



September 2020

CHAIRMAN'S NOTES

RESIDENCY

Please check out the NEW information in the Government Liaison section, which deals with Passport validity when applying for Residency.

Also find about how 'Residency Renewals' will be dealt with online.

There is also information regarding an anomaly when dealing with High Earners applications.

You will also find the latest versions of the following documents on the Website Members Area under the Residency tab.

- [Online System - Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Online Residency System - Pictorial User Guide](#)

COVID-19

We have all seen the increase in the number of new cases of Covid-19 here in the TRNC and suspected that tighter controls needed to be applied to the validity of 'negative' PCR tests for persons arriving in the TRNC from the Mainland.

These have now been introduced with anyone beginning their journey to the TRNC from Turkey being required to have a QR code being included on their 'negative' PCR tests. Also, we have seen a reduction in the number of flights and ferries arriving which underlines the desire to control the virus.

We appreciate that the economy of the TRNC is fragile so please do not expect to see a total closure of the air and sea borders or another lockdown. For however long the

virus is with us we need to cope. If you take the appropriate precautions this will reduce your risk.

This quote recently caught my eye – ‘People are so worried about dying from Covid-19 that they have stopped living!’

Please abide by the rules and your risk will be greatly reduced.

GREEN LINE CROSSINGS

Now only TC citizens and other authorised persons can travel to and from the Republic of Cyprus. Any foreign residents arriving in the TRNC from the Republic of Cyprus WILL NOT BE RE-ADMITTED. If this changes you will be notified.

Our advice is that until further notice if you are booked onto a return flight to the UK from either Larnaca or Paphos OR planning to fly to either airport with the intention of travelling onward to the TRNC speak to your airline and explain you are being refused access to your destination. Hopefully, you will be able to reschedule the flights or obtain an ‘open ticket’ or refund, as for the time being your ONLY route to the TRNC is via Ercan.

When this changes we will inform you.

PCR TESTING - TRNC

The Undersecretary of the Ministry of Health, said in a statement that those people who want to have a PCR test will have to go to Lefkosa (Dr. Burhan Nalbantoğlu) State Hospital and should apply and pay at the Outpatient Diagnosis Centre.

Tests can be completed during the day or the next day, Çaygür advised those with Negative Results should carry the receipt for the TL 300 payment with the PCR test result.

Test can also be undertaken at the Near East hospitals at a cost of 200tl

PCR TESTING – UK

There has apparently been some confusion caused in some comments appearing from other sources about changes in the PCR test with effect from the 13th August. To be clear there has been no change in the criteria for a PCR test, since the 16th July, when the last reference to PCR tests was issued by the TRNC Health Ministry.

For absolute clarity, the PCR Test sample must be taken not less than 72 hours (3 days) before the flight departs the UK and no further ahead than 120 hours (5 days) before the flight departs from the UK. However equally when having the test taken on the 5th and maybe even late on the 4th day, be mindful that you must arrive in the

TRNC before 120 hours (5 days) has elapsed as otherwise the validity of the test will have expired, and don't forget to factor in the 2 hour time difference between the UK and the TRNC.

The latest official entry regulations specifically refer to a PCR **TEST DOCUMENT**. This may well mean that showing the TRNC Health Official your mobile phone upon arrival, with a text message, with your PCR test may no longer be acceptable.

If you undergo a UK NHS PCR test this is NOT sufficient for your entry into the TRNC. Having seen these results, **they do not contain the relevant information**, so private testing is still required. Please see the following link

www.fitfortravel.nhs.uk (Pre travel COVID-19 testing)

The site specifically states that the NHS PCR test is **NOT** a 'fit to fly' test, and members should be aware that this is the case and need to advise you that this could result in a refusal to enter the TRNC.

A full list of UK clinics offering private PCR tests is available on the BRS Website Members Area under the Tab COVID-19.

ENTRY CONDITIONS INTO THE TRNC FROM THE UK

- If any foreign national or a TRNC citizen arrives in the TRNC from a journey that started in the UK, then provided that they have completed the TRNC Ministry of Health Information and Obligation form possess an acceptable PCR test certificate, clearly showing the date and time that the test sample was taken, which are within the deadlines specified, then they will be allowed to enter the TRNC, provided that they are home-owners and agree to a second PCR test upon arrival.
- Having sought clarification from the Undersecretary for the Ministry of Health regarding the phrase **PROPERTY OWNERS** this has been extended to include persons in rented or lease properties, if they can provide documents that show occupancy. This can either be a Kocan, stamped Sales Contract, stamped Rental or Lease Agreement BUT can also be utility bills in the name of the householder.

