

Requirements for Overseas-Based International Air Crew: Precautions to Reduce the Risk of COVID-19 Infection

02 October 2020

The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Air Border) Order (No 2) 2020, COVID-19 Public Health Response (Isolation and Quarantine) Order 2020, and the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020 have been amended by the Public Health Response (Air Border, Isolation and Quarantine, and Required Testing) Amendment Order 2020 (the Amendment Order) which came into force at 11.59pm on 4 October 2020.

The Amendment Order introduces new legal requirements for air crew to prevent, and limit the risk of, the outbreak or spread of COVID-19.

This document outlines the new legal requirements for overseas-based air crew who fly into New Zealand. It also provides other information to support overseas-based air crew and airlines.

Air crew who must follow the legal requirements

Air crew are defined in the Public Health Response (Air Border and Isolation and Quarantine) Amendment Order (No 2) 2020 as any person identified as a crew member on the crew manifest for the aircraft on which they arrive in New Zealand. In this document, air crew refers to air crew who are not ordinarily resident in New Zealand.

Air crew may include cabin crew, pilots, flight engineers, cargo crew and horse grooms. The legal requirements apply to any air crew on the crew manifest whether for a commercial, cargo/freight, chartered, aeromedical or private flights.

The requirements for medical attendants travelling internationally are available [here](#) and New Zealand-based air crew [here](#).

On arrival

On arrival in New Zealand, all air crew will complete a *COVID-19 Crew Health Card* and health assessment.

Legal requirements during the New Zealand layover

- Air crew who do not remain airside are subject to a period of isolation or quarantine from the time when they arrive in New Zealand.
- Air crew will be transferred to a **managed isolation or quarantine facility (MIQF)** to undertake their period of isolation or quarantine. Overseas-based air crew who remain airside in the airport terminal **are exempt** from staying in a managed isolation facility while in New Zealand.
- Aircrew must maintain physical distancing of 2 metres from other people (to the greatest extent possible) while in their period of isolation or quarantine.
- Air crew must wear personal protective equipment as directed by a medical officer

of health or a health protection officer while in their period of isolation or quarantine.

For aircrew, this means wearing a mask from when they arrive in New Zealand including when they are moving through the airport or on the transport to and from the MIQF. The mask must not be slipped down or removed. They may also be required to wear gloves at certain times.

- Air crew must observe all MIQF requirements while in the MIQF. These will include using the transport provided by the MIQF to go to and from the MIQF.
- In most circumstances, air crew are not required to undergo testing for COVID-19 unless they wish to leave the MIQF after 14 days and enter the New Zealand community. In this case, air crew must meet the low risk indicators, including testing negative for COVID-19.
- Air crew are permitted to leave the MIQF if they are returning to the airport to return to their duties as international air crew (i.e. departing New Zealand).

Requirements for air crew who remain airside

- Aircrew who remain airside are not required to isolate or quarantine or go to a MIQF.
- Remaining airside means they remain on the airside of—
 - the security designated aerodrome at which they arrive in New Zealand; and
 - any other security designated aerodrome through which they transit until they leave New Zealand
- Airside means any part of the aerodrome or airport that is inaccessible to the general public but that is accessible to international arriving or international transiting passengers.

Other information

Dedicated transport will be provided to and from the MIQF. Air crew will not be transported alongside other international arrivals.

Additional standards to keep air crew safe

While overseas-based air crew are not subject to New Zealand laws while outside New Zealand, the Ministry recommends that air crew should undertake the following health precautions (at a minimum) to minimise the risk of infection during flight. These precautions can include:

- practicing regular and thorough hand hygiene at all times
- moving through a safe corridor at the airport if one is provided to minimise contact with other arrivals
- using dedicated private transport to and from the airport to the layover accommodation
- remaining vigilant for, and reporting, any possible symptoms of COVID-19 as early as possible, and
- staying home and seeking advice from Healthline if unwell.

Further questions?

You are welcome to send any questions to COVID-19BorderOps@health.govt.nz.