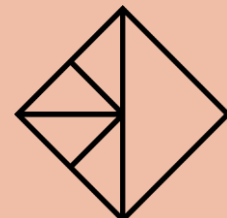


# COVID-19 Announcement



3 February 2022

## New Zealand Government - 5-Stage Border Opening Settings

Step 1 – 11:59pm 27 February 2022	
Group Eligible to Travel	Types of Workers / People
<p>New Zealanders and other existing eligible travellers under the current closed border settings from Australia</p> <p><b>Everyone currently eligible for the MIQ lottery who are based in Australia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Zealand citizens</li> <li>• New Zealand permanent residents or resident visa holders</li> <li>• Australian citizens or permanent residence visa holders where New Zealand is your primary place of established residence</li> <li>• holders of a critical purpose visa (with a border exception)</li> <li>• those exempt from border entry restrictions such as diplomats and air crew, except those that are travelling from Very High-Risk countries, and</li> <li>• partners, dependent child/ren or parents of a dependent child who:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ holds a visa based on the relationship to a New Zealand citizen or resident; or</li> <li>○ is travelling with a New Zealand citizen or resident; or</li> <li>○ is ordinarily resident in New Zealand.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
Step 2 – 11:59pm 13 March 2022	
Group Eligible to Travel	Types of Workers / People
<p>New Zealanders and other existing eligible travellers under the current closed border settings from the rest of the world</p> <p><b>Everyone currently eligible for the MIQ lottery based outside Australia</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New Zealand citizens</li> <li>• New Zealand permanent residents or resident visa holders</li> <li>• Australian citizens or permanent residence visa holders where New Zealand is your primary place of established residence</li> <li>• holders of a critical purpose visa (with a border exception)</li> <li>• those exempt from border entry restrictions such as diplomats and air crew, except those that are travelling from Very High-Risk countries, and</li> <li>• partners, dependent child/ren or parents of a dependent child who:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ holds a visa based on the relationship to a New Zealand citizen or resident; or</li> <li>○ is travelling with a New Zealand citizen or resident; or</li> <li>○ is ordinarily resident in New Zealand.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p>Expanded Border Exception for 'Other' Critical Workers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The income criteria for the 'Other' Critical Worker border exception will be reduced to 1.5 times the median wage (NZD84,240 a year or NZD40.50 an hour) for roles longer than 6 months</li> <li>• The requirement for 'Other' Critical Workers to demonstrate that the skills are not readily obtainable in New Zealand will be removed</li> </ul>

Working Holiday Schemes	Working Holiday Schemes will reopen on a rolling basis (the staging and timing of individual schemes will be confirmed)
<b>Step 3 – 11:59pm 12 April 2022</b>	
<b>Group Eligible to Travel</b>	<b>Types of Workers / People</b>
Existing Temporary Visa Holders	People who hold a current valid temporary visa and are currently outside of New Zealand
Students	Up to 5,000 students eligible to enter New Zealand to study for semester two Details to be determined by the Ministers of Education and Immigration
Class Exceptions for Critical Workforces	Seasonal workers, certain workers who don't meet the 1.5 x the median wage test and other priority travellers (to be determined)
Events and Sports	Professional sports players and team members (managers and coaches etc) Performers and support crew for cultural events with significant national/regional benefits
<b>Step 4 – by July 2022</b>	
<b>Group Eligible to Travel</b>	<b>Types of Workers / People</b>
Australian Citizens, Australian Permanent Residents and other Foreign Nationals Travelling from Australia	Short-term business travellers, visitors/tourists and potentially some workers
Visa-waiver Country Travellers	Visitors and short-term business travellers
Accredited Employer Work Visa Holder (to open from July)	Workers earning over the median wage (NZD56,160)
<b>Step 5 – October 2022</b>	
<b>Group Eligible to Travel</b>	<b>Types of Workers / People</b>
Visitor Visas from Non-visa Waiver Countries	Visitors and business travellers Normal visa processing resumes (excluding any deliberately paused categories which were paused prior to COVID-19)

Sources: [www.beehive.co.nz](http://www.beehive.co.nz) and [www.immigration.govt.nz](http://www.immigration.govt.nz)

Disclaimer: The information included in this document is for general guidance only and does not constitute legal advice, so should not be relied on as such. We recommend obtaining specific legal advice on your circumstances prior to making any visa application, border entry request or otherwise attempting entry to New Zealand under the current restricted border settings.