of residency documents which were due to expire between 16 March and 15 May 2020, including long stay visas, residence permits, temporary residence permits (<i>récépissé</i>), asylum application certificates.</p> <p>The purpose of the Order is to secure the legality of the presence on the territory of foreigners with expiring permits, and to avoid any questioning of rights in a health context which does not allow the prefectures to process renewal requests under normal conditions.</p> <p>As this measure is applicable only on national territory, it is therefore recommended not to leave France with an expired residence permit.</p>	<p>A 15-day quarantine implemented in France on 17 March has been extended until at least 17 April.</p> <p>People living in France must stay at home. In case of displacement, an attestation must be detained, indicating the reason of the displacement. A few exemptions are possible but the quarantine is strict and in cases where it is not respected, €200 fines must be paid.</p>	<p>On 28 March, Prime Minister Edouard Philippe announced that a decree would be published within days to allow doctors from countries outside the EU to enter overseas territories to help in the fight against Covid-19.</p>



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Germany Contributors: Gunther Mävers and Dieter Kohlfürst	<p>Temporary internal border controls and restrictions on entry from third countries have been extended until 15 June 2020.</p> <p>On 15 April 2020, Germany decided to extend the border controls at the internal borders to Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland (for air, land and sea traffic), which have been temporarily reintroduced for 20 days, until 4 May 2020.</p> <p>In addition, on 15 April, Germany welcomed the recommendation of the European Commission to extend the restrictions on entries from third countries. Germany, like other European countries, will apply these entry restrictions which are initially scheduled to remain in force until 15 May 2020.</p> <p>On 10 April 2020, a two-week mandatory quarantine was ordered for travellers entering Germany after a stay abroad of several days.</p> <p>Exceptions will be made for daily commuters; urgent and short-term journeys which are necessary and not to be postponed for professional reasons (eg businesses travellers, service technicians); for persons who, for professional reasons, transport people, goods and merchandise across borders; and travellers</p>	<p>On 3 June 2020 the German government lifted the worldwide travel warning for many European countries. However, travel warnings still apply to Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and the UK.</p> <p>Initially there were no travel warnings with regard to specific countries because of Covid-19, however, it was recommended to avoid travel that wasn't required, to countries such as China, Italy, Japan and South Korea.</p> <p>This has changed dramatically and there are now travel warnings with regard to various countries in place.</p> <p>There is a general global travel warning with regard to any unnecessary tourist travel abroad until at least the end of April 2020. Stronger and further-increasing drastic restrictions on international travel, quarantine measures and restriction of public life in many countries must be expected.</p> <p>The German government initiated a repatriation programme. Any traveller shall first obtain information on travel and security advice, contact their tour or airline operator, and register on the crisis prevention list at www.diplo.de/elefand.</p>	<p>Due to the spread of Covid-19, German immigration authorities both in Germany and abroad are affected and only able to work to a limited extent.</p> <p>In order to cushion the reduced working capacities of the immigration authorities, greater use is made of the fictional effect of permits. Pursuant to subsection 81, section 4 of the German Residence Act, if a foreigner applies for an extension of his/her residence title before its expiry, the fictitious effect automatically applies by law, upon submission of the application. The previous residence title including an obtained work authorisation is deemed to continue to be valid from the time of its expiry until the decision of the immigration authorities.</p> <p>On 10 April 2020, the Federal Ministry of the Interior issued a legal ordinance that provides for an exemption for Schengen visas. Holders of expiring Schengen visas are also exempt from the requirement of obtaining a residence permit, until 30 June 2020. This ordinance considers the special situation of holders of expiring Schengen visas, who are temporarily unable to leave Germany and return to their home countries due to restrictions on international travel connections, and prevents a punishable, unauthorised stay in Germany.</p>	<p>If there are indications of symptoms linked to Covid-19 in cross-border traffic to Germany, the Federal Police will immediately call the relevant local health authorities.</p> <p>As of 10 April 2020, travellers entering Germany after a stay abroad of several days shall undergo quarantine for 14 days upon arrival. Those wishing to enter Germany for the purpose of working for at least several weeks must have proof that a two-week quarantine period is ensured or that equivalent operational hygiene measures and contact-avoidance measures are in place.</p>	<p>The receipt of short-time working benefits has no effect on the validity of a German residence permit, as the employment contract remains valid.</p> <p>With regard to the salary thresholds for the Blue Card EU and a residence permit for IT specialists in accordance with the German Residence Act, the receipt of short-time work benefits does not have a negative effect on the validity of the residence permit, if the short-time working benefits fall below the respective salary thresholds and the short-time work is a measure related to Covid-19.</p> <p>All other relief measures, such as bans on going out, closing restaurants and shops and social distancing (that differ in detail from state to state) so far adopted were initially in place until 19 April 2020, but have been extended until 3 May 2020.</p>

Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions (continued)	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders (continued)	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures
Germany (continued) Contributors: Gunther Mävers and Dieter Kohlfürst	<p>On 18 March 2020, Germany extended the temporary border controls to intra-European air and sea traffic from Austria, Denmark, France, Italy, Luxembourg, Spain and Switzerland. For travellers without an urgent reason for travelling, there are now entry restrictions for travel on these routes.</p> <p>On 17 March 2020, Germany (in accordance with the Temporary Restriction on Non-Essential Travel to the EU) has imposed an entry ban for all non-essential travel by foreign nationals arriving from non-EU states for a period of 30 days, currently in force until 15 April. All EU citizens and citizens of Schengen-associated states and their family members are allowed to enter Germany for the purpose of returning to their homes. Third country nationals with a German residence permit and/or valid national D visa are permitted to enter Germany.</p> <p>On 16 March 2020, Germany imposed controls at the internal land borders with Austria, France, Denmark, Luxembourg and Switzerland for all non-essential travel to Germany. The cross-border movement of commuters and goods will remain guaranteed.</p>		<p>In addition, the persons concerned may continue to work after the Schengen visa expires, until 30 June 2020. This ordinance also applies to foreign nationals who are permitted to stay in Germany without requiring a Schengen visa because of an exemption.</p>		



