



The Impact of COVID-19 on Canadian Immigration for Temporary Residents.

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Coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

- An infectious disease caused by a newly discovered coronavirus.
- Many Countries affected.
- Canada – over 4,000 confirmed cases.
- USA – Over 85,000 confirmed cases.
- Brazil - Over 2,980 confirmed cases.

Disease has affected:

- The economy
- Health care system
- **Migration**

INTRODUCTION:

The Concerns

Uncertain times and unprecedented government reactions.

- International Students (including prospective) students are concerned as to how the COVID19 pandemic may affect their travel and study plans.
- Students have growing concerns about the immigration application process like renewal of temporary immigration status or also prospects of post-study immigration.
- Travel and Mobility.

Stay Informed

1. IRCC Policy, procedures and regulations.
2. Travel Advisory.
3. Policies of Academic Institutions.
4. Different Government policy, procedure and regulations.

Policy, procedures and guidance used by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

- Strongly encouraged to submit **applications online**.
- IRCC reported to be **experiencing difficulties receiving and processing applications** submitted by mail or in person **at a VAC**.
- Some visa application centres are **closed** until further notice. Some offices are operating only with **“essential staff.”**
 - [Check which IRCC offices are closed.](#)
- Biometric collections services at Service Canada locations are **suspended until further notice**.

Policy, procedures and guidance used by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

- Some English official test centres are closed until April 27 or until further notice.
- **International students in Canada, take note:**
Courses of study being delivered online on an exceptional basis due to #COVID19 will not affect Post-Graduation Work Permit Program eligibility for a post-graduation work permit.

Policy, procedures and guidance used by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

Although there are specific instructions for urgent applications/additional documentation for temp res in China, Iran and South Korea. However, there are

- **No significant expedited processing requirement is foreseen.** Decision to expedite applications due to special circumstance is at discretion of IRCC office.
- IRCC allowing **90** days for application to provide requested additional documentation. E.g. medical exams, biometrics, passports, police cert. etc.
- [See IRCC COVID-19 general processing measures](#)

Policy, procedures and guidance used by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC)

- Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) says deportations have been stopped, with one possible exception for criminal cases.
- Other aspects of the system are being put on hiatus (pause) as well, such as people being unable to obey 'departure orders',
- **USE [IRCC Webform](#)**

TRAVEL ADVISORY

- Air travel and border measures have been implemented by restricting non-essential international travel.
- **Avoid all non-essential travel outside of Canada until further notice.**
- **Avoid all travel on cruise ships** until further notice.
- U.S-Canada Border Closure to Non-Essential Traffic Effective March 21 for At Least 30 Days
- All travellers from outside of Canada self-isolate for 14 days.
 - **Call** health care professional or PHA if you have symptoms. and: 1) describe your symptoms and travel history; 2) follow their instructions carefully
- If your Airlines cancelled your flights please check if you have authorization to travel. Your travel plans may be severely disrupted and you may be forced to remain outside of Canada longer than expected

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS

- Generally, Temporary residents (e.g. students, workers, visitors) are prohibited from boarding aircraft for a flight to Canada. The following are **some exemptions**:
 - foreign nationals travelling at the invitation of the Canadian government for a purpose related to the containment of COVID-19
 - close family members of Canadian citizens
 - close family members of Canadian permanent residents
 - a person who is authorized, in writing, by a consular officer of the Government of Canada to enter Canada for the purpose of reuniting immediate family members
 - accredited diplomats and family members.
 - transiting passengers

TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS - UPDATED

- Exemptions to the air travel restrictions will **now apply to foreign nationals who have already committed to working, studying or making Canada their home**, and travel by these individuals will be **considered essential travel** for land border restrictions. Including:
 - international students who **held a valid study permit, or had been approved for a study permit, when the travel restrictions took effect on March 18, 2020**
- **Remember** all individuals entering from abroad **must self-isolate for 14 days** upon their arrival in Canada.

Some Policies of Academic Institutions

- Distant Learning
- Online Classes
- Cancellation of in-person instructions
- Cancellation of in-person examination
- Etc.

GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

- [Canada Official Page for Coronavirus](#)
- [Brazilian Consular assistance](#)
- [Canada's Economic Response Plan - March 26, 2020](#)

TRAVEL INSURANCE

- Travel Health Insurance coverage COVID19
- E.g. Allianz / Assist card / Travel ace
- Under Emergency Medical
- Care Benefit: Emergency medical care for a customer who becomes ill with COVID-19 while on their trip.
- Under Trip Cancellation or Trip Interruption Benefits: Trip cancellation and trip interruption if a customer becomes ill with COVID-19 either before or during their trip.

Q&A

- See attached Appendix 'A': ***Frequently Asked Questions (International Students)***

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