

BRINGING PRODUCTION CAST, CREW AND ASSOCIATED TRAVELLERS TO NEW ZEALAND

There is a pathway for screen production personnel to enter New Zealand even though there are currently border restrictions in place. A phased border re-opening is planned for 2022, and this is currently scheduled for review in late February 2022. Travellers able to enter New Zealand currently include:

- returning New Zealand citizens and permanent residents
- people who Immigration New Zealand considers have a critical purpose while the border is closed. This group includes some film cast, crew and associated travellers (e.g. spouse/partner, dependent children).
- people who meet the quarantine-free travel criteria – e.g. travellers from neighbouring Covid-free Pacific Islands.

1. Applying to bring film personnel to New Zealand

For the executives, cast and crew to enter New Zealand and secure MIQ rooms, productions must first apply for and be granted for each incoming person:

- A critical worker exception - apply using this [online form](#). We recommend including an attachment outlining why these personnel are uniquely qualified and essential to the project plus a production overview summarising the production and the economic impacts e.g. factors like the number of crew jobs and spend in New Zealand. You are welcome to [contact us](#) for guidance with your submission. Please note: there is provision for critical worker applicants to include family members in their submission (e.g. spouse/ partner, dependent children).
- Relevant Visa - personnel receiving approval for a border exception will be contacted by Immigration New Zealand and invited to apply for a 'Critical Purpose Visitor Visa with work rights' or a 'Critical Purpose Variation of Conditions visa'
- A 10-day room stay MIQ voucher – In response to Omicron, this has temporarily increased from 7 to 10 days with no self-isolation component. All travellers requiring an MIQ room must already have the legal right to enter New Zealand with border exceptions and relevant visas approved and these travel documents verified before registering to book room/s. Please note airlines do not allow travellers to board their flights to New Zealand without this voucher confirming their accommodation in a government assigned managed isolation hotel.

TIMEFRAMES: Please factor four to five weeks for consideration of your border exception approval and visa processing.

FEES: The fee is NZD \$380 to make a Border Exception request for critical workers. You can include several personnel on the one request and/or submit multiple times paying the fee per request.

2. Pre-departure

COVID-19 Testing Requirements: All travellers arriving in or transiting through New Zealand need proof of their negative COVID-19 test result returned no more than 48 hours before the scheduled departure time of the first international departure. You can review the Pre-Departure Testing instructions here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel-and-the-border/travel-to-new-zealand/pre-departure-testing-for-arrivals-into-new-zealand/>

NB: From Friday 7 January 2022, only a PCR or RT-PCR test will be accepted.

Vaccinated travellers: Travellers entering New Zealand are required to be fully vaccinated. Check the [approved list](#) of vaccines as well as your airlines' policy.

Vaccine Pass: A digital Vaccine Pass may be required to access restaurants, bars, retail stores and public venues and events. To obtain a Vaccine pass, international travellers apply to the Ministry of Health to have their overseas vaccination record added to New Zealand's Covid Immunisation Register (CIR). Information on how to apply can be found here: [COVID-19: Overseas vaccinations and certificates | Ministry of Health NZ](#). This process can take up to 14 days. Once overseas vaccinations have been added to the CIR, travellers will be able to apply for [My Vaccine Pass](#). There are 8 vaccines accepted from overseas for My Vaccine Pass, and the list can be found [here](#).

3. Mandatory managed isolation and accommodation – 10 days

The process for booking MIQ vouchers is outlined here: <https://www.miq.govt.nz/travel-to-new-zealand/secure-your-place-in-managed-isolation/the-managed-isolation-booking-system/virtual-lobby/>

On arrival in New Zealand, the aim is to keep flight passengers together and people may be required to travel outside of the city their flight arrived at for their 10-day MIQ stay. Note - transport is provided back to the airport first arrived at. Travellers will need to return a negative result from a day 9 test before departing MIQ.

Travellers are tested for COVID-19 during their managed isolation usually on day 0/1, day 3, day 6/7 and day 9 following arrival.

All managed isolation hotels meet New Zealand's public health requirements and provide three suitable meals a day (special dietary requirements are catered for), laundry services and Wi-Fi. The MIQ Hotel facilities are in Auckland, Hamilton, Rotorua, Wellington, or Christchurch. View list here: <https://www.miq.govt.nz/being-in-managed-isolation/isolation-facilities/facility-locations/>

When applying, please select double or twin rooms, note dietary requirements, accessibility considerations and any other needs or requests.

4. Charges for managed isolation

The charge for the first person in the room is NZD \$2,760 (est. USD \$1,870) for the MIQ stay inclusive of New Zealand's goods and services tax (GST) and is due to be paid within 30 days of the invoice being issued. Usually, the travelling personnel are invoiced directly although payment may be made on their behalf by the production company. Please note that the previous 7-day MIQ fee remains in place for the 10-day stay, and this is expected to be reviewed in January.

For more information about MIQ charges and fees, please visit the [MIQ website](#).

Workers entering as part of a group are expected to stay as one person per room. Couples or families can share rooms (additional charges apply). More information on Critical Worker Managed Isolation Fees can be found here: <https://www.miq.govt.nz/being-in-managed-isolation/charges-for-managed-isolation/charges-for-critical-workers/>

5. Time sensitive travel allocation (TST) applications

TST travel allocation decisions have already been made for endorsed travellers coming in January and February 2022.

For travel in March and April, the government may consider significant productions merit a Time Sensitive Travel (TST) allocation of MIQ vouchers for critical personnel. Information on the application process can be found here: <https://www.miq.govt.nz/travel-to-new-zealand/secure-your-place-in-managed-isolation/time-sensitive-travel-allocation-requests/>

The deadline for final submissions to the TST round is 21 January 2022 and the first step is requesting a letter of endorsement from the Ministry which needs to be included in your final submission. Please [contact us](#) as soon as possible to initiate this request.

Applications for March and April travel will be notified in the first two weeks of February.

INTERNATIONAL PRODUCERS: The New Zealand Film Commission can offer advice and provide liaison with the Ministry of Business Innovation and Employment (MBIE) for international productions, contact enquiries@nzfilm.co.nz to discuss details.

NEW ZEALAND PRODUCERS: For producers of New Zealand productions seeking support to bring personnel from offshore please contact MIQsupport@mch.govt.nz The Ministry of Culture and Heritage (MCH) is considering requests for support with the TST application process and also has a small monthly allocation of rooms which can be applied for.