

Mobility: Immigration alert

February 2023



Qatar

Qatar announces new insurance requirement for visitors and extension of Hayya Cards

Executive summary

On 28 January 2023, the Qatari Ministry of Public Health (MoPH) [announced](#) that all visitors must have a health insurance policy issued by a locally approved vendor to enter Qatar. In addition, on 31 January 2023, the Ministry of Interior (MoI) [announced](#) that all Hayya Cards are extended until 24 January 2024.

Mandatory health insurance

The MoPH, through Law No. 22 of 2021, has mandated health insurance for visitors. The law is in effect from 1 February 2023 and is being rolled out in phases. In the first phase, all foreign nationals who visit Qatar on or after 1 February 2023 must purchase a health insurance policy from an authorized vendor prior to their arrival.

Individuals who apply for new visitor visas or to extend their existing ones will be automatically redirected to the MoPH [website](#) (which can be reached by accessing the MoI [website](#)) during the online application process. They must choose a vendor from the available list of approved [insurance companies](#), select a policy that covers their duration of stay in Qatar and pay a health insurance premium each month. They will be eligible to obtain a visa only after the vendor issues the insurance policy.

Individuals who already hold an international health insurance policy and seek to apply for visitor visas are not required to obtain a new insurance policy prior to visiting Qatar, provided their existing policy is valid for the duration of their stay in Qatar and has been issued by a vendor authorized by the Qatari authorities. Further details are expected regarding this new insurance requirement.

Hayya Card extension

Hayya Cards were originally [introduced](#) in advance of the recent World Cup in Qatar to allow visitors to enter Qatar during tournament time. The validity of [Hayya Cards](#) is now extended to 24 January 2024. Holders can now continue to enter and stay in Qatar until the new expiry date, provided they submit the following on arrival:

- ▶ Details regarding their stay in Qatar (hotel reservation, address of family or friends, etc.)
- ▶ A passport with a validity of at least three months from the date of their arrival
- ▶ Proof of health insurance coverage for the duration of their stay in Qatar
- ▶ A round-trip ticket

Impact on employers

Companies may assist their impacted employees with updating their health insurance policy to meet the new requirements and avoid delays in travel to Qatar.

Key steps

EY will continue to monitor these developments. Should you have any questions, we encourage you to contact one of our immigration professionals.

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