

From: Immigration Advisers immigrationadvisers@mbie.govt.nz
Subject: INZ update
Date: 3 April 2020 at 14:46
To: Undisclosed recipients:;

Immigration New Zealand has filmed another short video to provide you with an update on immigration-related matters.

You can [view the video at this link](#).

Immigration New Zealand is focusing on our immediate priorities from the Government as we all adjust to COVID-19 Alert Level 4. You will be aware that the New Zealand Government has closed the border to almost all travellers as part of its response to the COVID-19 outbreak.

Exceptions to border measures

There may be extremely limited circumstances where it is appropriate for a person who is not a New Zealand citizen, permanent resident or person returning to New Zealand as a resident to travel to New Zealand.

Exceptions are only in place for extreme circumstances where people have a critical purpose for travel to New Zealand.

A process has now been put in place for requests to be made for exceptions to the border closure for exceptional circumstances, including:

- Humanitarian reasons;
- Health and other essential workers;
- Citizens of Samoa and Tonga for essential travel to New Zealand; and
- Visitor, student or work visa holders who normally live in New Zealand, and who are the partner or dependent of a temporary work or student visa holder who is currently in New Zealand.

More information is [on our website](#).

Health sector critical purposes for travelling to New Zealand

The Government has made a number of changes to temporary work visa settings to better support the health sector response to managing COVID-19.

Visa applications will be prioritised for key roles necessary for the health response in New Zealand.

More information is [on our website](#).

Any other essential workers agreed by the Government

The COVID-19 All of Government Officials group will identify and consider exceptions for essential workers. This will be limited to workers in occupations which are critical to delivering the response to COVID-19 and/or maintaining critical infrastructure.

Exceptions will be decided by the Government following advice from officials. Only people specifically identified as essential workers by the COVID-19 All of Government Officials will be granted visas under this exception type.

Visas expiring before 2nd April - Section 61 requests

We will continue to process priority Section 61 requests to provide certainty for temporary migrants in New Zealand as they face the challenges of being in a foreign country at this extraordinary time.

Priority processing is given to those applicants whose immigration status has been directly impacted by the COVID-19 response. We expect to allocate these requests for processing within 2-3 working days.

For those approved requests, they will be granted temporary visas valid at least until September 2020, in line with the S78 of the Immigration Act.

If applicants currently do not hold a valid visa to remain in New Zealand (your visa has already expired) they should send an email outlining their circumstances to s61@mbie.govt.nz. Please include:

- Personal details — full name, date of birth - and Immigration New Zealand (INZ) client number if known
- A copy of the personal details page in the applicant's passport.
- Applicant contact details — email address, phone number and postal address
- An explanation of the applicant's circumstances
- What type of visa the applicant would like — for example a visitor visa — and how long they believe they might be required to extend their stay in NZ.

More information

During this time of uncertainty, we know many of you have questions and concerns about immigration-related matters. We are continuing to provide advice to Ministers on the issues being raised and will continue sharing information with you as soon as information becomes available.

Our contact centre is receiving more than twice our usual weekly volume of calls. Please only call in urgent circumstances.

[Our website](#) remains the best place for you to get up to date immigration-related information.

We plan to film more videos and will continue to communicate with you regularly during this unprecedented time. If you have suggestions for questions you would like us to answer in our next video, you can [send these to us at this link](#).

J Peter HENDRIKX - LIA 200800214

Mobile: +64 (0) 275 706 540

Email: jpeter@terranovaconsultancy.co.nz

www.govt.nz - your guide to finding and using New Zealand government services

Any opinions expressed in this message are not necessarily those of the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. This message and any files transmitted with it are confidential and solely for the use of the intended recipient. If you are not the intended recipient or the person responsible for delivery to the intended recipient, be advised that you have received this message in error and that any use is strictly prohibited. Please contact the