



# Health Requirements

for entry to New Zealand

This leaflet will give you information on the health requirements you must meet to be granted a visa to travel to and remain in New Zealand.

## Acceptable standard of health

Applicants for visas for New Zealand must have an acceptable standard of health. We consider you to have an acceptable standard of health if you are:

- unlikely to be a danger to public health
- unlikely to impose significant costs or demands on New Zealand's health services or special education services
- able to perform the functions for which you have been granted entry.

## Showing that you have an acceptable standard of health

To show that you have an acceptable standard of health you may have to complete a medical certificate and submit it with your application. There are four different medical certificates:

- *General Medical Certificate (INZ 1007)*
- *Limited Medical Certificate (INZ 1201)*
- *Chest X-ray Certificate (INZ 1096)*
- *Recognised Seasonal Employer Scheme Supplementary Medical Certificate (INZ 1143).*

What you have to provide depends on which category you are applying under, how long you intend to stay in New Zealand, and whether you have provided a medical certificate with any previous application. You generally do not have to provide a new medical certificate if you provided one to us with an earlier application (refer to *How long are medical certificates valid for?* in this Guide).



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## Residence class visa applications

A *Limited Medical Certificate* and *Chest X-ray Certificate* must be provided by applicants who:

- are applying under the Partnership Category as the partner of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder and who meet the requirements of the Partnership Category, and any dependent child(ren) included in their application; or
- are applying under the Dependent Child Category as the dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder and who meet the requirements of the Dependent Child Category, or
- have been recognised as having refugee or protection status in New Zealand and are applying for a permanent resident visa, and their partner and dependent child(ren), or
- are a UNHCR mandated refugee who has been selected as a candidate for New Zealand's Refugee Quota Programme, or
- are applying under the Refugee Quota Family Reunification (RQFR) Category.

Children under 11 years of age and pregnant women are not required to have an X-ray, unless a special report is needed.

A *General Medical Certificate* and *Chest X-ray Certificate* must be provided if you:

- are applying for residence under any other category; or
- are the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or resident and you were eligible to be included in your partner or parent's residence application and were not, or were withdrawn from their application before it was approved; or
- are applying as a partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or resident and you do not meet the requirements of the residence category that you are applying for at the time you lodge your application.

Children under 11 years of age and pregnant women are not required to have an X-ray, unless a special report is needed.

For most residence category applications, you must provide your medical certificate(s) as part of your application.

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However, if you apply under the Skilled Migrant Category, Investor 2 Category, Parent Category, Refugee Family Support Category, Samoan Quota, or Pacific Access Category, you have to submit an Expression of Interest or a registration before you provide a residence application. If you are invited to apply for residence, each family member included in the application must provide a medical and chest X-ray certificate as part of your application.

## Temporary entry class visa applications

Temporary entry class visas include work, student, visitor, working holiday, military, diplomatic, consular, or official visa, limited visa applications and visas related to the Antarctic Treaty.

Whether you need to provide a medical certificate depends on the type of temporary entry class visa you are applying for, whether you have provided one with a previous application, and how long you intend to stay in New Zealand (if you are already in New Zealand, this includes time you have already spent here).

### Standard requirements for temporary entry class visa applications

Unless requested by an immigration officer, medical and chest X-ray certificates **do not need to be provided** if you:

- intend to be in New Zealand for **less than six months**, or
- are applying for a Working Holidaymaker Extension visa, or
- have been recognised as a refugee or protected person in New Zealand and are eligible to apply for a permanent resident visa, or
- are applying for a military visa, diplomatic, consular or official visa.

Additionally, you generally do not have to provide a new medical certificate if you provided one to us with an earlier application (refer to *How long are medical certificates valid for?* in this Guide).

