

Applying for SA Health Essential Traveller status

SA Health Essential Traveller online application form

If you wish to enter South Australia as an Essential Traveller, you may need approval from SA Health before submitting your [Cross Border Travel Registration](#) to SA Police. This includes Essential Travellers in categories for urgent medical, surgical or dental treatment; compassionate grounds; and health care workers who are required to undertake work on behalf of SA Health.

You need to seek this approval using the online [SA Health Essential Traveller Application form](#). Your Cross Border Travel Registration cannot be processed for these categories until you have written approval from SA Health. A Health Exemptions Committee, led by senior SA Health officials, meets regularly to consider these applications.

You are not required to seek approval from SA Health if you are entering South Australia from a low community transmission zone, however, you are required to complete the SA Police Cross Border Travel Registration.

Who needs approval from SA Health before registering for cross border travel into SA?

If you wish to enter SA from a [Prohibited Location](#) you need approval from SA Health for these Essential Traveller categories:

- > Urgent medical, dental or health treatment
- > Compassionate grounds
 - Funerals
 - Terminal/critical/end-of-life visits
- > Health services

You will be required to undertake 14 days mandatory quarantine. Depending on your circumstances and risk level, this will be in either a designated medi-hotel at your own expense or at a nominated address.

How do I get approval from SA Health?

- > If you require approval from SA Health to travel to SA, you will need to complete the online [SA Health Essential Traveller Application form](#).
- > This should be submitted with evidence to support your application **before** you apply for [Cross Border Travel Registration](#) from SA Police.
- > SA Police advise you should aim to complete the Cross Border Travel Registration at least 7 days before you plan to travel to South Australia, regardless of where your travel begins.
- > The SA Health Exemptions Team aims to respond within three to five business days, but there have been longer delays because of the high volume of requests for approval.

What sort of evidence is needed for my application?

- > You will need to provide written evidence to support your application.
- > This can be a letter, email or scanned document from your treating doctor, workplace, funeral home, aged care facility or treating doctor for your immediate family member.

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Who makes the decision regarding SA Health Essential Traveller Applications?

- > Decisions are made by the SA Health Exemptions Team on a case-by-case basis.
- > A SA Health Exemptions Panel of senior health officials 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.

Information for specific groups wishing to enter SA from Prohibited Locations

Only Essential Travellers can enter SA from Prohibited Locations and all applications are being carefully considered to ensure the risk to South Australians from COVID-19 is well-managed.

The COVID-19 situation interstate is being closely monitored and all decisions are based on a public health assessment at the time. Please check the [SA Health website](#) for the most up-to-date public health advice.

Medical Exemptions

- > Requests for medical, dental or health treatment in South Australia made by residents of prohibited locations 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.

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- > Depending on the current COVID-19 epidemiology in the interstate jurisdiction, requests for medical exemptions will not be approved unless considered urgent and an alternative arrangement cannot be made.

Compassionate applications for end-of-life related travel

- > Exemptions for end-of-life visits may be granted on compassionate grounds for people entering from a Prohibited Location 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 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, the funeral must be delayed as 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).
- > However, the Health Exemptions Panel will seek to provide advice about other forms of support available in South Australia in such circumstances.

Where will I need to quarantine if travelling from a Prohibited Location?

- > People travelling from Prohibited Locations and other high risk areas who have SA Health approval to enter SA may be required to quarantine in a medi-hotel at their own expense.
- > When your application is approved, SA Health will advise if you are required to quarantine in a medi-hotel as a condition of your exemption approval.
- > Majority of travellers from Prohibited Locations and other high risk areas are directed to quarantine at a nominated SA address that is not occupied by any other persons.

More information about medi-hotel quarantine fees is available at www.covid-19.sa.gov.au

How long will it take to receive a response to my application?

- > The SA Health Exemptions Team aims to respond within three to five business days.
- > Include in your application the planned date of your appointment or surgery, or an indication of the urgency of a request under compassionate grounds, as well as your expected travel date and mode of travel.
- > SA Health is working to respond as quickly and compassionately as possible during this difficult time for you.

Can I apply for both my Health approval and Cross Border Travel Registration with SA Police at the same time?

- > It is recommended that you wait for the outcome of your SA Health Application before submitting your Cross Border Travel Registration to SA Police.

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- > Without written approval from SA Health to support your application, the cross border registration may be declined.
- > If you have received approval from SA Health, you can make your Cross Border Travel application immediately and include the written approval from SA Health.

I have an urgent need to enter SA in the next 24 hours. How can I get a quick response?

- > SA Health will prioritise genuine urgent requests wherever possible and you can indicate the need for a rapid response in your application.
- > Include information to support your request, the date of travel, where you are entering SA from and why the application needs to be considered urgently.
- > Include supporting documents from treating doctor, workplace, funeral home, aged care facility or treating doctor for your immediate family member in your application to help assist with early assessment of your application.

Should I go to the SA border if I haven't received my written approval from SA Health before I need to travel?

- > You may be denied entry to SA if you do not have the approval and supporting documentation for the categories that require SA Health approval.
- > It is recommended you get that approval before you travel.

What if my application is denied?

- > The SA Health Exemptions Team considers applications on a case-by-case basis, and in exceptional circumstances, appeals may be considered.
- > If you wish to dispute a decision by the SA Health Exemptions Team, please contact SA Health at Health.COVIDExemptionsAppeals@sa.gov.au with any additional information to support your request for a review of the decision.
- > The internal review process will be arbitrated by two senior health officials, independent of the Health Exemptions Committee. You will be notified of the outcome in writing.
- > If you wish to further dispute the outcome, please contact the [SA Ombudsman](#).

SA COVID-19 Information line 1800 253 787

sahealth.sa.gov.au/COVID2019

covid-19.sa.gov.au

Department for Health and Wellbeing

SA Health, Government of South Australia

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