

Immigration Factsheets

COVID – 19 Temporary visas

May 2020

- The New Zealand border is currently closed to all but New Zealand citizens and residents and their immediate family members travelling with them. However, the New Zealand government acknowledges that there may be extremely limited circumstances where it is appropriate for a person who is not exempt from the border restrictions to travel to New Zealand.
- Exceptions are only in place for extreme circumstances where people have a critical purpose for travel to New Zealand, including:
 - Essential health workers
 - Other essential workers who are specifically agreed to by the New Zealand Government
 - Samoan and Tongan citizens making essential travel
 - New Zealand-based partners and dependent children (aged 19 years and under) of a work or student visa holder who is in New Zealand
 - Critical humanitarian travel
- Individuals who believe they meet the exceptions criteria need to submit a request for an exception to the border restrictions.
- The availability of flights to New Zealand and any travel restrictions for any transiting country needs to be considered before a request is submitted. If their circumstances are considered exceptional and justify travel to New Zealand for a critical purpose, they will be invited to apply for a visitor visa, or to vary their existing visa to allow them to travel.
- We also advise immediate family members of New Zealand citizens or residents, who are travelling with New Zealand citizens or residents to request pre-approval to travel using the same process. This will provide certainty that they can travel to New Zealand rather than risk being delayed or denied boarding flights to New Zealand.
- The New Zealand Government's epidemic management notice relating to immigration matters came into effect on Thursday 2 April 2020.
- Travellers with a temporary visa due to expire between 1 April and 9 July 2020 had their visas extended to late September. Confirmation of extensions has been emailed to all visa holders.
- A number of changes have already been made to temporary work visa settings to better support the all of Government response to COVID-19 and ensure we have the critical workers we need at this time. More information about changes to visa conditions can be found [here](#).



NEW ZEALAND
IMMIGRATION

- The Government understands the current situation is impacting people in many ways. The Covid-19 wage subsidies are available to anyone legally working in New Zealand. This includes people here on temporary work visas.
- Currently our advice to people who are here from overseas, who are not currently employed, and are experiencing financial difficulty during COVID-19 alert level four is to talk to their Embassy or Consulate for assistance. This includes workers here on a Recognised Seasonal Employer scheme, working holiday, short-term visa, students and tourists. In extreme cases where essential supplies cannot be obtained during phase 4, contact can be made with the local Civil Defence Emergency Management (CDEM) Groups.
- INZ encourages those with questions about their individual situation to contact INZ on:
+64 9 952 1679 | outside New Zealand
0508 225 288 | within New Zealand

Below are indicative numbers of people currently onshore in New Zealand, broken down by visa type and month of expiry as at **18 May 2020**.

Indicative figures for Temporary Visa Holders onshore whose visas will be expiring in the next six months as at 18 May 2020.		
Visa Type	Expiry month	People onshore
Student	2020-05	12
	2020-06	70
	2020-07	5,841
	2020-08	9,204
	2020-09	9,480
	2020-10	2,467
	Total Student	
Visitor	2020-05	20
	2020-06	39
	2020-07	2,617
	2020-08	4,471
	2020-09	34,810
	2020-10	826
Total Visitor		42,783
Work	2020-05	27
	2020-06	160
	2020-07	5,363
	2020-08	7,834
	2020-09	27,259
	2020-10	9,535
Total Work		50,178