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If you intend to stay in New Zealand for **more than 12 months** you will need to submit a medical certificate and chest X-ray certificate as part of your application:

- A *Limited Medical Certificate* and *Chest X-ray Certificate* must be provided if you are applying for a temporary entry class visa as:
  - the partner of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder; or
  - the dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder; and
  - you meet the criteria for residence as either the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder.
- A *General Medical Certificate* and *Chest X-ray Certificate* must be provided if you are applying for any other type of temporary entry class visa with an intended stay of more than 12 months.

Children under 11 years of age and pregnant women are not required to have an X-ray, unless a special report is needed.

If you intend to stay in New Zealand for **more than six months but not longer than 12 months**, you may need to provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate*. Whether you need to provide this certificate depends on whether you are from a place that is not on the list below, or you have visited a place that is not on the list.

### Student visa applications

#### *Fee paying foreign students (excluding New Zealand Aid Programme-supported students)*

You do not ordinarily need to provide a medical certificate unless the *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* or *Student Visa Guide (INZ 1013)* indicate that your circumstances require you to provide a medical certificate.

You only need to provide a chest X-ray certificate if you intend to be in New Zealand for **more than six months**; and:

- you hold a passport from a place that is not on the list of low incidence tuberculosis (TB) countries (see the table included in this Guide); or
- you have spent a combined total of three months or more in the last five years in any one or more places not on the list of low incidence TB countries, or

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- you have provided a chest X-ray certificate with a previous application but have since spent six consecutive months in any one or more places not on the list of low incidence TB countries; or
  - the *Student Visa Application (INZ 1012)* or *Student Visa Guide (INZ 1013)* indicate that your circumstances require you to provide a chest X-ray certificate.

***Domestic students (including exchange, PhD and New Zealand Aid Programme-supported students)***

The standard health requirements for temporary entry class visa applicants regarding the provision of medical and chest X-ray certificates apply to you.

**Entrepreneur Work Visa Category, Work to Residence Category, Temporary Retirement Category, Parent and Grandparent Visitor Visa and Global Impact Visa.**

If you are applying for one of these visa types, each family member included in your application must submit a *General Medical Certificate* and *Chest X-ray Certificate* as part of your application. If you go on to apply for residence you may need to submit further medical certificates (refer to *How long are medical certificates valid for?* in this Guide).

**Recognised Seasonal Employer limited visa applicants**

You should refer to the *Application to Work for a Recognised Seasonal Employer (INZ 1142)* form and the *Guide to Working for a Recognised Seasonal Employer (INZ 1144)* for further information about the applicable health requirements for this visa type.

**COUNTRIES, AREAS, AND TERRITORIES WITH A LOW INCIDENCE OF TUBERCULOSIS (TB)**

American Samoa	Jamaica
Andorra	Jordan
Antigua and Barbuda	Libya
Australia	Liechtenstein
Austria	Luxembourg
Barbados	Malta
Belgium	Monaco
Bermuda	Montserrat
British Virgin Islands	Netherlands Antilles
Canada	Netherlands
Cayman Islands	New Zealand
Chile	Norway
Costa Rica	Oman
Cuba	Puerto Rico
Cyprus	Saint Kitts and Nevis
Czech Republic	Saint Lucia
Denmark	San Marino
Dominica	Slovakia
Finland	Slovenia
France	Sweden
Germany	Switzerland
Greece	Trinidad and Tobago
Grenada	Turks and Caicos Islands
Iceland	United Kingdom
Ireland	United States of America
Israel (including the Occupied Palestinian Territory, and including East Jerusalem)	United States Virgin Islands
Italy	Vatican City

If you hold a passport from a place that is not on the list, you must provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate*. (We may waive this requirement if you can satisfy an immigration officer that you have never lived or spent time in that place.)

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You must provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate* if you:

- have lived in or visited a place/places not on the list above for a combined total of three months or more in the five years prior to your application, or
- have previously applied for a visa and provided a *Chest X-ray Certificate* however you have since spent six consecutive months in any one or more countries not on the list above since your previous application.

