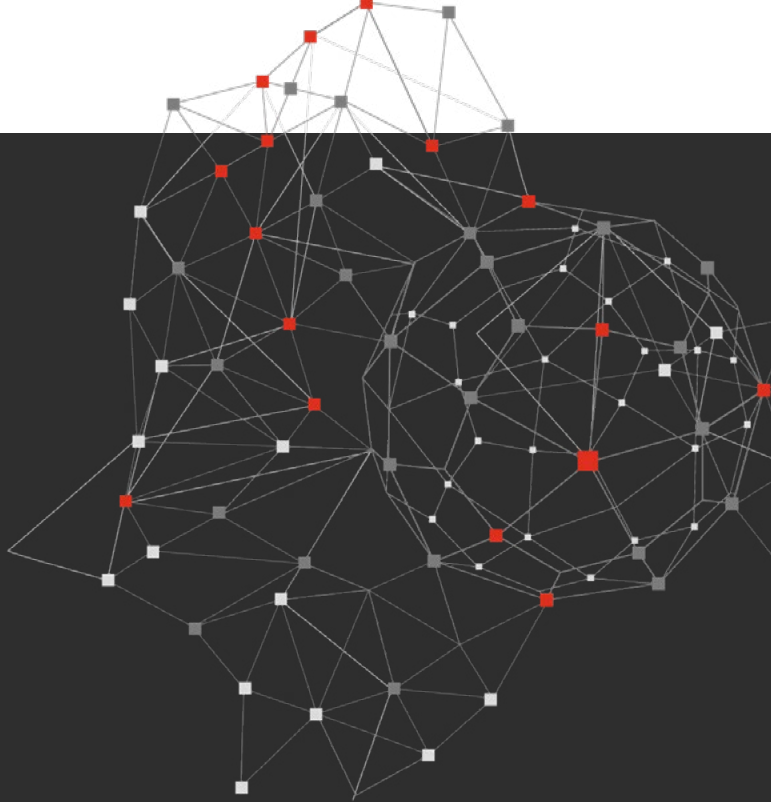




Immigration Update

18 May 2020



Implementation of measures to limit the spread of COVID-19 by the Civil Registry and Migration Department and Department of Labour

The Civil Registry and Migration Department, in line with the Decision of the Council of Ministers, dated 15 March 2020, concerning the operation of the Public Sector, announces that the Department is operating with limited personnel. Therefore, no applications for the issue or renewal of residence permits are accepted for submission, except in cases of extreme urgency.

Civil Registry and Migration Department's guidelines due to COVID-19:

- Third-country nationals who possess residence permits or tourist visas, whose validity has expired within a reasonable period of time and cannot be renewed or extended or for the third-country nationals who cannot be repatriated, no measures will be taken against them
- Due to the restrictions on the right of entry into the Republic of Cyprus, under the present circumstances with the degrees issued by the Ministry of Health, the issuance of all entry permits is suspended by the Civil Registry and Migration Department

Announcement regarding third-country nationals who hold temporary residence permits and have stayed abroad for more than 3 months and for third-country nationals who hold visas and have remained in Cyprus due to the measures taken to limit the COVID-19 pandemic.

On 18 May 2020, the Civil Registry and Migration Department informs the public affected by the restrictions on flights imposed as a measure to deal with the spread of the COVID-19 virus, of the procedures for the entry of third-country nationals who remain abroad as well as for the repatriation of third-country nationals who remain in Cyprus, as follows:

1. Third-country nationals remaining abroad who hold a valid temporary residence permit in all categories and the period of three months that entitles them to re-enter the Republic has expired after 15/3/2020, date on which the flight and entry restrictions into the Republic were imposed, can enter Cyprus when the restrictions are lifted, without with any further formality. Any other entry requirements that the Republic of Cyprus may impose in connection with the control of the spread of the pandemic, must be met.
2. Third-country nationals remaining abroad from 1/01/2020 onwards, whose temporary residence permit has expired after 15/03/2020, date on which the flight and entry restrictions into the Republic were imposed, provided that their permit does not bear the indication "FINAL - NOT RENEWABLE", can apply for an entry permit. The application will be examined and subject to approval, the entry will be allowed when restrictions are lifted. A clean criminal record certificate or medical certificates will not be required for the submission of the application. Medical certificates mentioned above do not include certificates required in connection with the control of the pandemic. In addition, any other entry requirements that the Republic of Cyprus may impose in connection with the control of the spread of the pandemic must be met.
3. For third-country nationals currently in Cyprus for visiting purposes, with national or other visas such as Schengen visas, whose validity expired on 15/03/2020 onwards, as long as the flight restrictions are in force, they are not required to take any further action and no measures will be taken against them, nor shall their details be placed on the Stop List upon their departure, given that they depart immediately and as soon as possible after the restrictions are lifted.

The Ministry of Labour, Welfare and Social Insurance (MLSI) announcement Automatic approval for employment of Third Country Nationals.

The MLSI on the basis of the measures for limiting the spread of COVID-19 announced that the existing approvals for employment will be automatically issued for one year and the relevant approval letters will be sent to employers. Hence, it is not required any additional application for approval to MLSI.

- The above is applicable to Third Country Nationals who are already employed on annual basis
- The existing employment contracts will be extended until the expiration date of the approval which will be sent to the employers



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