



WEEKLY UPDATE – 6th SEPTEMBER 2020

ENTRY CONDITIONS INTO THE TRNC FROM THE UK

As a result of the current increase in cases of COVID-19 in the TRNC the following order has been introduced, **AND SUPERCEDES ALL PREVIOUS INSTRUCTIONS REGARDING ENTRY TO THE TRNC FROM THE UK,**

UPDATED GUIDELINES/DECISIONS ON ENTRY- EXIT INTO THE TRNC (05/09/2020).

- A) For travellers coming from Category B countries (including Turkey and England), it has been decided to quarantine for a 7-day period in effect from 7 September 2020.

For those in any doubt, quarantine will be in a Government specified hotel for a 7-day period, where you will be provided with food and water. You will not be allowed to mix with other persons or use facilities except those provided in your room. You will not be allowed to receive goods or food from external sources nor be allowed visitors. You will be tested towards the end of the quarantine period and released if this is negative.

It will be in effect from 6 September 2020 23:59 until 20 September 2020 23:59. At the end of this date, this procedure will be assessed again.

It is a very low possibility for someone who has taken a PCR test on two separate occasions to test positive in a 3-day period and infect others with the disease. Thus, travellers entering to TRNC from Category B countries with 2 Negative PCR results are exempted from the quarantine procedures, given that they **stay in TRNC less than 72 hours (Hour 72 is included)**. Again, people going to work from TRNC to Turkey, who complete their work in Turkey within 72 hours, are exempted from quarantine provided that they take 2 PCR tests with a negative result, 5 days before and after their travel.

- C) Students coming to TRNC for higher education are to isolate in dormitories or hotels their universities decide on.

D) Quarantine procedures will be considered for those who travelled abroad for health reasons if they apply to the Ministry of Health.

E) Procedure for travellers coming from Category C:

People coming to TRNC are obliged to provide a negative PCR test result taken in 0-120 hours before travel, upon their entry to the country. They will be quarantined for a 14-day period at the dete

2. As there have been an increased density of local infections in Vadili, İnönü and Akdoğan regions in the last couple of days, starting from 7 September 2020 (the date included) until 20 September 2020 (the date included), weddings, meetings, etc., crowd organizations have been banned in these areas for a period of 14 days. Opening of schools in those regions are postponed for a 14-day period.

3. A) Businesses will be shut down if at events such as beach clubs, birthday celebrations, henna nights (bachelor/ bachelorette parties) etc., activities are checked and found to be not following the social distancing rules.

Weddings and similar open-air organizations will receive restrictions if at these organizations, the rules are not followed.

4. Restaurants, cafes and businesses providing food service are to continue serving if they follow the hygiene and social distancing rules. If they are detected to not to, they are subjected to shut down.

5. Precautions for transportation sector; drivers' section is to be separated from the travellers by an apparatus. Meanwhile, the windows will be open, no air-conditioning will be used and everyone on the vehicle should wear face masks. Travellers' name-surname and address records must be taken on a date basis.

NOTES:

-There have been no changes to the procedures regarding Category B travellers' required PCR tests.

- The following people will be exempted from the mentioned quarantined costs:
People entering TRNC as students,
- People who went abroad before 6 September 2020, (Not UK Citizens)
- Patients who went to Turkey for health reasons and personnel sent on duty.

RESIDENCY

Please check out the NEW information below, which deals with Passport validity when applying for Residency.

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

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](#)

[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 not 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.

COVID-19

We continue to see 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, the Undersecretary also advised those with Negative Results should carry the receipt for the TL 300 payment with the PCR test result.

PCR Tests 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, 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.

It you undergo a UK NHS PCR test this is NOT sufficient for your entry into the TRNC in itself, without further documentation and written authentication by your GP in the UK, which must be attached to the NHS test result. Having seen an example of an NHS test result, **they do not contain the relevant information.** Please see the following link

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

The NHS 'Fit to Fly' website clearly says that "COVID-19 testing for the purposes of international travel is not available on the NHS. Pre-travel COVID-19 tests may be available in the private sector, however, private testing processes and accuracy of results may vary".

For those who opt to use the NHS testing facility do so at their own risk. Some NHS GP surgeries do offer a Private Administration service where charges will be applied for any supporting documents to support travel.

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

MEET THE COMMITTEE EVENTS

At this time last year, we introduced two 'Meet the Committee Coffee Mornings' events to enable members to meet with the team to ask questions and to enjoy a tea or coffee with some biscuits/snacks.

This year we are planning to hold THREE such events. They will be held in Girne – West, Girne – East and the Iskele / Bogaz area.

We are planning to hold them during 21st September and 2nd October, so once we have confirmed the venues and dates, we will let you know.

The events will be open to members only – on production of a current membership card.

RESIDENCY DEADLINE

There is now six weeks until the **23rd October** which is the official date by when ALL residency applications for persons over 60 should be completed.

However, having spoken to the Immigration Department it will be sufficient for ALL applicants to have attended the appointment at the Police Immigration Department to comply.

We therefore urge anyone who is Over 60 years of age and has not yet begun their residency process to begin as soon as possible. If you do not comply you could face a fine of 180TL per person per day, for every day beyond 23rd October – if you have not attended the Police Station appointment.

People have asked if this date will be 'postponed' due to COVID-19, but at present we are being told – 'they have had 12 months in which to apply'!

If you are still out of the TRNC, then on your return you will be granted a visa and if you can evidence the fact that you own property in the TRNC you should be granted 90 days. This will be sufficient to make your application using the online system and get to the stage where you attend the Police Station, in good time.

FACEBOOK GROUP PAGE

As you have seen already in this Update you will, by now, realise how quickly things change in the TRNC in relation to travel and Residency.

The best way to ensure you are up to date is via our Facebook Group page – British Residents' Society – Official.

We do issue weekly email updates but please be aware that if anything important happens you will have to wait for the Weekly Update/Newsletter to be published.

We now have 760+ members – these are actual paid-up members of the BRS – NOT purely ‘followers’ of a Group!

Join us – it will give you accurate answers to your questions quickly!

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 – 19th September 11am–1pm)