



FAQ TO COVID-19 AND COLOMBIAN IMMIGRATION

1

IS IT POSSIBLE TO ISSUE VISAS IN COLOMBIA FOR FOREIGNERS WHO ARE IN THE COUNTRY?

Yes, foreigners who are in Colombia may apply for and issue their visa at the office of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs located in the city of Bogotá. For the time being, they will only be able to obtain their electronic visa since they will not be able to get it stamped in their passport.



2

CAN FOREIGNERS WHO ARE OUTSIDE COLOMBIA APPLY FOR VISAS?

No. The Colombian consulates abroad, exceptionally and during the health emergency, will not be processing visa applications. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs will only issue visas to those foreigners who are in the national territory.



3

WILL MIGRANT AND/OR RESIDENT VISAS LOSE THEIR VALIDITY IF THE HOLDER STAYS OUTSIDE OF COLOMBIA?

No. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs has decided to suspend the term of early termination of visas due to absence from Colombian territory while the health emergency decreed by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection remains in force.



4

CAN I CHANGE MY VISA CATEGORY IF I HAVE A VISITOR VISA (V)?

No. Visitor visa holders may not apply for visas in any other category.





5

IF MY VISA IS ISSUED DURING THE EMERGENCY, HOW DO I REGISTER IT AND ISSUE MY COLOMBIAN FOREIGNER ID?

Resolution 1296/2020 decreed the suspension of printing and stamping of visa labels, as well as the terms related to the obligation to stamp passports those visas issued with a validity of 3 months or more. In addition, Migration Colombia suspended the processing of foreigner's ID cards and visa registrations whilst the health emergency continues.

However, these procedures must be carried out as soon as the current situation returns to normal.



6

CAN I CARRY OUT PROCEDURES AT MIGRATION COLOMBIA DURING A HEALTH EMERGENCY?

In accordance with Resolution 1006/2020, Migration Colombia temporarily suspended requests for procedures and services of some processes that require the foreigner to be present, such as the Issuance of Colombian foreigner ID cards, extensions of stay, safe passes, issuance of certificates of migratory movements, among others, until August 31st of this year.



7

WHAT IF I APPLIED FOR MY ID BEFORE THE STATE OF EMERGENCY AND HAVE NOT BEEN ABLE TO PICK IT UP?

It will only be possible to obtain the document after August 31st or until the State of Health Emergency has ended. Despite this, certifications of the status of the ID may be issued through the Migration Colombia website.



8

DO I HAVE TO UNDERTAKE ANY COSTS FOR BEING A BENEFICIARY OF THE REPATRIATION PROCESS?

Those who wish to take advantage of this measure must assume the cost of transportation from abroad, accommodation and living expenses to their destination, fill out the necessary forms and certificates, as well as comply with the mandatory self-isolation upon arrival.





9

WHAT SHOULD FOREIGNERS WHOSE ENTRY AND RESIDENCE PERMITS (PIP) HAVE EXPIRED WHILE IN COLOMBIA CONSIDER?

In accordance with Resolution 918/2020, those foreigners with unrestricted nationalities or restricted nationalities with special treatment, who are holders of Entry and Stay Permits (PIP) and who have not managed to leave the country before the expiration of the permit, the terms of their permits will be provisionally suspended from March 19th until August 31st, 2020, with the commitment to leave the country as soon as the situation regarding flights is normalized or they are granted a visa to stay regularly in the national territory.



10

DO THE SPECIAL PERMITS TO STAY (PEP) LOSE THEIR VALIDITY IF I STAY MORE THAN 90 DAYS OUTSIDE OF COLOMBIA?

No. The accounting of the time of absence for the cancellation of PEPs is suspended until August 31st, or until it is determined that the health emergency has ended.



11

DO FOREIGNERS WHO ARE IN THE NATIONAL TERRITORY HAVE TO COMPLY WITH THE LAWS AND ESPECIALLY THE MEASURES DECREED BY THE GOVERNMENT ON COVID-19?

In accordance with Article 4 of the Political Constitution of Colombia, Colombians and foreigners have the obligation to respect the Constitution and the laws and to obey the authorities, under penalty of the corresponding sanctions.

Therefore, it is recommended that foreigners consider the above and those provisions issued by the National Government and competent entities in order to mitigate the spread of COVID-19. If they do not comply with them, they may be subject to imprisonment, financial penalties, revocation of entry and residence permits, deportation or expulsion from the national territory.





12

WHAT CAN A COLOMBIAN OR FOREIGN RESIDENT, WHO IS ABROAD AND NEEDS TO RETURN TO THE COUNTRY, DO?

Migration Colombia and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs have developed an application, "Tell us how you are" ("Cuentanos cómo estás"), which seeks not only to have the location and number of Colombians abroad, but also to serve as a bridge between the National Government, either because these nationals or foreign residents have become stuck during this health emergency or because they left the country years ago in search of opportunities. With this data, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs will implement assistance strategies for Colombians abroad through their consulates.



13

WHAT IS THE REPATRIATION PROTOCOL?

The repatriation protocol, which applies to those individuals, whether nationals or foreigners residing in Colombia, who wish to return to the country. The first step they must take is to contact the Colombian consulate with jurisdiction in the country they are in, to supply information so that the possibility of establishing a humanitarian channel can be assessed. The following information is required:

- Full names.
- Colombian identity card and passport number. For permanent resident foreigners, provide the nationality and number of the foreigner's ID card.
- Migratory status and time spent abroad (resident, tourist, irregular, etc.).
- Medical conditions, and any special conditions such as disability, being a minor, among others.
- Type of kinship, if applicable.
- Address in Colombia, e-mail and cell phone number.
- Name and telephone number of a relative in Colombia.

