



Australian
BORDER FORCE

RESTRICTIONS ON ENTRY TO AUSTRALIA BY AIRCRAFT

Travel restriction on all non-Australian citizens and non-residents

20 March 2020

On 19 March 2020, the Prime Minister of Australia announced that from 2100 AEDST

20 March 2020, non-Australian citizens and non-Australian residents will no longer be allowed to enter Australia. Persons must land in Australia by 2100 AEDST 20 March 2020 to be exempt from these travel restrictions.

The following exemptions apply:

- Australian citizens, permanent residents and their immediate family.
 - For the purposes of the measures introduced in response to COVID-19, the definition of ‘immediate family’ in *Regulation 1.12AA Member of the immediate family, of the Migration Regulations 1994* assists. For these purposes, immediate family includes legal guardians, spouse, de facto partner, provisional partner visa holders and dependent children of a traveller eligible for entry to Australia.
- New Zealand citizens ordinarily resident in Australia (subclass 444 visa)
- Airline crew and maritime crew, including medivac crew and general aviation crew
- Diplomats accredited to Australia and currently resident in Australia, and their immediate family
- Citizens of the following countries can transit through Australia to return home. These countries are:

Cook Islands	Nauru	Samoa
Fiji	New Caledonia	Solomon Islands
French Polynesia	New Zealand	Timor Leste
Kiribati	Niue	Tonga
Marshall Islands	Palau	Tuvalu
Micronesia	Papua New Guinea	Vanuatu

It is important that all travellers have evidence that they meet one of the exemptions above, for example evidence of a de facto relationship.

If travellers are seeking a Commissioner’s Discretion/Exemption Request:

- The Commissioner of the Australian Border Force (ABF) may consider an exemption in relation to the travel restrictions currently in place for:
 - Foreign nationals travelling at the invitation of the Australian Commonwealth Government for the purpose of assisting in the COVID-19 response or whose entry would be in the national interest;
 - Critical medical services, including air ambulance and delivery of supplies, that regularly arrive into Australia from international ports;
 - Persons with critical skills (for example, medical specialists, engineers, marine pilots and crews) by exception;
 - Diplomats accredited to Australia and currently resident in Australia, and their immediate family;;
 - Person or any person in class of persons who, in the opinion of the Chief Medical Officer does not pose a risk of significant harm to the public health and will provide an essential service while in Australia;
 - Case-by-case exceptions may also be granted for humanitarian or compassionate reasons.
- Exemptions must be granted **prior to** these travellers undertaking travel to Australia. The request for an exemption through Commissioner’s Discretion must be accompanied by the following information and sent to commissioner.discretion@abf.gov.au:
 - Passenger details – name, DOB, visa type and number, passport number, Australian residential address, Australian telephone number.



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- Case information - Information as to why this case should be considered for Commissioner discretion/exemption.
- Supporting statement – the request should be accompanied by a statement and evidence of how the individual meets one of the grounds for an exemption or exercise of the Commissioner’s discretion listed above.

Previous advice on 14 day self-isolation period still current

All travellers who have entered Australia from 0001 AEDST 16 March 2020 must undertake a precautionary self-isolation period for 14 days upon entry to Australia. Any travellers who enter Australia for less than 14 days must self-isolate for the entire duration of their stay.

All travellers will be notified of the self-isolation requirement through a health fact sheet.

Travellers may be required to complete a form confirming that they understand they are required to complete the self-isolation period of 14 days.

These arrangements are under constant review as the COVID-19 situation evolves, and will be revised based on updated health advice.

Arrangements for flights to Australia

- From 2100 AEDST 20 March 2020, airline staff should ensure that only exempt travellers board a flight to Australia.
 - Where possible, the Australian Advanced Passenger Processing will be used to deny uplift for all other travellers.
 - The Australian Government will honour all “okay to board” messages that airlines receive.
 - Airlines must contact the Border Operations Centre at +61 1300 368 126 prior to non-exempt travellers boarding the flight.
- Airline crew (including medivac crew) are exempt from the travel restrictions. Airline crew are advised to take particular care on lay overs, to use dedicated private transport and to avoid crowded public spaces. Airline crew should monitor for symptoms and not fly if they are ill.
 - This includes off-shift crew who are travelling as passengers on an aircraft to reposition at another location. The same process is to be followed for this cohort as on-shift crew.
- Travellers with existing domestic transfer booking or arrangements may complete their domestic transfer and commence their precautionary self-isolation period (of 14 days) at the final destination.
 - While in transit, they must remain in the airport or if they have an overnight layover, they must self-isolate in their accommodation for the duration of their transit period.

Additional messages for travellers

- Please do not travel to Australia unless you meet an existing exemption.
- If you arrive in Australia as a non-exempt traveller, your visa may be cancelled and you will either be returned to your home country when flights are available or placed in an alternative place of detention for a quarantine period.
- Upon arrival in Australia, you are required to undertake a precautionary self-isolation period of 14 days.
- You may transit domestically first, and then begin your self-isolation period of 14 days.



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- If you have a layover, you must remain in the airport or self-isolate in your accommodation for the transit period.
- You may put the health and wellbeing of Australians at risk if you don't not follow this advice.

Talking points for industry

- From 2100 AEDST 20 March 2020, non-Australian citizens and non-Australian residents will not be allowed to enter Australia unless exempt.
- A precautionary self-isolation period of 14 days is required for travellers upon entry into Australia.
- Travellers may complete domestic transits and then begin their 14 day self-isolation period.
 - They must remain in the airport or if they have a layover, they must self-isolate in their accommodation for their transit period.
- The health and wellbeing of Australians is at risk from travellers who do not adhere to this advice.

For general information concerning the Novel Coronavirus please refer to the Department of Health website (<https://www.health.gov.au/health-topics/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>)

The Australian Border Force appreciates your ongoing support and cooperation during this time.