**Example** you hold a British passport and you live in the United Kingdom, which is on the list above. However, in the last five years, you spent five weeks in Thailand and eight weeks in Fiji.

*Thailand and Fiji are not on the list, therefore you have spent a total of at least three months in a place which is not on the list. You must complete a Chest X-ray Certificate.*

**Example** you hold a Chinese passport and you live in China. You have previously spent twelve months in New Zealand as the holder of a student visa. You provided a Chest X-ray Certificate with your previous application, which was dated less than 36 months ago. However, since your previous application you have spent six months in China. China is not on the list. You must complete a Chest X-ray Certificate.

## **Where do I go for a medical examination?**

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In New Zealand and most other countries, we have a panel of medical physicians or clinics which you must use for your medical examination. We call these 'panel physicians'. Visit our website to find out if you need to see a panel physician for your examination – and where they are located – [www.immigration.govt.nz/paneldoctors](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/paneldoctors)

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## How long are medical certificates valid for?

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A *General Medical Certificate*, *Limited Medical Certificate*, or a *Chest X-ray Certificate* (and associated reports) must be less than three months old at the time you lodge your application.

Generally, medical and chest X-ray certificates provided to us will be valid for three years. If you have lodged another application with us recently, and you provided a medical and/or chest X-ray certificate with your previous application, you may not have to submit another certificate(s). The medical and chest X-ray certificate(s) that you previously provided must be less than three years old, and you must have previously been assessed as having an acceptable standard of health based on those certificates.

However, new medical and/or chest X-ray certificates less than three months old must be provided at the time you lodge your application if:

- *Chest X-ray Certificate*: you have spent six consecutive months since your *Chest X-ray Certificate* was issued in any one or more countries that do not appear on the list of low-incidence TB countries, or
- *General Medical Certificate*: you provided a *Limited Medical Certificate* with your previous application but you are no longer the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, or a recognised refugee or protected person, or
- an immigration officer requires you to provide them.

You must also provide a *Chest X-ray Certificate* and tests specified in the *General Medical Certificate*, if you did not provide this information with your previous medical certificate because of your age, or because you were pregnant, and these exemptions no longer apply.

## Submitting your medical certificates to Immigration New Zealand

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Immigration New Zealand panel physicians will complete your health examination and record the results in eMedical where it is available. eMedical is an online immigration health processing system which enables physicians to submit your completed medical certificates directly to Immigration New Zealand. You can find out more about eMedical and the information that you need to know before attending your appointment at an eMedical clinic at [www.immigration.govt.nz/healthinfo](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/healthinfo). If your medical certificates were submitted to



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Immigration New Zealand through eMedical you will need to ask the physician or their clinic staff to provide you with your New Zealand eMedical reference number (NZER), so that you can include this number in your visa application. This number is in the top right corner of the eMedical Information Sheet that physicians and their clinic staff can print for you.

If your health examination was not completed in eMedical and is paper-based, then the physician is required to submit this to Immigration New Zealand directly. In this case you will need to provide the name of the clinic where your health examination was completed with your visa application and attach the receipt for the fee paid for your examination, as evidence that your examination took place.

If your medical certificate(s) was returned to you by the physician than you must submit it with your visa application.

## **What will we do with information about your health?**

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When INZ has received your medical and chest X-ray certificates, and your application, we will assess your health status. We use the information that you provide in your application form, and your medical certificates (where required) as the basis of our assessment. In some cases, an immigration officer may refer medical certificates to an Immigration New Zealand medical assessor for advice.

We may request medical certificates or further medical information from you after you have lodged your application if we need to establish whether you have an acceptable standard of health.

## **People who do not have an acceptable standard of health**

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If you or any family member included in your application does not have an acceptable standard of health, your application will be declined, unless we grant you a medical waiver.

### **When a medical waiver can be considered**

For residence class visa applications, we only consider medical waivers if you meet all of the other requirements for approval of your application.

