



## **Build ON COVID-19 FAQ**

### **Frequently Asked Questions during the Covid-19 Pandemic**

**Last updated May 2020**

#### **1. Will newcomers be allowed to enter Canada?**

For the latest news on how the coronavirus disease (Covid-19) affects your immigration, citizenship and passport services, along with travel bans, exemptions, and other information based on your immigration status, please visit the Government of Canada's website by clicking [here](#).

If you were approved for permanent residence after the travel restrictions were announced on March 18th, 2020, please contact IRCC through their [web form](#) for more information.

#### **2. I'm unable to land in Canada before my documents expire, what should I do?**

If your PR application has been approved but you can't travel to Canada before your documents expire, contact IRCC to let them know via their [web form](#).

#### **3. Should I come now or later?**

Given that responses to this pandemic are changing day-to-day, we are not able to advise you as to when would be the best time for you to land in Canada. We would recommend that you consult relevant websites for appropriate travel advisories, including being aware of required quarantine periods upon landing:

[Government of Canada Travel Advisories](#)

[Coronavirus disease \(COVID-19\): Canada's response](#)

[Government of Canada Travel Health Notices](#)

[AirBnB COVID-19 Policy](#)

[World Health Organization \(COVID-19\)](#)

[CBC News Tracking COVID-19](#)

[Government of Canada COVID-19 Information](#)

#### **4. Where can I stay if I do not have a place to quarantine when I arrive?**

The Government of Canada has put in place an emergency order under the Quarantine Act, which applies to all travelers arriving in Canada. Self-isolation is mandatory for 14 days; failure to comply with this order is an offense under the Quarantine Act. You are expected to confirm you have suitable accommodations upon your arrival in Canada and able to provide information to the border services officer. If you do not have a place to self-isolate, the Chief Public Health Officer will designate a facility where you'll remain for 14 days. You can find more details by clicking [here](#).



## **5. Should I apply for private health insurance now with the current COVID-19?**

The Province of Ontario has implemented measures to continue protecting the health and well-being of its citizens. To ensure that anyone in need of care can receive it, Ontario is waiving the three-month waiting period for Ontario Health Insurance Plan (OHIP) coverage for those who have **arrived** in Ontario. Additionally, the province will cover the cost of COVID-19 services for uninsured people who do not meet the criteria for OHIP coverage. For more information, please click [here](#).

## **6. Will I still be able to apply for my SIN, receive my PR Card, etc. with the current situation?**

Municipal, Provincial and Federal governments have implemented online services to help overcome challenges of obtaining various government services for people in Canada. However, some services are affected and therefore you may experience delays. You can find details from the following links:

[Online application for Social Insurance Number](#)

[Processing time for Permanent Resident card](#)

## **7. What is the future for the job market in Canada?**

Most of the job market reports have not yet been updated and are currently reporting on January and February 2020 figures. However, we hope that these sites will be updated regularly with new information as the data becomes available. The Canadian Government is also making new announcements that offer supports and subsidies for businesses. Please see the links below for more information:

[Explore the Canadian labour market](#)

[Canada's COVID-19 Economic Response Plan](#)

## **8. Would employers still be open to new hires?**

While it is hard to know the exact long-term impact on businesses and agencies, we have found that a number of businesses are continuing with their virtual hiring events. Others who previously only considered in-person candidates are now changing their hiring practices as they're only able to conduct online interviews and fully online hiring processes. There continues to be job postings and shifts in labour market demand depending upon the sector and positions. These are some job search websites:

[Indeed Canada](#)

[Job Bank Canada](#)

[Eluta](#)

[Monster](#)

[Workopolis](#)

[LinkedIn](#)



### **9. Would I be eligible to apply for the Government of Canada's financial aid supports?**

Most of the Government of Canada's employment insurance programs are for Canadians and Permanent Residents who have already worked a certain number of hours within a certain time frame. To better understand other economic responses the Government of Canada is making to respond to the pandemic, please visit this [website](#) - see supports to individuals.

### **10. I have ample time these days. How can I best use my time to prepare for work in Canada?**

We encourage you to take advantage of pre-arrival services like Build ON to better prepare yourself for employment in Canada. All our services will continue to be available to our clients as long as they have PR status. Please remember to update your "estimated arrival date" with your Employment Consultant, as accounts become deactivated after 3 months of inactivity. Refer to [our website](#) for updates and information. We would encourage you to take this time to build your professional networks and to make as many online job applications as possible. Build ON, as well as many other organizations, will continue to provide regular interactive webinars to answer your questions about the Canadian labour market, trends, and your specific job search needs. In addition, we would encourage you to also access other e-learning opportunities at:

[HP Life](#)

[Codeacademy](#)

[Coursera](#)

[EdX](#)

[Stanford Education](#)

### **11. How should I go about networking during this time?**

The importance of networking during your employment search has not lessened during these challenging and unique times. Despite working remotely, you can still build meaningful connections to expand your professional network. Some tricks include creating or joining online discussions, rekindling dormant relations, and connecting with family and friends in Canada to introduce you to other people in your industry. The following websites can help you with understanding how to network during COVID-19:

[How to Ask for Help in Your Job Search during COVID-19](#)

[How to become better at networking despite the coronavirus keeping you at home](#)

[Networking is still important. Here's how to do it while you're stuck inside](#)



**12. To what extent does the current situation impact the quantity and quality of settlement services provided to newcomers?**

While most settlement services have had to close their physical locations, most agencies continue to provide information, referrals, and services to newcomers through online and virtual means. Some of these can be found here:

- [Settlement](#)
- [New Canadians TV](#)

**These are a few of the settlement agencies in Ontario offering online support:**

The Newcomer Information Centre of the [YMCA-YWCA of the National Capital Region](#)

Immigration and Employment services of the [Cambridge-Kitchener-Waterloo YMCA](#)

The Newcomer information Centre of the [YMCA of the Greater Toronto Area](#)

**13. I'm feeling stressed and anxious about Coronavirus. Where can I read accurate local and helpful information?**

These resources might be helpful to you:

[Mental Health and COVID-19](#)

[Taking care of your mental health during the COVID-19 pandemic](#)

You can also access this [webinar](#) that covers information about coping with stress.