

COVID-19 Fact Sheet

Health Exemption Form: Guide to applying online

Health Exemption application information for interstate travel into South Australia

An exemption from SA Health is required to support the Cross Border Travel application for urgent medical, surgical or dental treatment, compassionate grounds and health care workers required to undertake work on behalf of SA Health.

From 1 September 2020, people wishing to make an application under these Essential Traveller categories, must request an exemption via the Health Exemptions online request application.

An Exemptions Panel led by the Chief Public Health Officer and authorised officers, meets regularly to consider the exemption requests. Your Cross Border Travel application via the SA Police website cannot proceed for these categories until you have written approval from SA Health.

How do I request a Health Exemption

- > The Health Exemption request application, with supporting evidence to support your request, should be submitted to the Exemptions Team as soon as possible and before you apply for a Cross Border Travel Registration from SA Police.

What sort of evidence is needed for my exemption request?

- > Supporting evidence required 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.

I will be entering from Victoria. Do the Victorian border restrictions allow me to come for urgent surgery or for regular medical treatment that I usually get in SA?

- > It will be assessed on a case by case basis taking into consideration your individual circumstances and health.
- > SA Health will continue to be guided by the clinical assessment from your doctor or specialist.
- > Your doctor or specialist may also be able to provide suitable alternate options that do not require interstate travel for medical treatment.

What about compassionate grounds exemptions for people entering from Victoria?

- > If you are travelling to SA from Victoria, the current restrictions mean if you need to enter SA to attend a funeral of an immediate family member you will need to obtain written approval, hotel quarantine for two weeks and defer the funeral.
- > Other circumstances that are considered under the compassionate grounds exemption need to be considered on a case-by-case basis.

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Can I come to South Australia to visit a critically or terminally ill family member or to attend a family member's funeral?

- > You can apply to SA Health to enter South Australia as an essential traveller under the compassionate grounds category if you have an immediate family member who is critically or terminally ill or if you are coming to attend the funeral of an immediate family member.
- > Note: If you will be visiting your immediate family member at a hospital, health care, disability care or residential care facility, you must ensure the relevant facility will allow you to visit.
- > This can be included in your application to SA Health as a supporting document.

What other evidence should I submit to support my compassionate ground request?

- > Letters, emails or scanned documents to support a compassionate grounds exemption request include:
- > **Attending a funeral of an immediate family member:** if you need to attend a funeral, a letter or email from the funeral home with the date and location of the funeral ceremony. You may only be granted an exemption to attend the actual ceremony, not the wake, commemoration or memorial, depending on where you are entering from.
- > **Visiting critically or terminally ill immediate family member in residential aged care facility:** You will need a letter from the treating doctor of your immediate family members and written permission from the residential aged care home, as they have particular requirements for entry.
- > **Visiting immediate family member in palliative care or critically unwell:** written evidence from doctor, hospital or hospice to submit with your exemption request.

How long will it take to receive a response on my exemption request?

- > It may take up to 72 hours to receive a response and there have been longer delays because of the number of request for a health exemption.
- > You need to include the date of your appointment or surgery, or an indication of the urgency under compassionate grounds as well as your travel date and mode of travel.
- > SA Health is striving to respond as quickly and compassionately as possible during this difficult time for you.

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

- > Include information about the urgency and the need to arrive in SA within a short time, including the date of travel and mode of transport.
- > SA Health will prioritise urgent requests as soon as possible.
- > In these circumstances, you may also submit your Cross Border Travel Registration at the same time, indicating you need to travel urgently within 12 hours.

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Does the SA Police response take another 72 hours or can I get both my health exemption and cross border travel application approved at the same time?

- > If you have received approval from SA Health, you can make your Cross Border Travel application immediately, including the written approval from SA Health.
- > SA Police continue to advise people who have submitted their Cross Border Travel Registration to proceed to the border with all documentation.

What should I do if I haven't received my written approval from SA Health before I need to travel?

- > SA Police continues to advise travellers to go to the border with their application number and supporting documents.
- > However, the essential traveller categories for urgent medical, surgical and dental, compassionate grounds and health care worker; you require the SA Health exemption.
- > You may be denied entry to SA if you do not have the approval and supporting documentation.

I have been waiting for more than 72 hours for a response to my request for a Health Exemption. What can I do?

- > There are currently a high number of exemption requests that SA Health is processing.
- > If you have not received a response after 5 days, email HealthExemptions.Covid19@eso.sa.gov.au

I have already booked my treatment or surgery. Will I get my approval in time?

- > You can submit your exemption request in advance and should allow for at least a week to get permission from SA Health and for SA Police to process and approve your application.
- > You should talk to your doctor or clinic if you are concerned that you may not receive approval in time to attend your appointment or have your urgent treatment or procedure.
- > SA Health will be guided by advice from your doctor or specialist.

For more information

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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