Relief measures by country

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India Contributor: Poorvi Chothani	<p>The Government of India has stated that all scheduled international commercial passenger services will remain closed until 1830 GMT, 14 April 2020. No incoming scheduled international commercial passenger aircraft will be allowed to land and disembark its passengers in India until then. This restriction will not apply to international all-cargo operations and flights specifically approved by the Directorate General of Civil Aviation.</p> <p>All Indian visa services (excluding in-country registration, visa extension and other visa related formalities) have been suspended until 15 April 2020.</p> <p>India has temporarily suspended the visa-on-arrival facility for Japanese and South Korean nationals.</p> <p>Overseas Citizen of India (OCI) cardholders in India are valid. However, OCI cardholders who are outside India cannot travel to India until 15 April 2020.</p> <p>All domestic airlines have been suspended until 2359 IST, 14 April 2020.</p>	<p>International flights are not allowed to land or depart from India. This is being announced in multiple ad hoc announcements.</p> <p>Several states in India have locked their borders limiting travel within the country.</p> <p>Countries such as the UK and the US are working with the Indian government and airlines to support their citizens by clearing flights to leave India, enabling their citizens to return home. Germany and Israel have already obtained permission from the Indian government with evacuation flights having left India.</p>	<p>Visas of all foreign nationals who are already in India remain valid until their expiry. There are special provisions (set out below) for their in-country extensions.</p> <p>The Foreigners Regional Registration Offices (FRROs) and Foreigners Registration Offices (FROs) have been temporarily authorised to provide essential consular services for foreign nationals who are currently unable to leave India due to travel restrictions.</p> <p>Consular-processed visas, electronic visas (e-visas) or stipulations of stay endorsed on the visas of all foreign nationals which have expired or are set to expire during the period from midnight 1 February 2020 to midnight 30 April 2020 will be extended until midnight 30 April 2020 on complimentary basis. To benefit from this service foreign nationals must make an online application on the e-FRRO portal. Foreign nationals whose visas have expired and who have made an application to leave the country, will be granted an exit permit without penalty for overstaying.</p>	<p>All foreign nationals who have travelled to India from any location outside India or who may travel to India once international flights are permitted to land, may be quarantined for a minimum 14-day period on their arrival to India.</p> <p>All incoming travellers including Indian nationals who have travelled or who are set to travel to India once international flights are permitted to land and who have visited China, France, Germany, Iran, Italy, South Korea, or Spain after 15 February 2020 will be quarantined for a minimum 14-day period on their arrival.</p>	<p>In a bid to curb the spread of Covid-19, India is in lockdown for a 21-day period until 14 April 2020. All international passenger airline services have been suspended until 0000 IST on 15 April 2020 (1830 GMT on 14 April 2020).</p>



Relief measures by country

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Italy Contributor: Corrado Scivoletto	<p>To date, all travel to Italy, other than for work, health purposes and extraordinary personal needs (family reunion, repatriation etc), is forbidden. On boarding on any means of public transport, the passenger must give the carrier a declaration stating the reasons for travel and the address at which the precautionary quarantine will be observed. This provision does not apply to travelling staff of carriers having their registered office in Italy, doctors and nurses. or cross-border workers. Carriers shall check the temperature of each passenger and prohibit anyone showing Covid-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>To date, all travel other than for work, health purposes and extraordinary personal needs (family reunion, repatriation etc), is forbidden.</p>	<p>The validity of all residence permits which are due to expire between 31 January and 15 April 2020 has been extended until 15 June 2020. Applications for renewal will be filed after 15 June. For work permits and residence permits, applications pending as of 23 February 2020, or started after 23 February 2020, the period 23 February 2020 to 15 April 2020 shall not be taken into account.</p> <p>Immigration offices are temporarily closed, and are currently only processing international protection applications (asylum, subsidiary protection, humanitarian visas), as well as carrying out expulsion procedures.</p>	<p>On arrival in Italy all passengers shall:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> observe a 14-day precautionary quarantine period (this duty can be derogated from in case of individuals entering Italy for work purposes and for a maximum of 72 hours); and make their arrival known to the local unit of the national healthcare system for any further monitoring. The same goes for those using private means of transport. Workers of carriers of goods and other shipping companies are exempt from the above rules. 	<p>All government measures adopted so far are valid until 3 April 2020. Depending on the spread of Covid-19, it is expected that the measures will be extended (if not strengthened) until at least the end of April 2020.</p>

Relief measures by country

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Japan Contributor: Akira Higuchi	<p>All foreign nationals who have travelled to 73 subject countries and regions within 14 days prior to their arrival in Japan are banned from entering.</p>	<p>Warnings on infectious diseases from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Level 3 – avoid all travel: for 73 subject countries and regions; • Level 2 – avoid non-essential travel: rest of the world 	<p>Certificate of Eligibility (CoE) is a document required to enter Japan for most work visa statuses. The validity of CoE has been temporarily extended from 3 months to 6 months.</p> <p>For foreign nationals who are already in Japan and have had difficulty in returning home, the following relief measures are in place:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • “Temporary Visitor” visas extended for 90 days • “Technical Intern Training” or “Designated Activities (Foreign Construction Workers or Foreign Ship-building Workers)” holders have permission to change their status to “Designated Activities/3 Months/Work Permitted”; • Students who are looking for a job have permission to change their status to “Designated Activities”, and permission to work part-time may be granted. 	<p>Both foreign nationals and Japanese nationals entering Japan from subject countries and regions within 14 days prior to arrival should undergo PCR testing for Covid-19. All travellers are requested to self-isolate in places such as their homes or hotels and avoid using public transportation for 14 days.</p>	<p>There are measures in place to reduce the number of people visiting immigration offices for extensions or change of status. For those whose status expires in March, April or June 2020, the immigration authorities are accepting these extension/change applications up to three months after the original expiry date. This is not an automatic extension of current status. These applications must be submitted by the end of this three-month period.</p> <p>The Prime Minister declared a state of emergency for seven prefectures including Osaka and Tokyo. Later, the declaration was expanded to all 47 prefectures. Thirteen prefectures, including Osaka and Tokyo, have now been designated as “special alert prefectures” where it is necessary to promote efforts to prevent the spread of infections. People in areas subject to the declaration will be asked to stay at home, but it is not mandatory. There will be no penalties for violators.</p>



Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures (eg, automatic extensions)
Mexico Contributor: Margarita Ortiz Hernández Magro	<p>The US and Mexican governments have released a joint statement relating to travel restrictions, aiming to reduce the spread of Covid-19.</p> <p>As a first measure, all travel considered non-essential is restricted, ie, travel involving recreational activities and tourism.</p> <p>As part of the joint initiative, the following are recognised as essential activities and services, which are mentioned but not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • trade; • transport of goods and perishables; • purchase of life-saving medicines; • health and emergency services; • work trips (with supporting documentation); • temporary and permanent residents; • visits of diplomatic or official nature; and • other similar, approved by the governments of both countries. <p>All non-essential travel will be suspended to prioritise the above criteria.</p> <p>It is worth noting that, to date, the restriction is only applicable to arrivals throughout US-Mexico land border.</p> <p>The joint initiative came into effect on 21 March 2020, and is initially valid for 30 days, subject to extension on review.</p> <p>Mexican consulates abroad will not issue visas until further notice.</p>		<p>Extensions for temporary residents or sundry procedures for temporary or permanent residents</p> <p>The Ministry of the Interior established has suspended all proceedings for temporary and permanent residents, including extensions, effective until 30 April 2020.</p> <p>Local and federal offices of the National Immigration Institute remain open to the public.</p>	<p>The Ministry of Health is conducting random health screenings of foreign or Mexican individuals entering Mexico.</p>	



Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures
The Netherlands Contributor: Barbara Wegelin	<p>The borders of the Schengen Area have been closed for 30 days from 17 March 2020.</p> <p>Non-EU nationals are not allowed to enter during this period of time.</p> <p>Exemptions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Dutch citizens and their family members; EU citizens and their family members; Residence permits holders and their family members. <p>Dutch embassies and consulates abroad will not issue any visa (long stay visas, short term visas and visas for overseas territories) until further notice. Prospective family reunification applicants cannot take the mandatory Dutch language exam at Dutch embassies.</p> <p>Passenger flights from Austria, China (including Hong Kong), Iran, Italy, South Korea and Spain are not allowed to land in the Netherlands until 10 April 2020.</p> <p>The European Commission has proposed that EU Member States extend border closure until 15 May 2020.</p>	<p>The Netherlands and its EU partners have decided to drastically reduce international travels with the closure of the external borders of the Schengen Area.</p> <p>Since 17 March, the Netherlands has encouraged citizens and residents to stay at home and work from home, except for essential activities. This measure is set to continue until at least 28 April. Non-essential (international) travel is discouraged.</p> <p>A vignette is now available for cross-border Belgian/Dutch workers with crucial professions or who provide vital services. Workers with vignettes can pass through Belgium's border controls more quickly.</p>	<p>Schengen visa holders must now apply for an extension with the Dutch Immigration Service (IND). Either visas must expire within a month, airlines have cancelled a visa holder's flight home and visa holders must still meet the Schengen visa's conditions.</p> <p>Applications for an extension must be submitted by phone. If approved, extensions will be registered in the Visa Information System (VIS), and the holder will receive a sticker for their passport. Holders will also receive written confirmation. Visa free nationals cannot apply for an extension to the maximum 90-day term of residence in the Netherlands.</p> <p>The IND announced that the Dutch government understands that it may be more difficult to return home. The authorities will, therefore, not strictly enforce the 90-day rule.</p> <p>However, holders must not stay longer than strictly required and must continue to look for ways of returning home. Normally former holders of residence permits are required to leave the Netherlands as soon as their permit has expired. If that is not possible due to travel restrictions, holders are required to lodge an application to extend their residence permit.</p> <p>If a residence permit extension is not an option, it will be possible for a foreign citizen to ask for a formal return decision with an extended deadline to return to their country of origin. The maximum duration of such an extension is 90 days. This application can be submitted in person at one of the IND offices. The IND will make an immediate decision. An extension to the deadline does not constitute legal residence.</p> <p>Where possible, temporary permit holders are encouraged to apply for an extension online. Applications will continue to be processed by IND officials working remotely.</p>	<p>Travellers entering the Netherlands, who do not fall under the scope of the border closures, must undergo a 'fit to fly' attestation.</p>	



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New Zealand Contributor: David Ryken	<p>21 April 2020: The government will announce whether level 4 will continue or whether level 3 will begin on 24 April after four weeks (level 3 will allow businesses to restart but without any customer face-to-face contact). Restaurants, cafes, hairdressers and retail will remain closed until level 2 is reached. Construction and manufacturing may begin but only where person-to-person distancing can be accomplished.</p> <p>9 April 2020: At 2359, all arrivals at the airport (by now only returning citizens, residents, immediate family and Australian citizens and those normally resident in New Zealand) to be placed in government-paid accommodation for 14 days. All returnees are unable to leave the facility but can get fresh air (on the premises of the facility only). Essential travel (to supermarkets etc) not permitted. Those who are symptomatic are placed in full quarantine (ie unable to leave their room for exercise). The cut-off time was the time of flight departure from an overseas port. Facilities are at each of the three major international airport cities: Auckland, Wellington and Christchurch.</p>	<p>7 April 2020: The government announced transit agreements allowing New Zealand citizens, residents and immediate families and Australian citizens, residents and immediate family to transit through New Zealand with a requirement to remain airside. This would also apply to citizens and residents of Chile and citizens and residents of a number of countries in Europe and South America, transiting through New Zealand to a hub in Canada or the US (Auckland airport is a major transit point between Australia and South America and between the Pacific Islands and either Europe, South America or Australia). Similarly, returning New Zealand citizens and residents may transit through airports in Australia on the basis of a reciprocal agreement and presumably Santiago in Chile (though this has not been confirmed).</p>	<p>The New Zealand government has exercised an omnibus extension to all temporary visas (student, visitor or work) expiring between 2 April and 9 July. They are automatically extended to 25 September, with email notifications to the visa-holder being sent off.</p> <p>Those who have applied for further visas online will be issued with interim visas in the meantime.</p> <p>Students that work at supermarkets are temporarily permitted to work more than the permitted 20 hours per week, and those on work visas already employed at supermarkets are permitted to work in positions outside of their stated job descriptions (to assist with a short supply issue at the supermarkets, deemed an essential service).</p> <p>Student visa-holders will be able to defer their studies to later in 2020 or to 201. Their visas will be made valid. Travel dates will be changeable.</p> <p>As horticulture and viticulture are essential industries, workers already in New Zealand or who have had an automatic work visa extension through to 25 September will be able to apply for work in other regions etc (however, employers will be required to obtain Immigration New Zealand's confirmation to change work visa conditions). Horticultural workers still overseas at the time of the lockdown may apply for an exemption to the arrivals ban as they are essential workers, being part of the food-chain. This will need to be done prior to travel, however, as in the case of all travel exemptions involving non-New Zealand and Australian citizens and those normally resident in New Zealand, and their immediate family.</p>	<p>10 April 2020: Health screening became compulsory for all arrivals (prior to going into isolation or, where symptomatic, into quarantine, arriving on any flight that departed after 2359 on 9 April. No end date to compulsory testing has been given.</p> <p>16 March 2020: All persons arriving in New Zealand are required to self-isolate, although it soon became evident that travellers were arriving with no plan to self-isolate,</p>	<p>All cruise ships banned on 16 March from docking until 30 June.</p> <p>State of emergency announced on 25 March, providing wider powers to the police for breaches of the level 4 stay-at-home and essential travel-only requirements.</p> <p>Citizenship ceremonies have been cancelled and are not currently required (citizenship, when approved, will proceed without the need for a ceremony for now).</p> <p>Residential rent increases are frozen for six months.</p>



Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions (continued)	Outbound travel/border restrictions (continued)	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Other relief measures (continued)
New Zealand (continued) Contributor: David Ryken	<p>Domestic flights are not permitted until after the 14-day period. No end-date has been given to enforced 14-day isolation for all arrivals. The government continues to pay for this, as an emergency measure, although this will not necessarily continue and other mechanisms for returning residents and citizens and their families and essential workers on work visas etc will be set up.</p> <p>25 and 26 March 2020: State of emergency announced, providing wide powers to ensure compliance with lockdown (referred to as Covid-19 level 4) beginning at midnight on 25 March. All non-essential businesses closed, including retail and construction, and all travel inside the country, except for essential workers or trips to the supermarket or for medical reasons, is banned. All persons required to be at home except for medical trips to a doctor, hospital or to a pharmacy, and to exercise locally. Exceptions include all medical and essential workers (which include the media, transport, food-supply and supermarkets). Foreign persons not symptomatic and not awaiting a test are permitted to travel domestically to an international flight, provided they have ticketed and transit arrangements in place. The inter-island ferry is unavailable for this purpose, but limited domestic flights between the islands are available</p>	<p>Because of the difficulties involved in transiting intermediate ports, a number of specially arranged flights have been arranged, in particular a significant airlift of German citizens (visitors and holiday workers) stranded in New Zealand (Air New Zealand and Lufthansa). Many other special flights to numerous other countries have been ongoing. Commercial flights and cargo flights have continued throughout.</p> <p>26 March 2020: During the four-week lockdown, internal travel to access repatriation flights has been permitted but not for those who are symptomatic or have had contact with a known case and are awaiting test results.</p> <p>16 March 2020: As a protection measure and because New Zealand is a main transit point, travel to Pacific Islands, for those symptomatic or close contacts of known cases, departure to the Pacific Islands is banned. There are not other bands on outward travel.</p>		<p>All businesses can access a wage subsidy for 12 weeks at NZ\$ 585.80 gross per full-time worker and NZ\$ 350 for part-time workers, per week, designed to assist employees to retain their staff during the lockdown.</p> <p>Legislation to extend statutory deadlines, inter alia under the Immigration Act 2009, has not been enacted but is believed to be under consideration.</p> <p>In certain circumstances, immigration appeals can be filed electronically with the Immigration and Protection Tribunal, without the physical filing of an appeal form.</p>



Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions (continued)	Outbound travel/border restrictions (continued)	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures
New Zealand (continued) Contributor: David Ryken	<p>19 March 2020: All foreigner arrivals banned. Returning residents and citizens (including partners and children when accompanying a New Zealander) required to self-isolate for 14 days. Some exemptions to apply, including for humanitarian reasons (mainly essential workers on work visas). Returning New Zealanders and citizens includes the three Pacific island countries who hold New Zealand citizenship: The Cook Islands, Niue and Tokelau. Some exceptions for citizens of Samoa and Tonga arriving for medical treatment and other emergencies.</p> <p>18 March 2020: Overseas New Zealanders (believed to number at least 80,000) urged to return home.</p> <p>17 March 2020: Announcement that tourists flouting the self-isolation rules will be restricted and deported. Two tourists were put into forced quarantine and later deported for defying the restrictions.</p> <p>16 March 2020: At 0100, all persons arriving (including foreigners) must self-isolate for 14 days. Not applicable to travellers from the Pacific Islands. The rule applies to those arriving on a flight that departed after 0100 (and not to those already in the air).</p> <p>3 February 2020: Travel from China banned except for New Zealand citizens, residents and foreigners who have been outside of China for 14 days.</p>	<p>There are in fact no restrictions preventing New Zealand citizens or residents from leaving the country, or for Australian citizens or residents (who are exempt from the requirement to hold a residence visa) from returning to Australia. A number of countries, including the Pacific Islands, have restrictions relating to travel to their countries or conditions that must be met. International travel for New Zealanders is currently not available in any case.</p>			



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Nigeria Contributors: Kunle Obebe and	<p>On 18 March 2020: the Federal Government issued a directive restricting the entry into the country for travellers from China, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the Netherlands, Norway, South Korea, Spain, Switzerland, the UK, and the US.</p> <p>On 20 April 2020: The Minister of Aviation announced that Nigeria's airspace and airports will not reopen on 23 April as previously stated but remain closed for a further two weeks from 24 April 2020.</p> <p>The Nigerian government has announced plans to evacuate Nigerians stranded overseas. Conditions for evacuation include payment for the one-way flight by the evacuees, Covid-19 testing on arrival and mandatory quarantine in the facility provided by the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) in Abuja or Lagos.</p>	<p>All international travel remain restricted until Nigeria's airspace and airports reopen.</p> <p>While all outbound international travel remains restricted, the government of Nigeria allows some countries to evacuate their citizens who have stranded in Nigeria via special flights. Such countries include the US, UK, France and other European countries.</p> <p>To make this possible, special arrangements must be made between Nigeria and the evacuating country through the embassies/high commission of both countries.</p>	<p>Foreign visitors stranded in Nigeria may obtain permit extensions at no cost.</p> <p>On 15 April 2020, the Minister of Interior announced the Federal Government of Nigeria's decision to allow foreign travellers who have been stranded in Nigeria to have their visitors and residence permits extended at no cost to enable them to prepare to leave Nigeria as soon as the ban on air travel is lifted.</p> <p>Other foreigners currently in Nigeria whose permits expired before the travel restrictions must pay for overstay and associated penalties.</p> <p>It would appear that those who are in Nigeria on short visits are the beneficiaries of this pronouncement as there has been no official statement yet regarding those on the long-term work permits. Nonetheless, the Nigeria Immigration Service is expected to release further information shortly regarding other classes of foreigners.</p>	<p>On arrival in Nigeria, all passengers are required to pass through a screening process at the port of entry to ascertain their health status.</p> <p>Each passenger is also expected to provide information including their home address, phone number, email address, countries where they have recently lived/visited, and whether they have been in contact with an infected person or experienced any Covid-19 symptoms.</p>	<p>The Federal Government has declared a lockdown to the most affected states (Lagos, Ogun and Abuja) with effect for two weeks from 30 March 2020.</p> <p>On 13 April 2020, the Federal Government announced a further two-week extension to the lockdown in affected states.</p> <p>From the week of 27 April 2020, the Lagos state government will begin to enforce the wearing of face masks in public spaces to stop the spread of Covid-19 in the state.</p> <p>Some state governments have restricted movement in their states as none of the affected persons reside in those states. Kano state is one state where the state Governor announced a seven-day lockdown from 16 April 2020.</p> <p>The government has set up an expanded laboratory network for Covid-19 across the six geopolitical zones in Nigeria to increase testing capacities.</p>

Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound and outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures
Peru Contributor: Ariel Orrego-Villacorta	<p>State of National Emergency extended for a period of 28 calendar days from Monday 1 February 2021</p> <p>State of National Emergency for 31 calendar days, as of Friday 1 January 2021.</p> <p>State of National Emergency for 31 calendar days, as of Tuesday 1 December 2020.</p> <p>State of National Emergency declared from Sunday 1 November to Monday 30 November 2020.</p> <p>State of National Emergency declared from Thursday 1 October to Saturday 31 October 2020.</p> <p>Phase 4 of the resumption of activities approved, including air transport and international flights to health destinations from 5 October 2020 for passengers complying with protocols established by the Ministry of Transport and Communications.</p>	<p><i>Migraciones'</i> offices have opened to provide the following services:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Collection of foreign card for foreign residents who could not collect their Peruvian Identification Document due to quarantine. Request for Peruvian passport for national citizens. <p>The Virtual Agency of <i>Migraciones'</i> has been create, with a list of approved procedures which required to be initiated in person, which can now be processed virtually.</p> <p>Through this platform, the following procedures may be carried out:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Change of immigration status/in-country process post-arrival. Residence authorisation renewal. Special travel permits. Permit to sign contracts (tourists and students). Registration for foreigners and issuance of the foreign card. Duplication of the foreign card. Modification of information in the central registry of foreigners. Certificate of migratory movement. Duplication of the Temporary Residence Permit. Refund of payments. <p>Procedures that do not require a face-to-face appointment with a <i>Migraciones'</i> official can be carried out through the website, such as: extension of stay, etc.</p>	<p>Sanitary Emergency State extended from 7 March 2021 for a period of 180 calendar days, until 2 September 2021.</p> <p>As of 16 January 2021, entry into national territory has been suspended for non-resident foreigners from Europe and South Africa.</p> <p>As of 4 January 2021, a 14-day quarantine is mandatory for Peruvians and foreign residents from abroad due to the emergence of new Covid-19 variants.</p> <p>Sanitary Emergency State extended from 7 December 2020 for a period of 90 calendar days, until 6 March 2021.</p> <p>Compulsory social isolation (quarantine) ended on Friday 23 October 2020.</p> <p>By Supreme Decree No 027-202-SA, the Sanitary Emergency State in Peru has now been extended from 8 September until 7 December 2020.</p> <p>Travellers entering Peruvian territory must comply with compulsory social isolation for 14 days.</p> <p>11 May 2020: The quarantine period was renewed for a period of 14 days, until Sunday 24 May, by Supreme Decree No 083-2020-PCM.</p> <p>16 March 2020: the State of National Emergency was decreed for 15 days.</p>	<p>As of 15 January 2021, amendments to previous provisions were established taking into account the new variants of the Covid-19 virus.</p> <p>Compulsory social immobilisation (curfew) from Tuesday 1 December 0000 0 0400 the next day, from Monday to Sunday.</p> <p>Private vehicles are allowed on Sundays at the national level.</p> <p>During the duration of the State of National Emergency, there is a nationwide curfew (with the exception of several departments and provinces) from 2200 to 0400 from Monday to Saturday.</p>



Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound and outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders (continued)	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures (continued)
Peru (continued) Contributor: Ariel Orrego-Villacorta	<p>Flights within the range of 8 hours' duration approved for passengers in compliance with protocols for certain locations from 1 November 2020.</p> <p>As of 1 September 2020, the State of National Emergency has been extended until Wednesday 30 September 2020, decreed by Supreme Decree No 146-2020-PCM.</p> <p>As of 9 June 2020: borders continue to be closed.</p> <p>The declaration of Sanitary National Emergency has been extended for 90 calendar days, until 7 September 2020.</p> <p>The temporary and total closure of the borders was decreed by Supreme Decree No 044-2020-PCM, suspending the international transport of passengers, by land, air, sea and river, as of 2359, 16 March 2020, among other regulations and by sectors.</p>	<p>The Immigration Authority, by Superintendence Resolution No 000121-2020-MIGRACIONES authorises the issuance and use of certificates to prove 'residence authorisation' for foreign citizens who have not obtained the foreign card or PTP due to compulsory social isolation measures. The following certificates can be issued:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificate of Issuance of Foreign Card; • Certificate of Issuance of Foreign Card for Minors; • Certificate of Issuance of PTP Card; and • Certificate of Issuance of PTP Card for Minors. <p>Such certificates will have the same validity as the documents described above for the term of the social isolation, and until the issuance of the respective cards.</p> <p>Rescheduled appointments of administrative procedures and services provided by Migraciones' All foreigners who have already had their immigration procedure appointments scheduled at <i>Migraciones'</i> offices but are unable to attend due to the National State of Emergency, will have them rescheduled, once the National State of Emergency is over.</p> <p>Temporary permanence authorisation and related fines/regularisation The 'administrative deadlines' of stay authorisations (simple permanence permits, such as tourist or business visa immigration status), and fines, are suspended from 16 March 2020 until the end of the National State of Emergency. Regular immigration procedures will then be in place within a period of 45 calendar days.</p>	<p>National State of Emergency extended An extension to the National State of Emergency has been sanctioned by Supreme Decree No 094-2020-PCM, which extends compulsory social isolation (quarantine) from 25 May to 30 June 2020.</p>	<p>Operators of public transport services must carry out a cleaning of the vehicles, in accordance with provisions of the Ministry of Health. Public transport vehicles are only allowed to operate</p> <p>25 April 2020: the State of National Emergency in force was extended for a further 14 days, from Monday 27 April until Sunday 10 May.</p> <p>10 April 2020: the State of National Emergency in force was extended for a further 14 days, from Monday 13 April until Sunday 26 April.</p> <p>6 April 2020: the Supreme Decree No 061-2020-PCM, was published in an extraordinary edition of the official gazette '<i>El Peruano</i>', regarding the nation's State of National Emergency. Compulsory Social Immobilisation (quarantine) will take place in all the national territory throughout 9-10 April.</p> <p>2 April 2020: the Supreme Decree No 057-2020-PCM, was published in an extraordinary edition of the official gazette '<i>El Peruano</i>'. During the period of Compulsory Social Immobilisation, the purchase of food or pharmaceutical products is permitted but only one person per family is allowed to leave home to visit the shop or pharmacy.</p> <p>Therefore, on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays, only male persons may leave the home; and on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays, female persons. On Sundays, compulsory social immobilisation applies to all citizens in the national territory throughout the day. Any type of exception is prohibited.</p> <p>People who need to leave their homes to collect any government benefits in the context of the National Emergency, as well as for the collection of pensions or banking, are except from the above provisions.</p> <p>The use of a protective facemask is mandatory in public.</p> <p>Peru's State of National Emergency has been extended for 13 days more, until 12 April 2020. This includes the compulsory social isolation (quarantine).</p>

Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound and outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders (continued)	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures (continued)
Peru (continued) Contributor: Ariel Orrego-Villacorta	<p>Passengers entering Peruvian territory must comply with mandatory 15-day social isolation (quarantine).</p> <p>Border closure During the continuing National State of Emergency, the total closure of Peru's borders remains in force. Consequently international passenger transport by air, sea, land or river remains suspended, other than for humanitarian reasons and in accordance with regulations issued in Supreme Decree No. 094-2020-PCM. Hygienic measures that must be observed by passengers who enter Peru national territory under exceptional circumstances.</p> <p>Such measures include compulsory social isolation, and others as established by the Sanitary Authority.</p>	<p>Special exit/re-entry (and other) permits The validity of such permits has been extended from 16 March 2020 until the end of the National State of Emergency.</p> <p>Therefore, all foreigners with ongoing immigration procedures who had obtained and used such permits but are absent from Peruvian national territory can return when the borders reopen without jeopardising their immigration procedures. The terms are also suspended for resident foreigners who are outside of Peru, so they can return once borders reopen without jeopardising immigration status.</p> <p>The validity of immigration status has been extended from 16 March 2020. This applies to the term of validity of the temporary or resident immigration status held by the foreign person until the end of the National State of Emergency.</p> <p>Administrative procedures and services Deadlines set out in the National Superintendence of <i>Migraciones</i>' administrative procedures have been suspended for a 30-business-day period with effect from 16 March 2020.</p> <p>Mandatory exit orders have been suspended with effect from 16 March 2020 until the end of the National State of Emergency. Exit orders (to leave Peru) apply to foreign persons whose change or immigration status has been denied, or whose extension declined.</p>		<p>Likewise, the temporary and total closure of Peru's borders that was decreed a few days ago, suspending international passenger transport, by land, air, sea and river, continues in force.</p> <p>Exceptional flights to repatriate Peruvians, and return foreigners to their countries of origin, are being coordinated through negotiations between respective states and the Peruvian State via the corresponding protocols.</p> <p>Other restrictions Peru is currently experiencing a 'restriction to the exercise of the right to freedom of movement of persons' inside its territory. Only specific services are allowed to operate, including the provision of food, medicine, healthcare, and banks.</p> <p>A curfew ('compulsory social immobilisation') has been imposed, which covers the hours 1700-0500.</p> <p>The driving of private vehicles is no longer allowed on public roads, except for authorised people who provide essential services and goods (established by law), which requires a 'Special Pass' and a 'safeguard' issued by the Ministry of the Interior and the National Police.</p> <p>Curfew The hours of curfew at night are between 2100 and 0400, excluding the districts of Tumbes, Piura, Lambayeque, La Libertad, Loreto, Ucayali, Ica and the provinces of Santa, Huarmey and Casma in the district of Ancash. In these areas, the hours of curfew fall between 1800 and 0400.</p>



Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures (eg, automatic extensions)
South Korea Contributor: Jung Un	<p>From 4 February 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All foreigners are banned from entering South Korea within 14 days after visiting Hubei Province in China. All South Korean visas issued at the South Korean consular post in Wuhan are invalidated. All Chinese nationals holding passports issued in Wuhan are restricted from entering South Korea. <p>From 9 March 2020:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Japan nationals can no longer enter South Korea on visa waiver status. All visas issued by South Korean consular posts in Japan are invalidated (other than long-term visas for which alien registration has already been made). Visa applications filed at all South Korean consular posts in Japan are subject to more stringent screening and longer processing times. 	None	<p>A foreigner in South Korea on a short-term visa (visa waiver, C-1 journalist visa, C-3 visitor visa or C-4 short-term employment visa) who is unable to secure an outbound flight to their home country of residence by the expiry date due to air travel disruptions can apply for an extension up to the date of the outbound flight. This must not exceed a 30-day period per extension, but can be extended on a case-by-case basis.</p>	<p>The following special entry procedures and self-isolation requirement apply to all travellers into South Korea after entry.</p> <p>Special entry procedures</p> <p>Each person's body temperature will be measured before boarding the aeroplane bound for South Korea. Boarding will be denied to those with temperatures higher than 37.5 degrees Celsius.</p> <p>Each person is subject to the following special entry procedures at the airport on entry into South Korea:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> fever detection test; completion and submission of health declaration form (available at the airport); Completion and submission of travel declaration form (available at the airport); verification of address in South Korea; verification of contact phone number in South Korea; and downloading of a self-diagnosis app and regularly updating it for two weeks, following arrival (guidance provided at the airport). <p>Anyone arriving from Europe is automatically subject to Covid-19 testing whether or not they show symptoms. Others arriving from elsewhere are subject to Covid-19 testing if they show symptoms. Anyone testing positive will be admitted to a designated hospital or treatment centre.</p> <p>Even if not showing symptoms, in-coming travellers intending to reside in Seoul are likely to require testing at the airport or other facility as required by the Seoul city government (guidance is available at the airport).</p> <p>14-day self-isolation requirement</p> <p>After entry, also note that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 1 April 2020 all foreigners entering South Korea regardless of visa type (visa waiver, consular C-3/C-4 visa or long-term visa) are subject to self-isolation for 14 days. After entry, if a person does not have a standalone residence (such as a house or flat) to which they may go directly from the airport to undergo their 14-day self-isolation, they must undergo the self-isolation period at a government designated facility (at their cost). A hotel, serviced residence or other similar type of establishment that provides lodging services to multiple guests cannot be used as a venue for self-isolation. 	<p>In order to reduce the number of extension applicants visiting the immigration office during the month of March (when the Covid-19 cases peaked in South Korea), South Korean immigration generally granted an automatic extension up to 30 April 2020 to the period of stay on the visas of foreigners expiring on a date falling between 24 February and 29 April 2020. There are some exceptions.</p>

Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival (continued)	Other relief measures (eg, automatic extensions)
South Korea (continued) Contributor: Jung Un				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> During the 14-day self-isolation period, a person must stay in their place of self-isolation and may not leave or visit the immigration office to make a filing. Breaking the 14-day self-isolation is being taken most seriously by the South Korean government and would subject a foreigner to criminal penalties (imprisonment or a criminal fine), revocation of visa and/or deportation. <p>Note Even if a foreigner entering South Korea on a short-term visa (for example, visa waiver or C-3 visa) has a lease agreement for a place of residence that is in effect at the time of entry, the foreigner entering on the short-term visa status must still undergo the 14-day self-isolation at a government facility (and cannot do it at their leased residence).</p> <p>If a person is entering South Korea on short-term visa status (such as visa waiver or C-3/C-4 status), but not a long-term visa status, it may be possible to obtain an exemption from the self-isolation requirement if they apply for and obtains a self-isolation exemption confirmation from a South Korean consular post prior to entry into South Korea and presents that exemption confirmation to the airport authority in on arrival. Anyone entering South Korea on a long-term visa status cannot apply for this exemption confirmation.</p> <p>The self-isolation exemption confirmation procedure is highly discretionary, and given the gravity of the pandemic worldwide, such exemption confirmation would probably be time consuming and extremely difficult to obtain.</p> <p>Consular posts would only grant exemption in case of special needs arising in connection with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> important contracts, investments and technical support; attendance of major academic conferences; or public interest/humanitarian reasons. <p>They would review the totality of circumstances reflected in documents, including the urgency and importance of the need to obtain the exemption and the objectivity of the documents submitted to obtain the exemption, and balance the need to obtain the exemption against the risk to public safety.</p> <p>The above procedures and requirements are subject to change without notice. Detailed guidance will be available at the airport in South Korea.</p>	

