

COVID-19 FACTSHEETS: OUTSIDE CANADA

How the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) is affecting immigration, refugees, citizenship and passport services: visitors, foreign workers and students

Last Updated on April 22,, 2020

Compiled by Malini Sengupta YIP Coordinator

Who are restricted and exempted for travel to Canada	
Temporary Resident Visa	
Visitor	Until further notice, you might not be able to travel to Canada, even if you have a valid visitor visa or electronic travel authorization (eTA). You can travel to Canada only if you are exempt from the travel restrictions and are coming for an essential purpose.
International Students	Before March 18, 2020 If you're an international student who has a valid study permit or has been approved for a study permit on or before March 18, 2020, you are exempt from the travel restrictions. *
	Online courses won't affect your PGWPP eligibility If your in-class courses are being moved to an online-only format because of COVID-19, you're still eligible for the Post-Graduation Work Permit Program (PGWPP).

	<p>If you have a study permit, or have been approved for a study permit for a program starting in May or June, but you can't travel to Canada at this time due to travel restrictions, you're also still eligible for the PGWPP.</p> <p>If you're in this situation, you may</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - begin your classes while outside Canada, and - complete up to 50% of your program while outside Canada, if you can't travel to Canada sooner.
<p>Temporary foreign workers</p>	<p>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.</p> <p>*</p> <p>To see if your work is considered an essential service or function, check the Guide on Essential Services and Functions in Canada During the COVID-19 Pandemic.</p>
<p>IEC Work Permit</p>	<p>Effective May 8, 2020, applicants in the Working Holiday, Young Professional or International Co-op categories can come to Canada only if they:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● have a valid job offer, and ● A port of entry letter of introduction. <p>It is up to a participant to ensure that they have adequate coverage including for COVID-19 testing or illness in light of the current pandemic..</p> <p>Canada border services officers will check for health care coverage at a port of entry. If you do not have sufficient coverage, you may be denied entry into Canada. https://www.canada.ca/en/immigration-refugees-citizenship/services/coronavirus-covid19/iec.html.</p>

<p>Study Permit or Work Permit Holder - Spouse and children wants to come to Canada during COVID-19</p> <p>Family members who are foreign nationals</p>	<p>Optional and discretionary travel - they can send a family reunification letter from global affairs (The Orders also exempt foreign nationals whose travel to Canada is authorized in writing by an officer designated under subsection A6(1) or by a Global Affairs Canada (GAC) consular officer for the purpose of reuniting immediate family members.) , <u>you have to show a non-discretionary reason</u> for your spouse or dependent child to join you in Canada; you have to apply through humanitarian and compassionate reasons for them to join them in Canada - LINK</p> <p>Non-optional and non-discretionary travel - (read COVID Analysis - p 6)</p>
<p>If someone is on Work and travels in Canada with an International Experience Canada (IEC) visa , the last date to enter Canada expires.</p>	<p><i>My Port of Entry Letter of Introduction expires in June or beyond. Can I apply for an extension, or do I have to wait?</i></p> <p><i>Please only contact us if your letter expires in the next 30 days and you cannot travel due to disruptions caused by COVID-19. If your letter expires in 60 or 90 days or more, please wait until a month before it expires to contact us. As the COVID-19 situation evolves, we urge you to monitor IRCC's website for updated information.</i></p>
<p>LMIA based work permit</p>	<p>Situation 1: Work Permit: based on LMIA</p> <p>LMIA Extension (New LMIA):</p>

	<p>If you currently hold a valid LMIA and wish to extend the validity period, this extension will be 3 months from the existing 6 months. Employers will therefore have a total validity period of 9 months to apply for a work permit:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In order to support employers and workers affected by COVID-19 the Temporary Foreign Worker Program will be extending the validity period of all new LMIA's to a period of 9 months. - If you currently hold a valid LMIA and wish to extend the validity period, this extension will be 3 months from the existing 6 months. Employers will therefore have a total validity period of 9 months to apply for a work permit. <p>LMIA extension requests can be made to the processing centre that initially processed the LMIA.</p>
	<p>Low-wage employers (New LMIA):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Two-year employment duration for low-wage employers - In order to support employers and workers affected by COVID-19 the Temporary Foreign Worker Program has put in place special measures. There will be an increase in the allowable employment duration from 1 to 2 years for Labour Market Impact Assessment (LMIA) in the low-wage stream (3 year project pilot).
	<p>Work Permit – COVID 19 PDI</p> <p>Priority processing ESDC - Min. recruitment waived until October 31, 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOC 6331 – Butchers, meat cutters and fishmongers – retail and wholesale • NOC 7511 – Transport truck drivers

