

Visa duration extension (extension to expiry dates)



Epidemic notices

The New Zealand Government's Epidemic Management Notice relating to immigration matters comes into effect on Thursday 2 April 2020.

Visa holder extensions

Holders of a work, student, or visitor visa with an expiry date of 1 April 2020 or earlier and who are unable to leave New Zealand must apply online for a new visa. An interim visa will be issued.

Holders of a work, student, visitor, limited or interim visa with an expiry date of 2 April to 9 July 2020 inclusive who are in New Zealand on 2 April 2020 will have their visas automatically extended to 25 September 2020. Confirmation of extensions will be emailed to all visa holders.

You can find your visa expiry date in your eVisa letter.

How we calculate the timing of which visas will be extended

The Immigration Act 2009 governs the timing of which visas are extended and those that aren't. Visas that will expire within 14 days of the expiry of the epidemic notice are extended. The epidemic notice will expire on 25 June 2020.

This means where the visa expiry date stated in the visa is between 2 April and 9 July (inclusive) that visa will be extended. Those visas will now expire on 25 September 2020.

Why all visas are not automatically renewed

The section in the Immigration Act 2009 (section 78) only applies to temporary entry class visa holders who are in New Zealand and whose visas will expire within 14 days of the expiry of the Epidemic Management Notice.

What happens if you are not in New Zealand

If you are eligible to receive the extension, you must be onshore at the time the Epidemic Management Notice is issued. If you are not onshore, your visa duration will not be extended.

What happens if you are on a limited visa

Limited visas will have their visa expiry date extended as well. You do not need to do anything.

What happens if you are on an interim visa

It will be extended, if the expiry date of your interim visa is 14 days before the date that the Epidemic Management Notice will expire (that is, between 2 April and 9 July (inclusive)).

This extension does not apply to residence visas

The extension only applies to temporary class visas (which are work, student, visitor, limited or interim visas)

What happens if you leave the country

If you leave New Zealand you are unlikely be able to return because travel to New Zealand is currently restricted.

A new visa will replace your extended visa

If you are granted a new visa this will replace the visa you have at the moment. The duration of your new visa will be set by immigration instructions.

What happens to the conditions on your visa

When your visa is extended by the Epidemic Management Notice you will continue to have exactly the same visa conditions.

How you can change your visa conditions if necessary (for example, if your employer shuts down and you find other work)

It may be difficult for you to make an application to vary the conditions of your current visa; we will provide more information once it is available.

The extension can be renewed later

If the Epidemic Notice is renewed, and the Epidemic Management Notice will also be renewed and so your visa expiry will be extended again. More information will be given before this happens, so keep an eye on the Immigration New Zealand website.