Relief measures by country

Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions	Outbound travel/border restrictions	Relief measures for temporary visa holders	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival	Other relief measures (eg, automatic extensions)
Switzerland Contributor: Anand Pazhenkottil	<p>From 11 May 2020 onwards, the authorities will start treating pending work permit applications (for all sectors) again and entry will be allowed after an approval has been issued. Online registrations for service provision of up to 90 days are also to be treated from that date onwards if certain conditions are met.</p> <p>On 25 March 2020, the Swiss government imposed an extensive entry ban. Any foreigner wishing to enter Switzerland (except those entering from the Principality of Liechtenstein) shall in principal be refused entry.</p> <p>Exceptions are applicable for the following persons:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Holder of a Swiss residence permit; • Holder of a cross-border commuter permit (if they are entering for work); • Holder of a visa issued by Switzerland for the purpose of attending professional consultations as a healthcare sector specialist or to make an official visit of vital importance; • Foreigners with rights under the Agreement on the Free Movement of Persons who are in possession of an online confirmation of notification and who are travelling for work-related reasons that serve an overarching public interest; 	<p>No strict prohibition to leave Switzerland has been imposed.</p> <p>The government encourages citizens and foreign nationals with a residence permit to avoid any travel that is not absolutely necessary and people are requested to stay at and work from home.</p> <p>Due to the introduction of border control to all neighbouring countries (except the Principality of Liechtenstein), international travel has been limited on a wide basis.</p>	<p>Extension applications for short and long-term residence permits will continue to be treated and approved. Due to the closure of many public authorities, different alternatives (such as online submission or delivery by post) may be applicable, and processing times are longer.</p> <p>Foreigners who are unable to leave Switzerland due to limited travel possibilities before the expiry of their visa or residence permit, or before the expiry of the maximum valid stay of 90 days within the permit-free framework may stay in Switzerland until air traffic returns to normal.</p> <p>Those affected are recommended to report to the relevant cantonal migration offices where they are currently staying.</p>	<p>No particular measures are in place for people entering Switzerland from abroad.</p>	



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Switzerland (continued) Contributor: Anand Pazhenkottil	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People who are transporting goods for commercial purposes and can provide a bill of lading for the goods; • Those who are travelling in transit through Switzerland with the intention of going directly to another country that they are permitted to enter; • Persons who are in an emergency situation (eg, death of a close family member in Switzerland); and • Specialists in the healthcare sector who need to enter Switzerland for important professional reasons. <p>The treatment of any application for new work or residence permits have been put on hold, unless it concerns work activity that serves a public interest (eg, health specialists).</p>				



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Uganda Contributor: Lilian Keene-Mugerwa	<p>7 March 2020 The Government of Uganda reviewed the evolution of the outbreak in the affected countries outside China, categorising them and recommending measures for each category. Three criteria were used to rank the countries and were weighed based on their importance in assessing the risk of infection.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Number of total (cumulative) cases: The higher the number of cumulative cases, the greater the chance of exporting Covid-19 cases. 2. Number of cases in the last 24 hours: This is a measure of active transmission of Covid-19 in these countries. 3. Exponential increase in cases in the last seven days: This is an indication of community transmission of Covid-19. This was measured indirectly by the percentage increase in the number of cases in the previous seven days. The countries that had cumulative number of cases of more than 100 and/or had more than ten new cases of Covid-19 in the previous 24 hours (total of 19) were ranked using the above criteria and scoring. 	<p>14 April 2020 The lockdown was extended for three weeks until 5 May 2020. All activities that had been suspended until 14 April continue to be suspended.</p> <p>25 March 2020 Travel from Uganda to Neighbouring countries and overseas was banned for all citizens and non-citizens.</p>	<p>25 March 2020 Unless exempted, all other temporary visa holders are currently banned from entering Uganda, or re-entering Uganda if they hold a temporary visa and are located offshore. Paragraph 3 of the Public Health (Prohibition of Entry into Uganda) Order, 2020.</p>	<p>7 March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All travellers arriving from Covid-19 affected countries to undergo mandatory 14-day self-quarantine. • All passengers both citizens and non-citizens entering Entebbe International Airport and other border points including Busia, Cyanika, Egeru and Malaba to undergo screening to identify those infected with the virus. • More emphasis was put on those travelling in from categories one and two (see Inbound travel/border restrictions column) • Those with signs and symptoms continue to be quarantined in above-mentioned hospitals. • Those without visible symptoms isolated and quarantined in their homes after sensitisation. • Even without symptoms, infected persons were considered infectious and to continue to be followed-up for 14 days by Ministry of Health surveillance officers who monitor them for signs of the Virus on a daily basis. • After the 14 days, quarantined persons would only be released by the surveillance officers on certification that they do not have the virus. <p>4 February 2020 Screening at Entebbe International Airport to identify those who may be infected:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All travellers to be screened, with an emphasis on those travelling from China. • Those found with signs and symptoms quarantined at the Entebbe Regional Referral Hospital and China-Uganda Friendship hospital, Naguru Kampala city. • Those without visible symptoms were isolated and quarantined in their homes after sensitisation. • Even without symptoms, infected persons were considered infectious. • Follow up for 14 days by the surveillance officers from the Ministry of Health monitor for signs and symptoms of Covid-19 on a daily basis. • After the 14-day quarantine, persons would only be released by the surveillance officers upon certification. • All the travellers arriving in Uganda from China or the 25 countries with confirmed cases at the time required to provide their personal details including home address, telephone numbers and the next of kin's details for purposes of follow-up by the health workers and immigration officers carrying out screening. 	<p>14 April 2020 Lockdown extended to 5 May 2020.</p> <p>30 March 2020 Lockdown until 14 April 2020 announced.</p> <p>Restriction of movement throughout Uganda starting from 1900 to 0630 each night.</p> <p>4 February 2020 The Ministry of Health informed the public about the protection strategies being undertaken.</p> <p>Health workers at all health facilities and points border entry were guided on how to; Identify, isolate, investigate and care for the suspected persons early; Notify the next reporting level in line with national disease notification guidelines or the Public Health Emergency Operation Centre; Employ standard infection prevention and control measures to avoid contracting the disease.</p>



Country	Inbound travel/border restrictions (continued)	Health screenings and/or quarantines on arrival (continued)
<p>Uganda (continued)</p> <p>Contributor: Lilian Keene-Mugerwa</p>	<p>Category 1:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travellers from Italy, Iran, South Korea, France, China, Germany, and Spain) were advised to consider postponing non-essential travel to Uganda. • Any traveller from these countries, including Ugandan nationals would be subjected to 14-day self-quarantine on arrival to Uganda even if they do not exhibit symptoms of Covid-19. • Additionally, individuals highlighted in Category 1 who insisted on visiting Uganda were to be subjected to self-quarantine or health facility quarantine at their own cost. <p>Category 2:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travellers from the UK, Switzerland, Norway, Netherlands, Sweden, Belgium, India, and the US. • Ministry of Health to observe the travellers closely and the evolution of the outbreak in these countries and advise on any restrictions in the following weeks. <p>Category 3:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Travellers from other countries would undergo routine screening on arrival and be advised accordingly on what measures to undertake while in Uganda to prevent infection and where to report if feeling unwell. • This analysis would be reviewed weekly and the travel advice updated accordingly. • Any of the above countries that had successfully contained the outbreak would be removed from the list after 14 days with no new cases. This is provided for in the Public Health. <p>18 March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ugandan citizens allowed to return home on condition they undergo 14-day mandatory quarantine at own cost, at a venue identified by the Ministry of Health. <p>25 March 2020</p> <p>The Government of Uganda announced the closure of all its borders to all citizens and non-citizens. The entry into Uganda by any person and the introduction into Uganda of any animal or article at or through any Uganda border post was prohibited from 23 March.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All passengers by air, land or water and all pedestrians are denied entry to Uganda. <p>Exemptions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Any person, animal or article belonging to any United Nations Organisation and any humanitarian organisation seeking to enter Uganda through any border post. • Any vehicle or aircraft used for the conveyance of cargo into Uganda through any border post. Cargo planes and cargo vehicles, within Uganda and between Uganda and the outside, world are allowed to continue with restrictions; only aircraft crews and three persons per cargo vehicle are permitted. <p>14 April 2020</p> <p>The lockdown was extended for three weeks until 5 May 2020.</p>	<p>18 March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The government announced that Ugandans are allowed to return home provided they undergo mandatory Covid-19 screening/examination at their port of entry by medical officer and quarantine at their cost, for 14-days at a venue identified by the Ministry of Health. • Further the medical officers at port of entry given permission to enter or board any vehicle, aircraft or vessel arriving in Uganda and examine any person on board that vehicle, aircraft or vessel. <p>Quarantine facilities security</p> <p>The government tightened security when it was realised that some of the returnees from high-risk countries and those in self-quarantine were escaping from the premises even when quarantine was mandatory.</p>



