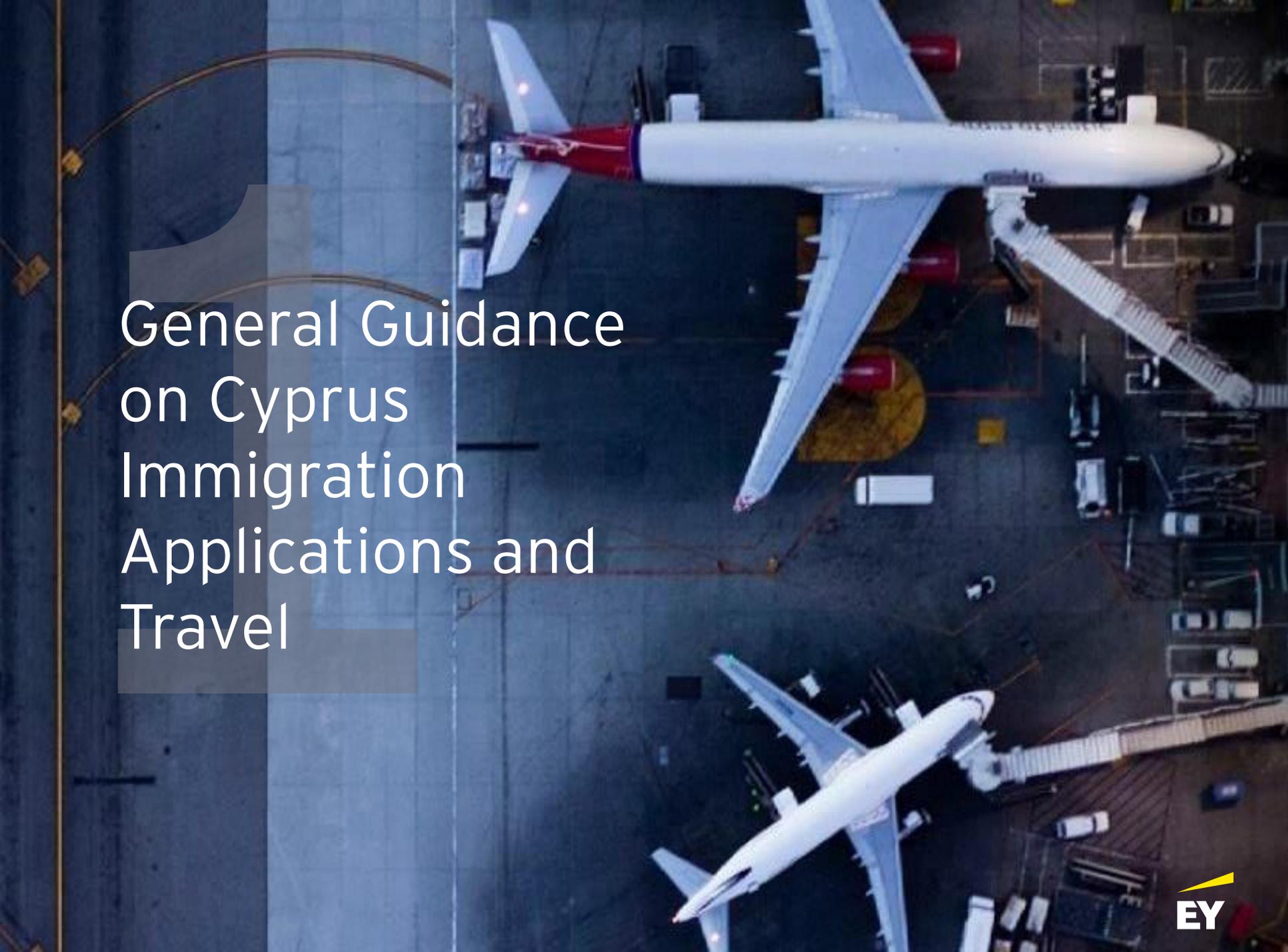


Updated Cyprus Immigration Q&A

19 May 2020



An aerial photograph of an airport tarmac. Two large commercial airplanes are visible, one in the upper right and one in the lower right. The tarmac is paved and has various ground service equipment, including stairs and belt loaders, positioned around the aircraft. The lighting suggests it might be dusk or dawn, with some lights visible on the aircraft and the ground.

General Guidance on Cyprus Immigration Applications and Travel

Q: Are the airports closed now?

A: Yes, since 21st March and at least until the 28th of May, all flights are banned, not including cargo flights, technical flights, training flights, governmental aircrafts flights and repatriation flights that can be allowed provided that they are approved by the Minister of Transportation, Telecommunication and Work.

