



Information about arrival and quarantine for foreign diplomats

This document provides general information about arrival and quarantine. It is updated regularly and should be read each time an application for quarantine is made.

Quarantine

Diplomats and their dependants holding a diplomatic (subclass 995) visa returning from overseas must quarantine for 14 days on their arrival into Australia. Depending on the circumstances, this will be in government-designated quarantine facilities, at home or in private accommodation. Missions should inform the accommodation provider in advance of their arrival that the booking is for a foreign diplomat and/or dependant undertaking quarantine.

Missions are required to advise the Protocol Branch of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade at least 10 working days before travel. This period is required for Protocol Branch to liaise with the relevant state/territory health authorities to request the necessary quarantine exemptions. If missions fail to give us ten days' notice, we cannot guarantee the application for their diplomat and/or dependant will be processed in time before their travel.

The mission must provide an Australian mobile phone number for the diplomat/dependants in the quarantine exemption application. If this is not possible, the mission must provide an Australian mobile phone to the diplomat immediately on their arrival and advise Protocol Branch of that phone's number. The phone number is provided to state and territory health authorities for regular monitoring.

Pre-arrival testing

Diplomats and their dependants must undertake a COVID-19 test (PCR test) and receive a negative test result 72 hours* or less before coming to Australia.

- This applies to all travellers five years of age or older.
- The test must be done 72 hours or less prior to departure.
- The diplomat/dependant must present a negative result when checking in prior to boarding their flight. Test results must be provided in English.
- If transiting through a third country on the way to Australia, you should check on any local requirements at your transit destination and follow the advice of local authorities on social distancing and mask wearing while in transit.
- If a diplomat/dependant or any member of their travelling group tests positive, they will not be permitted to travel to Australia.
- Exemptions to this requirement will only be applied in extenuating circumstances such as where there is no access to testing.

Any diplomat/dependant who has a negative test result and enters Australia must still complete mandatory 14-day quarantine.

*This requirement has been extended to 96 hours for the following countries with a diplomatic presence in Australia: Cook Islands, Nauru, Timor-Leste (*subject to change*).



Travel arrangements

Where possible, the diplomats/dependants should fly into the city where they normally reside. If not possible, they must undertake quarantine in the city of first arrival before continuing their onward journey to their city of residence. However, special arrangements are in place for Canberra-based diplomats (see below).

If opting into government-designated quarantine facilities, diplomats/dependants will be taken by bus directly to their hotel. State and Territory authorities are responsible for allocating hotels, taking into account family composition.

If approved to undertake quarantine at home or in private accommodation diplomats/dependants must travel directly by private vehicle from the airport to their place of quarantine.

Travel advice for Canberra-based diplomats

Canberra-based diplomats/dependants who wish to quarantine at home or in private accommodation should arrive at Sydney Airport and arrange for a private vehicle to transport them to Canberra. This could be a mission car with driver, chauffeur car with driver, private car with driver, or self-drive in own car or hire car.

In relation to private vehicle travel from the airport to the place of quarantine, health authorities advise:

- travel from the airport to the place of quarantine should be direct; if stops are required they are to be in isolated rest stops only
- returning travellers should wear a surgical mask and sit in the back seat away from the driver
- if there is more than one returning traveller, use a large vehicle, such as a van, or more than one vehicle
- travellers should handle their own luggage
- car windows should be down to allow fresh air to circulate in the vehicle (avoid heating/cooling on recirculated air)
- drivers who collect diplomats/dependants from airports are to self-monitor for the following 14 days and be tested for COVID-19 if they develop any symptoms. They are not required to quarantine during this period.

Mission drivers or privately arranged drivers should be made aware the passenger/s have recently returned from overseas and have not yet quarantined. Drivers must be Canberra-based, and their contact details provided to health authorities for contact tracing purposes (see Notification Form).

Changes to travel arrangements

Missions are encouraged to consider contingency plans for unexpected situations such as flight delays, chauffeur services not arriving, or hire cars being unavailable.

If there are any problems with or changes to a diplomat's/dependant's travel plans before they reach their place of quarantine, please advise Protocol Branch promptly for assistance.

Requirements for home quarantine

For those approved to undertake quarantine at home (or in private accommodation) diplomats/dependants must remain in home quarantine for 14 days. Health authorities advise:



- diplomats/dependants must have minimal contact with others residing in their home and avoid shared or communal areas (such as bedrooms or bathrooms)
- If there are other people residing in the home, and it is not possible to self-isolate and avoid shared areas, all household members are required to home quarantine for the 14 days (this includes minors).
- if other household members, who did not travel overseas, decide to quarantine for the 14 days, their contact details will be provided to the relevant health authorities to enable regular monitoring (see Notification Form)
- if other household members, who did not travel overseas, decide not to quarantine for the 14 days, they should stay in alternative private accommodation during the 14 days.

COVID-19 testing

Diplomats and their dependants, without prejudice to their immunities, are asked to respond to reasonable questions from public health officials and to allow their health to be checked. The Australian Government encourages diplomats and their dependants to voluntarily comply with local COVID-19 testing requirements. For those diplomats and dependants arriving at either Sydney or Melbourne airports, you will be offered a COVID-19 test on arrival. Additional testing requirements will be advised by local health authorities.

Health authorities will advise arrangements for testing. Unless health authorities advise diplomats/dependants should be tested at home, they must travel directly to and from a testing facility by private vehicle.

If a diplomat or dependant tests positive to COVID-19

If a diplomat/dependant tests positive to COVID-19, they should follow the guidance of the relevant State/Territory health authority regarding treatment, quarantine, and further testing.

Protocol Branch would appreciate early notification if a diplomat/dependant tests positive for COVID-19. This is to ensure the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade can provide appropriate support to the mission.

COVID-19 vaccination

Even if a diplomat/dependant has been vaccinated against COVID-19, they are still required to quarantine for 14 days on arrival to Australia. Vaccinated travellers are not eligible for modified or shortened quarantine arrangements.

Questions about quarantine for foreign diplomats can be sent to Protocol.Branch@dfat.gov.au or you can call the Protocol Branch Duty Officer on 0418 167 127. Information is also available online in the DFAT Protocol Guidelines.



Acknowledgement Form

COVID-19 ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOREIGN DIPLOMATS

By signing this form from the Australian Government, I acknowledge that I have read and understood the Australian Government’s COVID-19 information about applicable quarantine arrangements for foreign diplomats and dependants in Australia.

I will cooperate with these arrangements on a voluntary basis [and ensure my dependant family members do the same].

Name: Mission:

Signed: Date: ____ / ____ / 20____