

16 March 2020

Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic Travel and visa advice from the Australian Government

SUMMARY

Due to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, the Australian Government has imposed travel restrictions on travellers arriving from overseas. From 16 March, all people travelling or returning to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, including Australian citizens.

The Government's travel advice is being regularly updated. Members should review the Government's latest advice often to enable relevant company policies and practices about travel to be kept up to date.

Travel restrictions imposed by the Australian Government

Information about travel restrictions and visas can be obtained from the Department of Home Affairs: [COVID-19 and Australian visas](#).

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From 16 March, all people travelling or returning to Australia will be required to self-isolate for 14 days, including Australian citizens.

Foreign nationals who have been in or transited through mainland China, Iran, Italy and the Republic of Korea are not allowed to enter Australia until 14 days after they have left that country. Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family, and airline crews can enter Australia from these countries but need to self-isolate at home for 14 days from the date they left the affected country.

These restrictions apply to those seeking to enter Australia as well as those seeking to transit through Australia on the way to another country.

These measures are temporary and are being regularly reviewed by the Government

Travel restrictions imposed by other countries

Many other countries have imposed travel restrictions aimed at slowing the spread of COVID-19.

For example, from 15 March anyone travelling to New Zealand from any country including Australia, is required to self-isolate for 14 days upon entry into the country. Pacific island nations are not included in the restrictions.

Smart Traveller website and risk levels

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade publishes travel advisories and official advice levels for over 170 countries on its [Smart Traveller website](#).

The Department assigns official advice levels of 1, 2, 3 or 4. A higher advice level means higher risk. The levels are:

Level 1 - Exercise normal safety precautions

Level 2 - Exercise a high degree of caution

Level 3 - Reconsider your need to travel

Level 4 - Do not travel

Given the COVID-19 pandemic, it is particularly important for members to check the official advice level for relevant countries.

In addition, the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade has issued the following advice:

“We now advise all Australians to reconsider your need for overseas travel at this time.

Regardless of your destination, age or health if your overseas travel is not essential, consider carefully whether now is the right time.

We have issued this advice for two principal reasons:

1. There may be higher risk of contracting COVID-19 overseas. You may come in contact with more people than usual, including during long-haul flights and in crowded airports. Health care systems in some countries may come under strain and may not be as well-equipped as Australia’s or have the capacity to support foreigners. You may not have your normal support networks overseas.

2. Overseas travel has become more complex and unpredictable. Many countries are introducing entry or movement restrictions. These are changing often and quickly. Your travel plans may be disrupted. You may be placed in quarantine or denied entry to some countries, and you may need to self-quarantine on return to Australia. Think about what this might mean for your health, and your family, work or study responsibilities.”

Do you require further advice?

For more information or assistance, please contact the Road Freight NSW Workplace Advice Line on 1300 781 905.



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