

Frequently Asked Questions – Foreign Nationals in Otago

For more information on New Zealand's response to COVID-19 go to www.covid19.govt.nz

I have no job or income, what should I do?

New Zealand's economy has been strongly impacted and is unlikely to return to normal for a number of years. You should contact your embassy they can provide help and support as well as keeping you updated about how you can get home if you want to leave New Zealand. Contact details for all embassies are located at www.mfat.govt.nz/en/embassies/

If you no longer have a job, are you thinking about moving somewhere else in New Zealand to find work? You may need to talk to Immigration NZ about your visa status and whether you can stay in New Zealand.

My work/student/visitor visa expires during Alert Level 2. What should I do?

If you have a work, student, or visitor visa with an expiry date of 1 April 2020 or earlier and who are unable to leave New Zealand must apply online for a new visa.

If you have a work, student, visitor, limited or interim visa that has an expiry date between 2 April and 9 July 2020 and are in New Zealand on 2 April 2020, you will have your visa automatically extended to 25 September 2020. Confirmation of extensions will be emailed to all visa holders.

If your visa expires after 9 July 2020, you will need to either leave the country or apply for a further visa extension closer to the time of expiry. More information is available on the Immigration New Zealand website www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19

What support is available for foreign nationals?

Otago Civil Defence can provide support with emergency food, winter clothing and essentials and support with accommodation for foreign nationals who, for reasons of citizenship, are unable to obtain support and assistance from their embassy/consulate or another New Zealand government agency.

Call the Otago COVID-19 Helpline on 0800 322 4000 or email help@otagocdem.govt.nz for help with food or essentials.

For information on support with accommodation costs go to www.otagocdem.govt.nz. You can also request a translator to help you fill out the form.

A list of other support services is available www.otagocdem.govt.nz/otago-cdem/covid-19-alertlevel-2-play-it-safe



**Emergency
Management Otago**
Te Rākau Whakamarumaru Ōtākou

Can my landlord evict me or raise the rent?

Landlords cannot currently raise rents. They can only evict tenants or cancel tenancies in very specific circumstances. For more information, visit the Tenancy Services website www.tenancy.govt.nz

My visa has expired – can I get medical care?

Yes, you can. It is important that anyone with symptoms of COVID-19 contacts Healthline for free on 0800 358 5453 or their doctor immediately. District Health Boards will not share any information about the immigration status of individuals with Immigration New Zealand. You should seek medical advice if you are unwell. You can rest assured that your treatment will be in complete confidence and your information will not be passed on to other agencies.

There is no charge for COVID-19 testing. If you think you need to get tested there are GP practices where people who don't have a GP can be referred for COVID-19 testing. More information: <https://wellsouth.nz/community/news-2/where-to-get-tested-for-covid-19/>

Can I travel within New Zealand at Alert level 2?

You are able to travel outside of your region if you:

- Are not COVID-19-positive, symptomatic or awaiting COVID-19 test results
- Do it in a safe way (such as abiding by physical distancing guidelines)
- Keep a record of where you go, when you go there and who you spend time with
- Have not arrived in New Zealand from overseas in the past 14 days
- Have not individually received (from a Medical Officer of Health) a direction under s 70(1)(f) of the Health Act 1956.

This travel includes travel by domestic air services, ferries, trains and public transport.

More information, including information on the current restriction by transport, can be found at <https://covid19.govt.nz/individuals-and-households/travelling-and-moving-around/travel-withinnew-zealand/>

