

# Immigration Factsheets

## Critical workers

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July2021

### Other critical workers

- Entry to New Zealand from all countries remains strictly controlled to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. But a person may be eligible to come to New Zealand if they meet the ‘other critical worker’ criteria set out in immigration instructions.
- Specifically, a person coming to New Zealand may be considered an ‘other critical worker’ if:
  - the person has unique experience and technical or specialist skills that are not readily obtainable in New Zealand; or
  - the person is undertaking a time-critical role which is essential for the delivery of an approved major infrastructure project, a government approved event, an approved major government programme, an approved government-to-government agreement or has significant wider benefit to the national or regional economy.
- Requests for ‘other critical workers’ are made by employers, not individual workers, and are generally processed within two weeks.
- Employers have been able to make requests to INZ under the other critical worker border exception criteria since June 2020. We encourage employers to put in requests as early as possible, noting processing times and downstream factors such as MIQ capacity.
- It is the responsibility of the employer to ensure the ‘other critical worker’ border exception request clearly demonstrates how the criteria are being met.
- INZ will contact workers whose employers receive approval for an exception to the border restrictions as ‘other critical workers,’ and invite them to apply for a Critical Purpose Visitor Visa or a Critical Purpose Variation of Conditions to allow them to travel to New Zealand. An invitation to apply for a visa does NOT guarantee visas will be granted to workers.
- Applicants must then submit a visa application, pay the application fee and any levies, and demonstrate they meet all criteria to be granted a Visa or a Variation of Conditions.

**Other critical workers from 18 June 2020 to 30 June 2021**

Requests received	Requests decided	Requests approved	Workers approved	Workers declined
3,698	3,602	2,112	8,231	2,727

**Critical health workers**

As part of the Government's COVID-19 response, border exception criteria were implemented allowing 'critical health workers' who are offshore to come to New Zealand.

This exception applies to qualifying health workers, as well as dependent partners or children.  
[Full list of critical purpose reasons to travel](#)

People making a request will need to be an offshore health or disability worker in a role needed to deliver critical services in New Zealand.

**Critical health workers from 31 March 2020 to 29 June 2021**

Please note that these figures are for the number of people who have made a request (not the number of requests) and include individuals who may have made a request more than once.

Workers and dependents approved	Workers and dependents declined	Workers and dependents not considered	Request withdrawn	Total
6,649	2,464	154	7	9,274