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • NOC 8252 – Agricultural service contractors, farm supervisors and specialized livestock workers • NOC 8431 – General farm workers • NOC 8432 – Nursery and greenhouse workers • NOC 8611 – Harvesting labourers • NOC 9463 – Fish and seafood plant workers • NOC 9617 – Labourers in food, beverage and associated products processing • NOC 9618 – Labourers in fish and seafood processing • NOC 9462 – Industrial butchers and meat cutters, poultry preparers and related workers <p><i>Workers such as truck drivers are expected to arrive in Canada and be able to perform the job. Most training facilities are likely not in operation at the moment</i></p>
--	--

Can you enter Canada?	
<p>You can travel to and may be permitted to enter Canada if you're a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Canadian citizen • Canadian permanent resident • person registered under Canada's Indian Act • protected person • foreign national who is coming for an essential (non-discretionary) purpose from the United States (U.S.) • foreign national who is coming for an essential (non-discretionary) purpose from a country other than 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - immediate family members of a Canadian citizen or Canadian permanent resident - immediate family members with written authorization from the Government of Canada to reunite with a family member living temporarily in Canada - transiting passengers (must remain in a Canadian airport to complete their connection) - members of the Canadian forces, visiting forces, Department of National Defence and their immediate family members - accredited diplomats and immediate family members - air and marine crew members

the U.S. and are exempt from the travel restrictions (see Exemptions to the travel restrictions for more information)

- French citizens who live in Saint-Pierre and Miquelon and have been in only Canada, the U.S. or Saint-Pierre and Miquelon during the 14 days before the day they seek to enter Canada
- any person who does not pose a significant harm to public health, in the opinion of the Chief Public Health Officer of Canada, and who will provide **an essential service while in Canada**
- any person whose presence in Canada is in the national interest, in the opinion of the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship; Public Safety and Emergency Preparedness; or Foreign Affairs
- any person who is coming at the invitation of the Minister of Health for the purpose of COVID-19 assistance
- any person whose purpose is to make medical deliveries

An immediate family member is defined as a

- spouse or common-law partner
- dependent child
- dependent child of a dependent child
- parent or step-parent
- guardian or tutor

Mandatory quarantine for travellers entering Canada

When you arrive in Canada by air or land, we assess your health before you leave the port of entry.

If you're exempt from the travel restrictions, you must have a plan to quarantine for 14 days when you arrive in Canada. This is mandatory, even if you have no symptoms. If you don't have a plan, you should not travel to Canada.

The penalties for not following your quarantine plan can include

- a fine of up to \$750,000
- 6 months of jail time
- being found inadmissible, removed from Canada and banned from entering for 1 year

Only people who provide essential services, for example truck drivers who regularly cross the border to maintain the flow of goods, are exempt from the quarantine requirements.

<p>Approved Permanent Residence</p>	<p>A person whose application for permanent residence was approved under the Immigration and Refugee Protection Act, and who received written notice of the approval before noon, Eastern Daylight Time on March 18, 2020, but who has not yet become a permanent resident under that Act</p> <p>These foreign nationals can self-identify to airlines at the point of boarding that they are exempt under this provision by presenting</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. a permanent resident visa (nationals from visa-required countries only), or 2. a COPR document (all foreign nationals)
	<p>Permanent residence applicants who are in possession of a COPR and PRV and inform IRCC, by submitting a web form that they are unable to travel within the validity of their documentation should be processed as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Valid COPR and PRV: In an effort to reduce the number of cancelled COPRs and PRVs, a note should be placed in the file explaining that the applicant is unable to travel, and the file should be brought forward to the expiration date of the COPR and PRV. If the applicant informs IRCC that they can travel prior to the COPR and PRV expiration, they are encouraged to use their existing COPR and PRV to land. • Expired COPR and PRV: If the applicant informs IRCC via the web

	<p>form that they are unable or unwilling to travel after the expiration of their COPR and PRV, or if they are unable or unwilling to travel prior to expiration, officers are to re-open the application, and it should be brought forward for review in 90 days.</p>
	<p>Re-opened applications Approved applications can be re-opened in GCMS by cancelling the COPR and PRV and removing the final decision.</p> <p>When to review a re-opened application</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Once the applicant informs IRCC via the web form that they are able to travel, a re-opened application may be re-approved provided that the applicant and their family members, whether accompanying or not, have valid immigration medical examinations, criminal and security checks and passports.• If the 60-day waiting period elapses and the applicant has not informed us that they are able to travel, a note should be placed in the application, and it should be brought forward for review for an additional 60 days