The regulations **are clear** that should you **NOT** comply with the self-isolation conditions, then you will be taken to a quarantine centre, and could also face legal action for failure to comply. It is therefore essential that if you are facing self-isolation, that you must ensure that sufficient provisions and water is going to be available at you home, for the full 7-day period.

Presumably if you are unable to prove beyond reasonable doubt that you are a property owner or have occupancy in a rented or leased property then you will be placed into quarantine.

**LEAVING YOUR PROPERTY TO COLLECT SHOPPING IS NOT ALLOWED AND
COULD RESULT IN PROSECUTION AND MANDATORY QUARANTINE**
FACEBOOK GROUP – INVITATIONS TO JOIN

As of this morning we have 750 members who have joined our Facebook group (British Residents' Society – Official) This continues to be a quick and easy method for us to circulate the latest relevant information to our members. It is strictly an information group, but if people have questions about the posts, we will try to answer them as quickly as possible.

We have been asked why this Group is only for members. It is because we will not allow information that is not verifiably correct to be posted or added to other posts. If this is seen it will be removed. Also, we have seen in other Groups that posts can get 'out of control' due to their members putting their opinions rather than verified facts, which causes confusion and leads to individuals making poor choices.

If you are looking for 'discussion' groups, then it is not for you!

GOVERNMENT LIAISON

RESIDENCY UPDATE - 1

The Ministry of the Interior have sent a draft document to the Council of Ministers, for some temporary amendments to the Regulation of Residency Permits and Visas.

One of the amendments is about passport expiration dates. According to the current rules, Passport must be valid 2 months longer than the length of the residency permit to be issued.

Because of the Coronavirus pandemic they have drafted this rule to be by-passed for the applications made until the end of this year.

Please note that, the amendments have not been approved, and are yet in force. Other amendments will be notified in due course.

RESIDENCY UPDATE – 2

UPDATED INFORMATION REGARDING RENEWALS OF RESIDENCY VISAS.

As a result of our numerous discussions with the Immigration department, we now have some clarity in relation to some of the renewal procedure for Residency visas. It has been agreed that within a few weeks, a renewal tab will become active, within your application, at a predetermined time, prior to the expiry of your current residency visa.

We hope this will conform to the current regulations, which state that renewals can be started 60 days prior to expiry.

We also hope that the appearance of the renewal tab will coincide with the automatic generation of an e-mail and or a text message that will remind you to renew your residency visa.

By selecting the renewal tab, this will initiate the renewal process. We will give you further details of the process as soon as the procedure has been finalised, which will be very shortly.

Subject to final confirmation, the entire renewal process will be handled on-line. Police Station appointments will therefore remain only for initial residency visa applications via the new on-line system.

RESIDENCY UPDATE – 3

HIGH INCOME RESIDENCY VISA APPLICANTS – (RENTING A PROPERTY BUT NOT OWNING)

An anomaly has arisen when High Income applicants commence the registration procedure, that leads to the Police Station Appointments.

All High Income Applicants, must now have a copy of either a Private Health Insurance Policy (first page) or a copy of a Koop Bank payment receipt that has been endorsed by the Health Ministry (in Lefkosa) as well as a copy of your Passport Picture Page and Mukhtar's Letter ready and available for uploading into the system, as your progress through the registration, that culminates in a police station appointment being allocated to you.

If needing to go and make a payment at the Koop Bank for the State Health Insurance, please ensure that you have your passport with you at the time that you make your payment at the bank. You will be given two payments receipts. You will also need your passport when registering the payments at the Health Ministry.

To simplify the process, you may want to make the payment at the Koop bank that is located a short distance from the Health Ministry in Lefkosa, then go immediately to the Health Ministry and register the payment.

The anomaly arises at the stage where a copy of the Passport Picture Page and the Mukhtar's Letter need to be uploaded into the on-line system.

As you will see from the enclosed image, you must now upload a copy of some sort of Health Insurance document at that stage as well, whether you have answered yes or no, to having Health Insurance (private)

Unless you upload a document at this stage, you will be unable to progress further with the application.

You will then include a copy of the full private health insurance policy document or a copy of the Koop Bank receipt that has been endorsed by the Health Ministry with the other documentation that you have already been asked to take to the police station appointment.

This anomaly will be corrected in due course, and we will advise, when that happens.

HEALTH AND WELFARE

Following the recent disaster in Lebanon several organisations are raising awareness and aid for those affected.

The following is a recent article published in Cyprus Scene.
Support for Lebanon, please help if you can

Medi Foundation, Viola Edward Kayana Consultancy and Ersoy Law Firm have joined forces to support victims affected by the disaster in Lebanon.