Q: What happens with people that want to return to Cyprus?

A: They can do so if they are Cypriot Nationals or legal residents/ holders of valid residence permit following the lift of the flight restriction or if they fall in one of the specified categories as per the Republic's Announcement and Revised Decrees issued by the Minister of Health.

Q: Are medical certificates still needed to enter Cyprus?

A: It is our understanding that following the Revised Decrees issued by the Minister of Health, Medical Certificates will no longer be required as people returning to Cyprus will all be undergoing a mandatory examination for the Covid-19 except for oil & gas employees who will need to provide proof that they tested negative to Covid-19 on a Molecular Test prior to their arrival. For several categories falling within the exceptions though, certain documentation is also necessary such as certificates issued by the local Diplomatic Missions of the Republic of Cyprus or special certificate which will be issued only after an evaluation of the prereduced medical certificates by a three-member Medical Council.

Q: How long will the flight ban apply for?

A: As things stand now, at least until the 28th of May

Q: Which are the specified categories of people that have the right to enter Cyprus before the end of the flight ban?

A: Based on the revised Decrees issued by the Minister of Health, the following categories are allowed to return to Cyprus, provided they have in their possession the necessary documentation:

- Those who have travelled abroad for medical reasons, as well as the persons who accompanied them at their departure or hospitalization.
- Cypriot Nationals with permanent residence in Cyprus and Non-Cypriot permanent residents of Cyprus who have travelled abroad for short stays for business purposes.
- Cypriot Nationals with permanent residence in Cyprus and Non-Cypriot permanent residents of Cyprus, who were abroad for temporary employment purposes and belong to “vulnerable groups” in relation to the coronavirus. This category includes also the spouse and children of the employee.
- Cypriot Nationals with permanent residence in Cyprus and Non-Cypriot permanent residents of Cyprus, who were abroad for temporary employment purposes and their employment was postponed or terminated due to the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Cypriot Nationals with permanent residence in Cyprus and Non-Cypriot permanent residents of Cyprus, who were abroad and wish to return for humanitarian reasons (unaccompanied minors, to provide care to persons injured after the 16th of March or donate/receive organs).

Q: Which are the specified categories of people that have the right to enter Cyprus before the end of the flight ban? (Cont'd)

- Cypriot Nationals with permanent residence in Cyprus and Non-Cypriot permanent residents of Cyprus, who work or study abroad, in cases where a parent or brother/sister of theirs:
 - is a patient in advanced stage and whose health condition is irreversible
 - have died within the last 15 days.
- Cypriot nationals who study abroad and belong to "vulnerable groups" in relation to the coronavirus, in accordance with the Press release issued by the Ministry of Health, dated 16 March 2020.
- Cypriot Nationals with permanent residence in Cyprus and Non-Cypriot permanent residents of Cyprus, who study abroad and reside in University dormitories, provided that:
 - They follow foundation courses, or
 - They are registered for the first year of their academic program.
- Persons, irrespective of their nationality, that due to their professional or academic/scientific background will be able to assist the Republic in its fight against the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Cypriot Nationals with permanent residence in Cyprus, their Non-Cypriot spouses as well as their children.
- Persons regardless of their nationality who are legal residents of the Republic of Cyprus;

Q: Which are the specified categories of people that have the right to enter Cyprus before the end of the flight ban? (Cont'd)

- Nationals of countries who are in a designated diplomatic service or mission under Vienna convention.

All those in the above categories entering the territory of the Republic of Cyprus will remain in quarantine for 14 days after their arrival, in areas designated by the State, except for persons who were abroad for medical reasons. These persons will remain in self-isolation in order to continue, unhindered, their medical treatment.

It is understood that upon entering the territory of the Republic of Cyprus, they will undergo a mandatory examination for the COVID-19, after which the provisions of the relevant medical protocol will be followed.

- Oil & Gas employees or support staff for companies operating in the Republic's EEZ.
- *For any questions regarding the required documentation needed for each category, feel free to contact us.*

Q: Who is considered a legal resident?

A: Any person who is a holder of a valid residence permit either permanent or temporary i.e. Employees from Third Countries, Students, Diplomats, Registered EU Nationals (or those who can prove that they resided here before the outbreak through social insurance, payslip, rental agreement/ property title deed, etc).

Q: Are there any conditions for oil & gas employees who wish to travel to or from Cyprus?

