



Government of the Cook Islands
Te Kauono Tutara e te Mana Tiaki - Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration

Fact Sheet for entry to the Cook Islands in response to COVID-19 travel restrictions from 20 June 2020

In response to the Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak, the Cook Islands has established COVID-19 as a notifiable and dangerous condition under Schedule 2 of the Public Health Act (2004) and the COVID-19 Act (2020). As such, the following travel restriction is currently in force:

REOPENING OF BORDERS

On the 2nd June 2020, the Prime Minister Hon. Henry Puna, approved the opening of the Cook Islands borders for entry from the 19th June 2020.

This is restricted to Cook Islanders and Permit Holders provided that the person travelling has not been outside of New Zealand/Cook Islands in the 30 days prior to travel. Visitor permits are not being issued at this time.

For further enquires please contact: immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck

STANDARD ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Persons who identify as Cook Islanders maybe required to provide evidence; eg Cook Islands Status stamp. All permit holders, must have a valid permit at time of travel.

Immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck for any enquiries.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

“What if I don’t have my Cook Islands Status stamp in my passport?”

If your birth place on your passport is in the Cook Islands, you do not require a Cook Islands Status stamp at this time.

If your birth place is outside of the Cook Islands, we may need more information, please email: immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck and we will assist you.

“What if my permit expired in the last 3 months, while outside of the Cook Islands?”

You must have a valid permit for travel and entry into the Cook Islands.

Please email: immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck, your passport bio data page and most recent permit stamp and we will assist you.

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“There are no flights available to book in June, how do I book flights to the Cook Islands?”

Online bookings are available from July 2020. Any bookings in June 2020 are required to be made directly with the airline. The June flights have been reserved for those previously registered with Te Marae Ora (TMO). Any available seats will be opened to non-registered persons closer to the departure date. All travel booking enquiries are to be sent to RarotongaTravelcentre@airnz.co.nz

“I have already registered my intention to travel to the Cook Islands with TMO and MFAI, do I need to resubmit?”

No, we have the registration list and you will be contacted by MFAI within the next week regarding your return travel.

No new registrations are being accepted.

“What if I am a Cook Islander who wants to come for a temporary visit?”

Whilst all Cook Islanders are welcome we would discourage temporary visits unless necessary. All Cook Islanders who are seeking to come for a temporary visit will need to comply with NZ Government travel advisory and rules relating to NZ departure and entry.

“Do I have to quarantine in the Cook Islands?”

Current advice from Te Marae Ora (TMO) is that supervised quarantine is not required. This situation is fluid and may change based on COVID-19 overseas trends.

“What health measures do I need to undertake before leaving NZ?”

NZ currently does not have any community transmission of COVID 19. People are required to spend 30 days in NZ prior to entry into the Cook Islands. NZ currently has health measures in place for those departing. This is a requirement of NZ and will need to be followed by all travellers. The Cook Islands does not have any specific requirements for those who have been residents in NZ for 30 days. This situation is fluid and may change based on NZ's COVID-19 trends.

“I haven't been in NZ for 30 days, can I still travel to the Cook Islands?”

Unless you have received an exemption from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration you will not be permitted entry into the Cook Islands.

If you are seeking an exemption you must contact immigration at least 7 days in advance of travel. It is recommended that you do not book any travel prior to the expiry of 30 days unless you have received an exemption.

Exemptions will only be given in exceptional circumstances.

“Will I be able to travel to the Outer Islands on my arrival into Rarotonga?”

There are currently health checks in place at the domestic departure gate.

“What if my partner or spouse is not a Cook Islander or permit holder, will they be allowed to travel with me?”

All Non Cook islanders need to be in possession of a permit to travel. If a spouse or partner has been entering the Cook Islands as a visitor, they are required to get an entry permit approval in advance from MFAI.

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IMPORTANT NOTE

Any person who is undertaking any international travel does so at their own risk and must be aware of travel restrictions imposed by other Countries. Cook Islands Government does not control the Immigration and entry requirements of other countries and will not be responsible for any travellers who fail to comply with these travel advisories. Also be mindful that given the nature of COVID 19, border restrictions may change at any time.

For further information please contact the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration at:

Phone: (+682) 29 347 or

Email: immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck

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