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United Kingdom Contributor: Nicolas Rollason	None	None	<p>Automatic visa extensions (mainly) for visitors All visa holders and those in the UK on visa waivers whose visa or permission to remain expires before 31 May 2020 will have their visas automatically extended until 31 May if the individual cannot leave the UK because of travel restrictions or self-isolation related to Covid-19. A simple email with basic details needs to be sent to the Home Office.</p> <p>Visa extensions for temporary visa holders All biometric visas application centres in the UK are closed. Temporary visa holders whose visas are expiring and who cannot take the required English language or integration tests can apply for an extension/permanent residence and their applications will be placed on hold until they can complete the necessary tests or biometric appointments. Visa holders' immigration status will not be negatively affected as a result of being unable to attend an appointment.</p>	<p>There is no mandatory health screening on arrival.</p> <p>Previous advice on travellers self-isolating if returning to the UK from specific countries was withdrawn on 13 March and replaced by the new stay at home guidance.</p>	<p>Healthcare staff with visas All frontline NHS staff whose visas expire before 1 October 2020 will have them automatically extended for 12 months and be exempt from the Immigration Health Surcharge.</p> <p>Switching visas in the UK Those in the UK on temporary visas will exceptionally be allowed to switch into any UK long-stay visa category. This is typically not permitted.</p> <p>Medical Treatment All overseas visitors in the UK are eligible to seek free medical treatment including testing for Covid-19 and treatment. Those in the UK without visas are also able to access NHS medical services. No immigration checks will be required for Covid-19 testing or treatment.</p> <p>Sponsor compliance for Sponsored workers Employers do need to make compliance reports for sponsored migrant workers working from home.</p> <p>Right to work checks Remote right to work checks can be completed using video calls.</p>



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United States Contributor: Greg Siskind	<p>31 January 2020: First restrictions – all travellers from China directed to travel through specified US airports.</p> <p>2 March 2020: Persons from Iran required to pass through specified airports.</p> <p>11 March 2020: President Trump issues proclamation restricting entry of individuals who have been in EU countries in the Schengen Area if they have been in those countries in the previous 14 days. Exemptions for US citizens and permanent residents and certain additional categories. This was extended to UK and Ireland on 19 March.</p> <p>The EU/UK, Iran and China policies do not apply to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. US nationals; b. US permanent residents; c. passengers arriving in the US on flights that departed before 2359 EDT on 13 March 2020; d. the spouse of a US national; e. the spouse of a permanent US resident; f. the parent/legal guardian of an unmarried and younger than 21-year US national or permanent US resident; g. the unmarried and younger than 21 years brother or sister of a US national or permanent resident, who is unmarried and younger than 21 years; h. the child/foster child/ward of a US national or permanent US resident; i. passengers with an IR-4 or IH-4 visa; j. passengers with a C-1, D, or C-1/D visa; k. passengers with an A-1, A-2, C-2, C-3, E-1, G-1, G-2, G-3, G-4, NATO-1 through NATO-4, or NATO-6 visa. 	<p>No restrictions except those mutually agreed for land crossings with the Mexican and Canadian governments. Various countries around the world are barring the entry of US citizens or requiring them to enter quarantine on arrival.</p>	<p>All USCIS (US Citizenship and Immigration Services) services dealing with the public are closed including processes requiring interviews, biometrics appointments and naturalisation ceremonies. Premium processing services, which allow for 15-day processing on a number of process types, is suspended indefinitely. Applicants must request emergency expedited processing or face months of waiting. USCIS is relaxing a few requirements including requiring original signatures on applications, allowing biometrics previously on file to be used in cases where a new biometrics appointment is normally required, and extending response deadlines for responding to requests for evidence.</p> <p>USCIS, the State Department and other government agencies are coming under increasing criticism for failing to change restrictive policies regarding healthcare workers. Congress is considering adding provisions to the upcoming Phase 4 Covid-19 relief bill to deal with these workers.</p> <p>The agencies are also being criticised for failing automatically to extend visa status for people with an expiring status and for waiving status violations connected to the chaotic situation.</p>	<p>Passengers arriving from international flights can expect to be given a health screening and are advised by the Centers for Disease Control to quarantine for 14 days after arrival. At least 33 states have imposed mandatory quarantining.</p>	<p>Various measures are being introduced to facilitate the entry of healthcare workers as well as agricultural workers. This includes interview waivers by US consulates in the case of agricultural workers and states loosening licensing rules for foreign healthcare workers.</p>



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United States (continued) Contributor: Greg Siskind	<p>l. members of the US Armed Forces, spouses, and children of members of the US Armed Forces;</p> <p>m. passengers with evidence of travelling at the invitation of the US government for a purpose related to the containment/mitigation of Covid-19;</p> <p>n. passengers with documents issued by the US Department of Homeland Security, US Customs and Border Protection, or US Department of State indicating that the passenger is exempt from the restriction.</p> <p>Passengers who have been in one of the countries listed above in the past 14 days but are exempt from the restriction to enter the US, must arrive at one of the following airports: Atlanta (ATL), Boston (BOS), Chicago (ORD), Dallas, (DFW), Detroit (DTW), Honolulu (HNL), Los Angeles (LAX), Miami (MIA), New York (JFK or EWR), San Francisco (SFO), Seattle (SEA) and Washington (IAD).</p> <p>12 March 2020: US suspends certain J-1 exchange visitor programs (does not include physicians).</p> <p>20 March 2020: US consulates suspend 'routine' visa services.</p> <p>24 March 2020: Non-essential travel from Canada and Mexico suspended (largely limited to tourism and shopping).</p> <p>26 March 2020: State Department informs healthcare workers on H and J visas that they can obtain visa processing by contacting a US consulate.</p> <p>26 March 2020: State Department will waive consular interview requirements for H-2 workers which include seasonal and agricultural workers.</p>				



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