



GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS
TE KAUNONO TUTARA E TE MANA TIAKI - MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND IMMIGRATION

29 July 2022

Notice of Amended travel Advisory as at 29 July 2022

The Cook Islands current Section 9A Notice for refusal of Entry under the Entry, Residence and Departure Act 1971-72, signed into effect from 12 May 2020 and still active is as follows:

All persons are denied entry into the Cook Islands unless there is an exemption provided (in writing) by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (MFAI).

Effective from 12.01am 1 August 2022 (CKT) persons are exempted for entry into the Cook Islands, provided they meet the entry criteria specified in this notice, including the Schedule.

1 Entry requirements to enter Cook Islands by Aircraft and by Sea vessel

- (1) A person may enter the Cook Islands by aircraft and by sea vessel only if the person is vaccinated and provides evidence of vaccination

2 Persons not required to comply with vaccination requirements

The following persons are not required to comply with vaccination requirements to enter the Cook Islands:

- (a) a Cook Islander or permanent resident:
(b) a person under the age of 16 years:
(c) a person who holds—
(i) a medical exemption granted by the Secretary under clause 3 of the Schedule;
or
(ii) a COVID-19 vaccination exemption granted by the New Zealand Director-General of Health.

Details of the entry requirements relating to COVID-19 are set out in the Schedule attached to this notice. Sea vessels must enquire with Customs regarding any further restrictions to the maritime border.

All travellers must meet all other Cook Islands Immigration Entry requirements

All queries regarding this travel advisory can be directed to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (Te Kauono Tutara e te Mana Tiaki) on email: immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck.

Meitaki maata

Kairangi J. Samuela

Principal Immigration Officer



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SCHEDULE

1. Interpretation

1. In this notice, unless the context otherwise requires,

medical practitioner means a medical practitioner registered and entitled to practise in the country where they practise

Secretary means the Secretary of Health

2. Vaccination requirements

COVID-19 vaccines

1. A person is **vaccinated** for the purpose of this notice if the person has received at least all of the doses of any of the COVID-19 vaccines specified in clause 5 of this Schedule, at least 14 days before the scheduled departure date of their flight to the Cook Islands.

Evidence of vaccination

2. For the purpose of this notice, **evidence of vaccination** for a person is an electronic or paper document that confirms—
 - a. that the person has received a COVID-19 vaccine; and
 - b. the name of the COVID-19 vaccine that the person has received; and
 - c. the name of the Government or national agency that issued the certificate; and
 - d. the date on which the person received—
 - i. the dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, if only 1 dose is specified for that vaccine in the Schedule; or
 - ii. the last dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, if more than 1 dose is specified for that vaccine in the Schedule.
3. The Secretary may accept as evidence of vaccination a document that does not comply with clause 2.2 if the Secretary considers that the document provides satisfactory evidence that the person is vaccinated.

3. Medical exemptions

Application for medical exemption from vaccination requirements

1. A medical practitioner may apply to the Secretary for a medical exemption from vaccination requirements on behalf of a person who is unvaccinated.
2. An application may only be made on the ground in clause 3.8.
3. An application must be in a form approved by the Secretary.
4. The unvaccinated person must—
 - a. certify that the information they have provided to the medical practitioner for the purposes of making the application is accurate; and

- b. sign the application.
5. An application must be accompanied by a certificate signed by the medical practitioner certifying that they—
 - a. have reviewed the unvaccinated person's medical history and assessed the person's state of health; and
 - b. reasonably believe that the unvaccinated person meets the requirements of the ground in clause 3.8.
6. The medical practitioner must state the reasons for believing that the person meets the requirements of the ground in clause 3.8.
7. On receiving an application, the Secretary may ask the medical practitioner or unvaccinated person to provide any evidence or further information that the Secretary reasonably requires for the purposes of deciding whether to grant the application.

