

# Guiding principles for Health Essential Traveller decisions

## Health Essential Traveller application information for interstate travel into SA

South Australia's management of COVID-19 has allowed the SA Government to ease restrictions throughout the state. This has been possible by ensuring the virus is not unknowingly brought into South Australia. This is why there are restrictions on the movement of people into from some jurisdictions. These restrictions are regularly reviewed and may change based on rates of community transmission in other jurisdictions.

Approval from SA Health is required to support the [Cross Border Travel Registration](#) for some Essential Traveller categories. The decision-making is guided by principles set by the Exemptions Panel, with a dedicated Exemptions team assessing applications.

### Who makes the decision regarding SA Health Essential Traveller Applications?

- > Decisions are made by the Exemptions Team on a case-by-case basis.
- > A SA Health Exemptions Panel, led by the Deputy Chief Public Health Officer and authorised officers, meets regularly to consider the applications.
- > In exceptional circumstances, appeals will be considered. This will be arbitrated by two senior health officials, independent of the Health Exemptions Panel.

### What factors are taken into consideration when assessing an application?

The general factors taken into consideration when assessing a SA Health Essential Traveller Application are:

- > the public health risk of introducing the COVID-19 virus into South Australia. This is based on regular reviews of the number of active cases and level of community transmission in other jurisdictions.
- > evidence that a health condition requires urgent management and that there is no suitable alternate options that do not require interstate travel for medical treatment.
- > the ability to provide and implement a Risk Mitigation Plan.
- > the ability of the applicant to follow strict adherence to quarantine requirements (supervised or self-quarantine)
- > advice from industry experts regarding the need for travel into South Australia and whether alternate arrangements can be made from low community transmission zones.

### I am a specialised worker in an essential sector. What do I need to do?

- > Essential sectors with the need for individual specialist workers to enter and exit South Australia need to have a Workplace Risk Mitigation plan for COVID-19.
- > This should include identifying potential risks, hazards and what controls are in place to mitigate potential risks.

# Guiding principles for Health Essential Traveller decisions

- > For more information on [Workplace Risk Mitigation plans](https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019) at [www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019](https://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019)
- > Risk Mitigation plans need to be submitted to [Health.COVID19RiskMitigation@sa.gov.au](mailto:Health.COVID19RiskMitigation@sa.gov.au)
- > Employers need to submit their Risk Mitigation Plan to SA Health and wait for approval before applying to SA Police for the Cross Border Travel Registration.

## Information for specific groups wishing to enter SA from Victoria (or via Victoria)

The outbreaks in Victoria have resulted in a 'hard border' closure that affects all travel between SA and Victoria. Only Essential Travellers can enter SA from Victoria and all applications are being carefully considered to ensure the risk to South Australians from COVID-19 is well-managed.

### Medical Exemptions

- > Requests for medical, dental or health treatment in South Australia made by residents of Victoria will be considered on a case-by-case basis.
- > The Health Exemption Panel will make a clinical assessment based on the information provided in the request.
- > Further information may be sought including direct discussion with the referring and/or treating clinician (with permission of the applicant).
- > The urgency of the treatment/procedure and ability for the procedure to be delayed or potentially provided within the home jurisdiction will be explored, including whether care can be safely delivered by telehealth.
- > The ability to mitigate risk of COVID-19 transmission will be assessed in consultation with the proposed health care service/hospital.
- > Depending on the current COVID-19 epidemiology in Victoria, requests for medical exemptions will not be approved unless considered urgent and an alternative arrangement cannot be made.

### Compassionate ground requests for end-of-life-related travel

- > Exemptions for end-of-life visits may be granted on compassionate grounds for people from Victoria if the predicted life expectancy of the family member is less than two weeks.
- > Evidence of clinical urgency is required from a registered medical practitioner.
- > There must be agreement by the facility (hospital, hospice or aged care facility) to permit the visit including written agreement by the facility of their ability to put in place risk mitigation procedures.

### Compassionate ground applications to attend a funeral

- > Applications for travel for funerals on compassionate grounds will be considered on a case-by-case basis and will only be approved in very exceptional circumstances (e.g., death of spouse, parent or child).
- > If approval is granted, a full 14 day quarantine period is required on arrival prior to attending the funeral.

### Requests to travel to provide general support to immediate family members

- > Exemptions will generally not be granted for people wishing to provide support to family members (e.g., older person shifting house, supporting family with new baby).

## Guiding principles for Health Essential Traveller decisions

- > However, the Health Exemptions Panel will seek to provide advice about other forms of support available in South Australia in such circumstances.

### Secondary school students returning to boarding school

- > Requests will be considered for students going to or returning from boarding school at the beginning or end of the term, but will not be granted for returning home on weekends other than in exceptional circumstances.
- > Information in the application must include residential address in the other jurisdiction, distance from the South Australian border, length of time in isolation from others at this residence and details of any other locations travelled to whilst in the other jurisdiction over the past two weeks.
- > Students travelling from Victoria will require strict quarantine either in supervised hotel quarantine or organised through the school, with clear indications on how this will be managed (e.g., provision of food and other essentials, adult supervision, mental health support).
- > Students or their school will be required to pay associated costs.

### University students

- > Requests for existing tertiary students to return to South Australia to continue studies will be considered.
- > Supervised hotel quarantine for 14 days will be required.
- > Students or their university will be required to pay associated costs.

### Requests to relocate to South Australia

- > Any requests to relocate from Victoria to South Australia at this time will only be considered in very exceptional circumstances.
- > Persons who have already purchased a property or have a rental agreement in place may be considered, depending on other circumstances, such as essential employment or compassionate grounds.
- > Proof of property purchase/rental agreement will be required.
- > Other supporting documentation, such as a contract of permanent or substantial employment in South Australia, should also be included.
- > You may be directed to undertake quarantine at a government-approved location at your expense.

---

## For more information

Department for Health and Wellbeing  
SA COVID-19 Information Line 1800 253 787  
[www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019](http://www.sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019)  
[www.covid-19.sa.gov.au](http://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au)



<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/>



Government  
of South Australia

SA Health