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CLIENT UPDATE



Updates Regarding COVID-19 Entry Restrictions

April 8, 2021

The Israeli government recently updated the entry policy into the State of Israel due to COVID-19 restrictions. These are the highlights of the new entry policy, which includes relaxation of existing entry limitations in various categories as detailed below. Please note that all categories of permitted entry continue to require a *pre-approval* permission before entering the country.

- I – Foreign Experts (*foreign employees*)
- II – Foreign Businesspersons (*business visitors*)
- III – Foreign Nationals (*additional categories for entry*)
- IV – Additional general conditions for entry

I. The entry of Foreign Experts (foreign employees) into Israel during COVID-19:

(a) **Work Permits for Essential Foreign Experts** – The Immigration Authority is authorized to approve the entry of essential foreign expert workers. The request must be submitted by the employer of the foreign expert and it must include a recommendation from the relevant government ministry (i.e. the Health Ministry, Agriculture, Energy etc.) showing that the company has an essential need for the foreign expert (i.e. mainly in order to preserve functional continuity of the company).

(b) **Foreign Experts' Homeland Vacation** – The Immigration Authority is also authorized to allow re-entry into Israel prior to a foreign expert's flight abroad for a homeland vacation. Foreign experts who wish to travel for a homeland visit (alone or jointly with their family members in Israel who are covered by a family visa), may receive now such re-entry approval before leaving Israel.

II. Foreign Businesspersons (business visitors)

(A) Foreign Business Visitors who are vaccinated for COVID-19 and who wish to attend business meetings in Israel are required to obtain advance permission from the Ministry of Economy. Foreign business visitors who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 are also required to receive the additional approval of the Ministry of Health.

(B) The application for entry permission should be submitted to the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs (together with the Ministry of Economy and/or Ministry of Health approvals).

III. Foreign Nationals (additional categories of entry)

(a) *Entry of foreign nationals who are vaccinated for COVID-19 or COVID-19 recovered may be allowed in the following cases:*

1. A citizen or permanent resident of Israel who lives abroad and has a first-degree family member in Israel, may also obtain an entry approval to Israel for his/her foreign national spouse and/or children.
2. A foreign national who has a first-degree relative living in Israel (Israeli citizen or permanent resident), may get an entry approval to Israel (with his/her spouse and children).

Note: regarding sections 1-2 above, there is an obligation to present a valid Recovery Certificate or Vaccination Certificate (except for infants up to the age of one year)[1].

(b) *Entry of foreign nationals into Israel who have neither been vaccinated for COVID-19 nor recovered from COVID-19 may be allowed in the following cases:*

1. A foreign national who is married to an Israeli citizen or to an Israeli permanent resident, and their minor children, who meet several conditions including, inter alia, that the marriage is registered with the Israeli Population Registry and proof of their relationship.
2. A foreign national living abroad who submitted a marriage or partnership application (Marriage Visa or Partnership Visa) with an Israeli citizen or a permanent resident, will be allowed to enter Israel after obtaining pre-approval from the Immigration Authority and after complying with the conditions of the relevant procedure (note that in some cases where the process had already commenced, the entry approval may be submitted via the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs).
3. Foreign students who already began their studies in Israel and are currently abroad may obtain an entry approval, by way of an application submitted to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (via their local Israeli Embassy).
4. Note that the new policy also defines the entry conditions in additional specific cases such as weddings, funerals, Bar-Mitzvah celebrations, birth of grandson/granddaughter etc.

IV. Additional general conditions for entry

THE GUIDELINES FOR THOSE TRAVELLING TO ISRAEL AFTER RECEIVING THE APPROVAL OF ENTRY

(a) A person entering Israel is required to present a negative PCR result taken up to 72 hours before the departure date. Note that this applies also to those who have a vaccination certificate (confirmation of having been vaccinated against COVID-19) or a recovery certificate (a copy of a positive COVID-19 test and a letter from their medical provider documenting recovery and clearance to travel). Passengers must print out a copy of their PCR negative test result in order to present it to the Israeli authorities upon arrival in Israel.

(b) All passengers entering Israel must complete an online inbound passenger statement, which includes providing personal details and where they will be quarantining, as well as a health declaration. The statement must be completed no more than 24 hours before the scheduled departure. In addition, foreign nationals must also present the entry clearance provided to them by Immigration Authority ("Entry Permission")

(c) All passengers entering Israel must stay in quarantine for 14 days. The duration of quarantine can be shortened to 10 days, subject to two negative PCR test results taken at the beginning of quarantine and on the 9th day of quarantine.

(d) The entry of foreign nationals into Israel is subject to presenting confirmation of valid health insurance which includes coverage for COVID-19 medical treatment.

(e) Foreign nationals entering Israel who have recovered from COVID-19 or have been vaccinated for COVID-19 abroad, are required to observe the quarantine conditions and relevant Ministry of Health conditions, including conducting a serological test in the relevant cases.

(f) For the sake of clarity, the quarantine conditions for those who were vaccinated for COVID-19 abroad (and who hold official proof of their vaccination) or those who recovered from COVID-19 abroad, are required to perform a serological test in Israel in order to obtain an exemption from quarantine (this procedure can be done only in Israel and subject to the Ministry of Health approval). Note that a serological test (antibodies) must be performed in Israel in one of the laboratories recognized by the Ministry of Health, and after sending the results to the Ministry of Health and receiving formal exemption confirmation from the Ministry of Health.

[1] Please see also the requirements set forth below. In addition, the entry procedure is subject to providing various documents and, as noted above, pre-approval of the Immigration Authority.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE ABOVE, PLEASE CONTACT OUR TEAM AT ANY TIME

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