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COVID-19 – Additional Restrictions on Travel into Israel

The State of Israel enacted earlier today (April 12, 2020) a revision to regulations dated April 2, 2020 (published on April 3, 2020), imposing additional restrictions on persons entering into Israel from abroad. Under these regulations as revised earlier today, Israeli nationals or residents entering into Israel will be placed upon arrival in a 14 day isolation period in a State-supervised hotel at the expense of the State. Exceptions to this rule, allowing an isolation period in a different location, can be made only for health or humanitarian reasons or under other special circumstances and pursuant to terms to be determined.

It is interesting to note that these new restrictions apply only to Israeli nationals or residents entering into Israel. While this definition may in practice include most individuals entering into Israel at this time, there are notable exceptions. One such exception is individuals "whose lives are based in Israel", who have been allowed entry into Israel even if they are not Israeli nationals or residents (see our previous update on this matter of [March 19, 2020](#)). Another exception is non-Israeli nationals and residents who continue to receive entry permits into Israel on a case-by-case basis, e.g. due to their involvement in essential activities and projects in Israel.

It is unclear whether these individuals have been intentionally omitted from the new restrictions and whether in practice they will be allowed entry into Israeli without agreeing to the 14 day State-supervised isolation period. In any event, they continue to be subject to all previously existing limitations, including a 14 day home isolation period upon arrival to Israel and providing a notice to the Ministry of Health of their date of arrival and address of their place of home isolation. A qualified physician on behalf of the State of Israel may further require such individuals to transfer to a State-supervised isolation place if their place of home isolation is found to be unsuitable for this purpose, taking into account factors such as its size, number of rooms, number of resident individuals and their status.

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