Ground for grant of medical exemption from vaccination requirements

8. The ground for granting a medical exemption from vaccination requirements is that the unvaccinated person on whose behalf an application is made cannot receive a COVID-19 vaccine because the vaccine is contraindicated for the person and a suitable alternative vaccine is not readily available.
9. To avoid doubt, the following are not valid reasons for granting a medical exemption for an unvaccinated person:
 - a. the person has had a negative experience with other vaccines;
 - b. the person is disabled;
 - c. the person is pregnant.

Grant of medical exemption from vaccination requirements

10. The Secretary may grant an application for a medical exemption from vaccination requirements if the Secretary is satisfied, on the basis of the evidence or other information provided, that the unvaccinated person on whose behalf an application is made meets the requirements of the ground in clause 3.8.
11. A medical exemption is valid for the period that the Secretary determines.

4. Exemptions and waivers

Aircrew and crew of vessels exempt from entry requirements

1. The following persons are exempt from the requirements in this notice:
 - a. an aircrew member of an aircraft that arrives in the Cook Islands;
 - b. a member of the crew of a vessel that arrives in the Cook Islands.
2. The exemption in clause 4.1 applies only if the person complies with any conditions.
3. In this clause,—

aircrew member means any person who—

 - a. is identified as a crew member on the crew manifest for the aircraft on which they arrive in the Cook Islands; or

- b. is not identified as a crew member on that manifest but is on the aircraft at the direction of an airline for which they work as a pilot, co-pilot, or flight attendant

conditions means conditions imposed by the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Immigration in writing and notified to the air carrier responsible for the aircraft or the master of the vessel, as the case may be

crew of a vessel means persons employed or engaged for hire or reward on board the vessel on which they arrive in the Cook Islands; and

includes—

- a. the master; and
- b. a person who is temporarily working on the vessel.

Diplomatic immunity

- 4. A person entitled to diplomatic immunity is exempt from the requirements in this notice.
- 5. In clause 4.4, **diplomatic immunity** means any immunity from jurisdiction—
 - a. under the Diplomatic Privileges and Immunities Act 1968, the Consular Privileges and Immunities Act 1971, or the New Zealand Representative Act 1980; or
 - b. by any order under any of those Acts.

Other exemptions

- 6. A person is exempt from the requirements in this notice if the person is on an aircraft that must enter the Cook Islands to preserve human life.
- 7. A person is exempt from the requirements in this notice if the person is on a vessel that —
 - a. is in distress; or
 - b. must enter the Cook Islands to preserve human life; or
 - c. is a foreign vessel that is exercising, in accordance with the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the right of—
 - a. innocent passage through the territorial sea; or
 - b. transit passage through straits used for international navigation.

Secretary may waive entry requirements

- 8. The Secretary may, after consultation with the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, waive any or all of the requirements in this notice if—
 - a. there is, or has been, a medical emergency or natural disaster that makes it impracticable for the requirements to be complied with;
 - b. critical work needs to be urgently carried out that makes it impracticable for the requirements to be complied with:

- c. the requirements should be waived on compassionate or humanitarian grounds.

A waiver may be for a person or a class of persons.

A waiver must be in writing

5. COVID-19 vaccines

- (a) 2 doses of Pfizer/BioNTech (Comirnaty, Tozinameran, BNT162b2):
- (b) 2 doses of AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria, AZD1222):
- (c) 2 doses of AstraZeneca (Covishield, Serum Institute of India formulation):
- (d) 2 doses of Moderna (Spikevax, mRNA-1273):
- (e) 1 dose of Janssen/Johnson & Johnson (Janssen COVID-19 Vaccine, Ad26.COVS.2.S, Ad26COVS1, JNJ-78436735):
- (f) 2 doses of Sinopharm, Beijing (BBIBP-CorV, BIBP vaccine, Covilo):
- (g) 2 doses of Sinovac (CoronaVac, PiCoVacc):
- (h) 2 doses of Bharat Biotech (Covaxin, BBV152):
- (i) 2 does of Novovax (Nuvaxovid, NVX-CoV2373):
- (j) a COVID-19 vaccine (including a combination of doses of different vaccines), specified in writing by the Secretary and published on a publicly accessible website maintained by, or on behalf of, the Ministry of Health.