



## COVID-19 : Public Messaging Regarding Workers

June 5, 2020

The Canada Border Services Agency (CBSA) is committed to minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19 in Canada while supporting Canada's critical infrastructure, economic services, supply chains and cross-border employment.

To that end, the CBSA will deny entry to any foreign national who displays symptoms of COVID-19 or whose travel is for an optional or discretionary purpose, such as tourism, recreation or entertainment.

### What You Need to Know if You Are Coming to Canada for Work

#### *Travelling from the United States (U.S.)*

Foreign nationals seeking to enter Canada from the U.S. must:

1. Not display symptoms of COVID-19; **and**
2. Must be able to demonstrate that they can meet the requirement to quarantine under the [Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Mandatory Isolation\), No. 2](#); **and**
3. Not be travelling for an optional or discretionary purpose, such as tourism, recreation or entertainment.

If you meet conditions 1 and 2, the purpose of your travel will be considered non-optional or non-discretionary if:

- Your place of habitual residence is in Canada and you hold a valid work permit; **or**
- You are coming to Canada for the first time to begin your employment **and** are in possession of a valid work permit or a work permit approval letter, **and** have proof of employment at a Canadian business which is operating; **or**
- You do not have a valid work permit or an approval letter **but** are eligible to apply for a work permit at a port of entry pursuant to section 198 of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations](#) **and** have proof of employment at a Canadian business which is operating.

#### *Travelling from a Country Other than the U.S.*

Foreign nationals seeking to enter Canada from a country other than the U.S. must:

1. Not display symptoms of COVID-19; **and**
2. Qualify for an exemption listed in section 3(1) of [the Minimizing the Risk of Exposure to COVID-19 in Canada Order \(Prohibition of Entry into Canada from any Country other than the United States\)](#); **and**

3. Not be travelling for an optional or discretionary purpose, such as tourism, recreation or entertainment.

If you meet conditions 1 and 2, the purpose of your travel will be considered non-optional or non-discretionary if:

- Your place of habitual residence is in Canada and you hold a valid work permit; **or**
- You are coming to Canada for the first time to begin your employment **and** are in possession of a valid work permit or a work permit approval letter, **and** have proof of employment at a Canadian business which is operating.

**All foreign nationals seeking to enter Canada, regardless of the purpose of trip or their status, must meet all admissibility requirements pursuant to the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Act](#). Meeting the conditions of the COVID-19 travel restrictions does not overcome or otherwise supersede admissibility requirements.**

Note: In accordance with Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) [program delivery guidelines](#), work permit applicants travelling to Canada from a country other than the U.S. must have approval from IRCC prior to travel. If you are travelling from a country other than the U.S., you will not be permitted to make an application for a work permit at the port of entry, even if you fall under one of the categories of section 198 of the [Immigration and Refugee Protection Regulations](#).

If you are flying to Canada, you can expect that your airline agent will conduct a health check to ensure that you are healthy enough to fly. In addition, the airline agent may also ask that you provide proof of your eligibility to travel and that you meet all conditions for travelling to Canada set out above. Failure to do so may result in the airline not permitting you to travel.

If you have questions or require further information about the CBSA, please visit our website at [www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca](http://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca) or call toll free 1-800-461-9999 (from Canada and the U.S.) or 1-204-983-3500 or 1-506-636-5064 (outside of Canada and the U.S.). For those with hearing or speech impediments, you may contact our TTY at 1-866-335-3237.