A: Persons employed by companies operating in the EEZ, in relation to the exploration and exploitation of the Republic's oil & gas resources, will be allowed to enter and/or exit the country, by satisfying the following conditions:

1. They remain on a 14-day self-isolation/quarantine prior to their arrival;
2. They will need to test negative for Covid-19 by a Molecular Test prior to their arrival;
3. Their Employer will need to assume the responsibility of transporting them immediately from the Airport to the port from which they will be sailing to their designated rig.

For those who are already in Cyprus and wish to depart, only point 3 will apply, i.e. The Employer will need to assume the responsibility of transporting them from the port, directly to the Airport of departure.

Q: Who will pay for the airfare related to the repatriation?

A: The cost of the airfare, assuming it exists, will be paid by each passenger.

Q: How can people that fall in the exempted categories apply for repatriation?

A: People that wish to be repatriated to the Republic of Cyprus can use the Ministry of Foreign Affairs' platform <http://www.connect2cy.gov.cy/>. Return to Cyprus will be performed gradually and with priority to vulnerable groups according to the relevant Decrees.

Q: Is the CRMD operating again i.e. accepting application for renewals, entry permits, registration, etc?

A: Following an official announcement dated 4th May 2020, the CRMD is indeed accepting applications again but the procedure has been modified to protect the public and its employees from the COVID-19. Do keep in mind that although Entry Permit applications will be accepted, they will not be issued until the flight-ban lift date is confirmed. For more information and assistance, please contact us.

Q: What happens with people who failed to register, renew their residence permit or overstayed their Tourist Visa due to the current situation?

A: On the 18th May 2020, the CRMD announced the following concerning Third-Country Nationals with temporary residence permits issued by the republic:

- If they are abroad, they are holders of a valid Residence Permit (all categories) and the period of three months that entitles them to re-enter the Republic has expired after 15/3/2020; They can enter Cyprus when the restrictions are lifted without with any further formality. Any other entry requirements that the Republic of Cyprus may impose in connection with the control of the spread of the pandemic, must be met.
- For those who remain abroad from 1/1/2020 onwards and whose temporary residence permit has expired after 15/3/2020, if their permit does not bear the indication "FINAL - NOT RENEWABLE"; They can apply for an entry permit. The application will be examined and subject to approval, the entry will be allowed when restrictions are lifted. A clean criminal record certificate or medical certificates will not be required for the submission of the application. Medical certificates mentioned above do not include certificates required in connection with the control of the pandemic. In addition, any other entry requirements that the Republic of Cyprus may impose in connection with the control of the spread of the pandemic must be met.
- Those who are in Cyprus for visiting purposes, with national or other visas such as Schengen visas, whose validity expired on 15/03/2020 onwards; As long as the flight restrictions are in force, they are not required to take any further action and no measures will be taken against them, nor shall their details be placed on the Stop-List upon their departure, given that they depart immediately and as soon as possible after the restrictions are lifted.

Q: What about Immigration Permit holders who cannot enter the country before the 2-years period expires, will their permit be cancelled?

A: The CRMD already announced that for People Republic of China Nationals who were supposed to enter Cyprus before the 27th of January 2020 to maintain their Immigration Permit status, could do so until the 30th of April 2020.

Taking this into account, we expect the CRMD to not cancel any Immigration Permits of Non-EU Nationals who stayed out of the Republic for over the designated 2-years period, if of course they provide proof that the reason of their prolonged absence was related to the Covid-19 outbreak.

Q: What will happen with the Labour Department approvals to employ Third-Country Nationals that expired or will expire during this period?

A: The Labour Department announced that renewals of existing approvals for the employment of Third Country Nationals will now be issued automatically with a one (1) year validity. As a result, the submission of any renewal applications is now unnecessary.

The following should be noted:

- The new measure applies only to approvals concerning TCNs that are being currently employed on an annual basis;
- The new measure concerns only the renewal of the LD approval and not the CRMD work permit;
- The relevant contract's validity period will be extended in line with the validity of the renewed approval. Therefore, no new contracts will be stamped. CRMD will have to determine whether the existing contract along with the new LD approval will be sufficient for the renewal process of a residence and work permit, once they are able to receive these applications.
- The renewed approval will be sent directly to the employer by the LD.

Q: Regarding companies that choose to suspend their operations according to the newly announce governmental financial support measures, will their Third-Country nationals employees and/or seasonal workers be allowed to receive unemployment benefit?

A: Yes, assuming they are holders of valid work permits and are up-to-date with their Social Insurance contributions since 2018.

Please note that the above answers are based on the Aliens and Immigration Law as well as Governmental Announcements and EY's expertise and understanding. Given the uncertainty surrounding the subject during these difficult times and the fluidity of the situation as a whole, information provided here should be considered as general guidelines which should be kept up-to-date.