

COVID-19: Travel Restrictions- Who can enter Canada.

as of April 14, 2020

Canadian citizens and permanent residents

- Canadian citizens and permanent residents returning to Canada **must** self-quarantine for 14 days
- Canadian citizens and permanent residents who show symptoms consistent with COVID-19 may only enter Canada by land, rail, or sea and must self-quarantine for 14 days. This means that Canadians who show symptoms of COVID 19 **cannot** fly home.
- Canadian citizens and permanent residents outside of Canada should register with Global Affairs and will be contacted by their consulate for support to return home:
<https://travel.gc.ca/travelling/registration>

Foreign nationals

- **Any foreign national who has symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter Canada.**
- Foreign nationals arriving from the U.S. without symptoms of COVID-19 will be allowed to enter Canada only for essential travel (i.e. for the movement of people or goods)
- Most foreign nationals will **not** be allowed to enter Canada. But there are some exceptions. **These are some of the people who can still enter Canada:**
 - An **immediate family member of a Canadian citizen or of a permanent resident;**
 - You must show that you're coming to Canada for essential reasons and **NOT** reasons that are optional or discretionary, such as tourism, recreation or entertainment.
 - An **international student** who has a valid study permit or was approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020. A student travelling by air will need to pass a health check conducted by the airline before they're allowed to board their flight. Anyone who shows symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter Canada by air. Upon arrival in Canada, the student's health will be assessed before they leave the port of entry. The student must isolate for 14 days even if they have no symptoms. This is mandatory.
 - All **temporary foreign workers** are exempt from travel restrictions and can travel to Canada by air or land **if they're coming for an essential purpose.** A worker travelling by air will need to pass a health check conducted by the airline before they're allowed to board their flight. Anyone who shows symptoms of COVID-19 will not be allowed to enter Canada by air. Upon arrival in Canada, the worker's health will be assessed before they leave the port of entry. The worker must isolate for 14 days even if they have no symptoms. This is mandatory.
 - There are also other very specific exceptions that can be found at:
<https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/travel-restrictions-exemptions.html>

COVID-19: Immigration

as of April 14, 2020

Immigration: What changes have been made affecting immigration applications?

- Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) is still accepting and processing immigration applications (both online and mail)
 - NOTE: Applications that are incomplete and do not explain why documents are missing may be returned without being processed. If you can't attach a document because of COVID 19 make sure to explain why
- IRCC has granted a 90-day extension to those with a pending application for citizenship, permanent residence, and temporary resident permit, for which IRCC requested additional information
- **Visitors, students, temporary workers, and those with temporary resident permits are still required to apply to extend their status before it expires**
 - NOTE: A temporary resident who has applied to extend their status can remain in Canada until a decision is made on their new application, even if their initial status expires while they are waiting for that decision. This is called implied status.
- There may be delays in processing times for new and existing applications
- If IRCC approved your permanent resident application on or before March 18, 2020, but you haven't travelled to Canada yet, you're exempt from the travel restriction measures
- If IRCC already approved your permanent resident application, but you can't travel to Canada before your documents expire, use the online web form to tell them why you can't travel: <https://www.cic.gc.ca/english/contacts/web-form.asp>

Refugees: What changes have been made affecting refugee claims?

- Individuals entering Canada from the U.S., to make an asylum claim, will be sent back to the U.S.
- For people in Canada, refugee claims can be made via email during this time:
 - You can send an email to IRCC.RefugeeClaim-Demandedasile.IRCC@cic.gc.ca that says you want to make a refugee claim
- All refugee hearings are postponed until further notice
- All refugee interviews are cancelled and will be re-scheduled by IRCC
- The Immigration and Refugee Board (IRB) has extended the deadline to file Basis of Claim forms that were due on or after February 15, 2020 to 30 days after the date of the Resumption Notice. The Resumption Notice will be posted on the IRB website. Please check the IRB website regularly.
- The IRB has extended the deadline to file notices of appeal to the Refugee Appeal Division that were due on or after January 1, 2020 to 30 days after the date of the Resumption Notice. The Resumption Notice will be posted on the IRB website. Please check the IRB website regularly.

With the community quarantine still in place, we encourage everyone to:

Stay home and #StopTheSpread.

COVID-19: Immigration

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Detention & Removal: What changes have been made affecting immigration detention and removal?

- The Immigration Division is still holding detention review hearings by video conference
- The Canada Border Services Agency has postponed all removals for three weeks as of March 17, 2020

What is cancelled?

- Biometric appointments until further notice
- Removals by the Canada Border Services Agency for three weeks as of March 17, 2020
- In-person permanent resident landing appointments until further notice
- Citizenship ceremonies, tests, and retests until further notice
- Refugee interviews until further notice
- In-person and telephone hearings (except for urgent matters) before the Federal Court of Canada until May 15, 2020
- In-person hearings and meditations (except for detention reviews) before the IRB until further notice

What is closed?

- IRCC's call center, IRCC's temporary offices, IRB front offices, some Visa Application Centers, and the Federal Court of Canada (except for urgent matters)

You can reach SALCO for immigration related inquiries at:
(416)-487-6371

or

Find your local legal clinic at www.legalaid.on.ca/legal-clinics/ or
call: 416 979 1446

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