Your donations in money, clothing, dry food, and tinned food, together with towels, medicines, diapers, and bedding are very much needed.

Please send your donations to the relevant collection points.

For all your financial contributions see the link below, that has all the bank details and accounts, please include the annotation "Lebanon Help".
Financial Contributions Support can be made to the accounts shown on this link
<https://www.medifoundation.com/en/support/>

The money from your donation will go to help women in restoring their businesses and their lives through the "Stand for Women" organisation –
www.standforwomen.org

The food and the goods will be received by the "Beit El Baraka" organisation to be delivered to individuals and families. – www.Beitelbaraka.org

We are sure that together, we can make a difference for the people affected in Lebanon during this painful and challenging time.

ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

The Medi Foundation are currently working with Alcoholics Anonymous in the TRNC to provide care and support for those people with an alcohol dependency.

Further details will be circulated once they have been finalised.

An information article from Prodent, our dental implant sponsor:

	We strongly believe in advocating high quality dental implants and in particular, Straumann®. Here are some facts about quality (implant material composition and implant surface design) for your information
	What to know: Straumann's Roxolid® Dental Implants is an alloy of ~85 % titanium and ~15 % zirconium. The combination of the properties of these two metals leads to higher tensile and fatigue strength than comparable titanium implants (Bernhard et al., 2009; Grandin et al., 2012; Ho et al., 2008; Kobayashi et al., 1995).

Did you know?

Roxolid® shows a 10 – 15 % higher ultimate tensile strength compared to titanium grade 4 implants (Medvedev et al. 2016).

Did you know?

The fatigue strength of Roxolid® SLActive® reduced-diameter implants was found to be up to 21 % greater than that of comparable titanium SLActive® Implants (Medvedev et al., 2016).

	What to know: The classic SLA® surface, introduced in 1998, is based on a large- grit sandblasting technique that generates a macro-roughness on the titanium surface. This is followed by acid-etching that superposes a micro-roughness. The resulting topography offers an ideal structure for cell attachment. Many peer-reviewed clinical and preclinical studies have confirmed its strong long- term performance and reliability. According to an independent study, the odds ratio of developing peri-implantitis was more than three times higher in patients treated with competitor implant systems compared with Straumann® implants with SLA® surfaces.
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Did you know?

Today, dentists and their patients expect not only a successful dental implant treatment but also a short treatment time. The SLA® surface is one of the best long-term documented surfaces in dental implantology (Buser et al., 1991; Cochran et al., 1996).

Did you know?

The Roxolid® material and the SLActive® surface technology each received the Frost & Sullivan Medical Device Technology of the Year Award.

PUBLIC RELATIONS

FACEBOOK.

At present ALL posts are moderated and only those which will add value to the Group will be posted. If we decline a post, you will be informed as to the reason.

This is to ensure that the Facebook Group page retains its key purpose – that of providing accurate and verifiable information to our members.

Those of you on Facebook – why don't you try us?!

MEMBERSHIP

Below are the latest membership renewals

Total members renewed to date	1537
Total new members this year	275
Members who have paid in advance for 2021	573
Life Members	143

Some of last year's members are still to renew and this can be done at any of our regular clinics throughout the year. Do not forget to visit the website to keep up to date with the list of healthy discounts available to members in local shops, hotels etc. Our list continues to grow weekly.

EVENTS

Our annual Life / Honorary Members lunch will take place at The Ship Inn October 15th commencing at 1pm. We look forward to seeing as many of our Life / Honorary Members as possible. Full details will be released very soon.

To book your place for this event please e mail events secretary:
Pat Waddington – events.brstrnc@gmail.com

The AzraClair 'experience' will be starting again in October with some delicious new menus. Details will be released very soon.

CLINICS

- Lapta (Lambousa Market every Saturday morning 10.00-12.00)
- Girne (The Hut every Saturday morning 10.00 to 12.00)
- Catalkoy (Creditwest Bank – Monday mornings 09.30 to 11.30 am)
- Alsancak (Creditwest Bank – Wednesday 0930am to 1130am)
- Esentepe (Stone Castle – 3rd Tuesday of every month)
- Küçük Erenköy **The BRS Clinic at Charlie's Bar will be held at the Stone Castle, Esentepe until further notice, at the earlier time of 11am until 1pm.**
- Bogaz (Eddie's Restaurant – 5th and 19th September. 11am–1pm)

MEMBERS – HAVE YOUR SAY

Whilst the pages of our newsletter are limited, feedback is very important to us. If you have something to tell us, happy or sad, that concerns you or another member please forward your news with permission to print to info.brstrnc@gmail.com.