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For temporary entry class visa applications, we only consider medical waivers if you meet all of the other requirements for approval of your application, and:

- you are the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, or
- you have applied for a temporary visa as a seconded businessperson, or
- you have been recognised as having refugee or protection status in New Zealand.

### **When a medical waiver cannot be granted**

We cannot grant a medical waiver to you or any family member included in your application if that person:

- requires dialysis treatment, or an Immigration New Zealand medical assessor has indicated that dialysis treatment will be required within five years from the date of the medical assessment, or
- has severe haemophilia, or
- has a physical, intellectual, cognitive and/or sensory incapacity that requires full-time care, including care in the community, or
- currently has tuberculosis (TB) (any form including pulmonary, non-pulmonary, multidrug-resistant and extensively drug-resistant TB) and has not completed full treatment for TB as outlined in the *New Zealand Guidelines for Tuberculosis Control*, or
- has a history, diagnostic findings or treatment for multidrug-resistant or extensively drug-resistant TB, unless they have been cleared by a New Zealand respiratory or infectious diseases specialist upon review of their file or review of the applicant as outlined in the *New Zealand Guidelines for Tuberculosis Control*, or
- is applying for residence as the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, and was eligible for inclusion but was not included in their partner or parent's earlier application for residence, or was withdrawn from that earlier application, or
- is applying for a temporary entry class visa as the partner or dependent child of a New Zealand citizen or residence class visa holder, and was eligible for inclusion but was not included in their partner or parent's earlier application for residence, or was withdrawn from that earlier application.

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## Applicants who are pregnant

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If you are pregnant and required to provide a medical certificate, you should take a letter to your immigration medical examination from your own doctor, or lead maternity carer (obstetrician) to confirm the pregnancy and your expected date of delivery (EDD). Otherwise you may be required to undergo an additional blood test (BHCG) to confirm your pregnancy.

If you are applying for a temporary entry visa and intend to give birth in New Zealand, you must be a bona fide visitor, student or worker and be eligible for publicly funded maternity health services, or able to pay for maternity health services (evidence of at least NZ\$9,000 is required, in addition to funds for maintenance and accommodation).

If you are an applicant who would normally be required to provide a chest X-ray certificate, you do not have to provide one while pregnant. Unless you have recently provided a chest X-ray certificate with a previous application, however, you may only be granted a visa valid for three months after the date that you are due to give birth. In order to stay beyond this period once you have given birth, you will need to provide a chest X-ray certificate with an application for a further visa.

## Eligibility of temporary entrants to New Zealand for publicly funded maternity health services

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The following table will give you an indication of whether you are eligible for publicly funded maternity health services, if you:

- hold a class of temporary entry visa described below, or
- are applying for a temporary entry visa of a class described below.

For comprehensive information on eligibility for publicly funded health and disability services you should refer to the Ministry of Health's website at [www.health.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.health.govt.nz/eligibility).

Eligibility for all publicly funded health and disability services is determined by the Ministry of Health and not Immigration New Zealand. If you have any queries about the criteria for publicly funded health and disability services or don't appear to fit the criteria in the table

but believe you are eligible for publicly funded maternity health services, you should contact the Ministry of Health.

If you do not fit within the criteria below, you will need to provide evidence that you have the funds to pay for maternity health services or have sponsorship, unless you can provide confirmation from the Ministry of Health that you are eligible for publicly funded maternity health services.

Class of temporary entry visa	Eligible for publicly funded maternity health services?
Visitor visa	<p>No, unless you are the partner or child (under 18) of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a New Zealand citizen or resident</li> <li>• an Australian citizen or permanent resident who has or is intending to stay in New Zealand for at least two years</li> <li>• a person who has a work visa valid for at least two years (for work visas that are granted offshore, the two-year period starts from the date of arrival in New Zealand), or</li> <li>• a NZ Aid programme student.</li> </ul>
Work visa (valid for less than two years in total)	<p>No, unless you are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• a participant in the Ministry of Education Foreign Language Teaching Assistantship Scheme (partners and children are not eligible), or</li> <li>• the partner of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a New Zealand citizen or resident</li> <li>- an Australian citizen or permanent resident who has or is intending to stay in New Zealand for at least two years</li> <li>- a person who has a work visa valid for at least two years (for work visas that are granted offshore, the two-year period starts from the date of arrival in New Zealand), or</li> <li>- a NZ Aid programme student.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

Class of temporary entry visa	Eligible for publicly funded maternity health services?
Work visa (which allows you to stay in New Zealand for two years or more - this can include any time you were in New Zealand lawfully and continuously, immediately before getting your current work visa).	Yes*
Student visa	No, unless you are: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the partner or child (under 18) of a New Zealand citizen or resident</li> <li>• the partner or child (under 18) of an Australian citizen or permanent resident who has or is intending to stay in New Zealand for at least two years</li> <li>• the partner or child (under 18) of a person who has a work visa valid for at least two years (for work visas that are granted offshore, the two-year period starts from the date of arrival in New Zealand)</li> <li>• a NZ Aid programme student</li> <li>• a child (under 18) of a NZ Aid programme student, or</li> <li>• a Commonwealth Scholarship Holder (partners and children are not eligible).</li> </ul>
Interim visa	No, unless you were eligible for publicly funded health and disability services immediately before your interim visa was granted.
Limited visa	No

\* **Note:** a work visa starts on the first day you hold that visa in New Zealand. If you were granted your visa before arriving in New Zealand then the first day will be the date you entered New Zealand.

**Note:** If you do not fit within the criteria in the table above, you may still be eligible for publicly funded health and disability services if you are:

- the partner of an eligible person (some exclusions are already referred to above), or

- a claimant for refugee or protection status, or
- a victim of people trafficking, or
- aged between 18 and 19 years old and your parent(s) held a work visa as at 15 April 2011 which has not yet expired and your parent(s) met the eligibility criteria under the former *Health and Disability Services Eligibility Direction 2003*, or
- a UK national. You may be eligible under the UK Reciprocal Health Agreement for partial funding of maternity health services. This generally means that immediate and necessary maternity care, including labour, birth and conditions related to pregnancy requiring prompt treatment are covered. Routine antenatal and postnatal services are not covered. Partners of UK nationals are not eligible.

If you cannot provide evidence of at least NZ\$9,000 to pay for maternity health services, you will need to obtain evidence from the district health board responsible for your health services, as to the portion of care you are eligible for. You will need to show this to INZ and provide evidence of funds available to pay the difference.

You should refer to the Ministry of Health's website at [www.health.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.health.govt.nz/eligibility) for more information if one of these scenarios applies to you, or if your specific situation does not appear to be covered.

## **Eligibility of work visa holders for publicly funded health services**

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In some circumstances, once you have been granted a work visa, you will be eligible for publicly funded health services in New Zealand. To be eligible, you must hold a work visa allowing you to stay in New Zealand for two years or more (this can include any time you were in New Zealand lawfully and continuously, immediately before getting your current work visa). Please note that a work visa starts on the first day you hold that visa in New Zealand. If you were granted your visa before arriving in New Zealand then the first day will be the date you entered New Zealand.

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## Eligibility of other temporary entrants for publicly funded health services

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You may also be eligible for publicly funded health services in New Zealand by meeting other criteria. These criteria are set out in the New Zealand Health and Disability Services Eligibility Direction 2011, which can be accessed through the Ministry of Health's website at [www.health.govt.nz/eligibility](http://www.health.govt.nz/eligibility). For further information, please visit the Ministry of Health's website or contact them directly.

### For more information

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Our Operational Manual, available online at [www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/opsmanual), contains comprehensive policy on health requirements.

If you have questions about the information in this guide:

- see our website [www.immigration.govt.nz/contactus](http://www.immigration.govt.nz/contactus)
- telephone our call centre on 0508 558 855 (within New Zealand).

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New Zealand Government