

Frequently Asked Questions
- Requirements to move and compelling reason to travel -
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I - Requirements to move

1. What are the conditions to travel to France from French Polynesia?
2. What are the conditions to travel to French Polynesia?
3. Is it possible to travel to a foreign country?
4. What are the conditions to travel to USA?
5. What are the conditions to travel to Canada?
6. Is it possible to travel between islands within French Polynesia?
7. How to download an "exempted movement certificate"?

II - Compelling reason to travel

1. Why do I need a compelling reason to travel?
2. What are the compelling reasons to travel to/from French Polynesia?
3. Am I allowed to travel to French Polynesia for tourism?
4. What are the families of compelling reasons ?
5. Can I visit a sick, vulnerable, or at the end of life relative?
6. Can grandparents travelling to take care of their grandchildren?
7. Is it possible to visit family members during a leave?
8. Can traveling for a wedding or birth be consider as a compiling reason?
9. I am a single expatriate, can I travel to visit my wife/husband?
10. Can students with parents living in French Polynesia enter the country?
11. Are students who need to make an internship in France to be considered as having a compelling reason?
12. Can I travel to visit my children studying in France?
13. I was about to travel to France for holidays and I bought my tickets before the obligation to obtain a compiling reason for travel. Is this situation consider as a compiling reason?
14. What are the control and sanctions?
15. What are the professional related compelling reasons?
16. I found a job or I am taking an interview in metropolitan France? Is that consider as a compelling reason?
17. I am taking an exam in mainland France. Is that be considered as a compelling reason?
18. I am moving to French Polynesia. Is that consider as a compelling reason?
19. Can my boarding be forbidden by the airline company and for which reason?

I - Requirements to move

To slow down the pandemic progression worldwide, all travels are strictly limited due to active circulation of the COVID 19 and its variants.

All non-essential international travels between foreign countries and France and its overseas territories are strictly restricted, until the pandemic situation gets better.

1. What are the conditions to travel to France from French Polynesia?

From February 3rd 2021, all travels must comply with one of the following compelling reason:

- Personnel or family compelling reason,
- Urgent health compelling reason,
- Essential professional compelling reason (without any possibility to be postponed).

Passengers must carry a sworn certificate for compelling reason displacement, and sworn statement to respect the rules in place within metropolitan France, stating they have no symptom and they have not been in contact with a known person with COVID 19, and that they will proceed to any test (antigenic or biological) upon their arrival on the territory.

From October the 16th 2020, curfew measures are in place within metropolitan France, starting at 06 pm to 06 am. Passengers must be able to present a curfew certificate and their plane tickets if arrival is within curfew hours.

Until further notice, all travels from French Polynesia to Metropolitan France does not require a RT-PCR test nor isolation upon arrival.

2. What are the conditions to travel to French Polynesia?

From February 3rd 2021, all travels to French Polynesia must satisfy one of the following compelling reason:

All travelers no matter the country of origin (Metropolitan France or foreign country) willing to travel to French Polynesia will be required by the transport company before departure and upon arrival to produce an exempted movement certificate stating one of the following compelling reason:

- Personnel or family compelling reason,
- Urgent health compelling reason,
- Essential professional compelling reason (without any possibility to be postponed).

These reasons will be carefully verified before departure and need to be precisely justified by at an official document.

The compelling reason of travel for economical sustainability and tourism, in place at the moment for travelers to French Polynesia, will not be approved anymore from February the 3rd 2021.

Passengers will also be required to present a sworn statement to respect the rules in place within the territory, stating they have no symptom and they have not been in contact with a known person with COVID 19 within the past 14 days prior to the flight, and for persons above 11, that they will proceed to a biological test upon their arrival on the territory.

Passengers must also fulfill online the ETIS platform and realize an auto-test within 4 days upon arrival.

Furthermore, before any departure from French Polynesia, a negative PCR test less than 72 hours old is mandatory.

Notice that from October the 24th 2020, curfew measures have been in place in TAHITI and MOOREA starting at 09pm to 04am. Passengers must be able to present a curfew certificate and their plane tickets if arrival is within curfew hours.

All documents are available for download on the Haut commissariat website.

3. Is it possible to travel to a foreign country?

From February 3rd 2021, all departure from French Polynesia must satisfy one of the following compelling reason:

- Personnel or family compelling reason,
- Urgent health compelling reason,
- Essential professional compelling reason (without any possibility to be postponed).

It has to be noted that more and more countries put in place restrictions to enter their territory and international travels are limited to slow down the progression of COVID 19 pandemic worldwide.

More information regarding rules in place are available depending on country of origin in the rubric “advise to travelers” online diplomatie.gouv.fr

4. What are the conditions to travel to USA?

To reduce the active circulation of COVID 19 virus within the USA, travel restrictions have been toughened.

From January the 26th 2021, a negative PCR test less than 72 hours old is mandatory for all passengers more than 2 years old who want to travel to the USA and to present the results to the airline company.

A dedicated certificate must be presented available on the following link:

American authorities have set up special rules to enter their territory and for the delivery of American visa (ESTA). They can differ depending on the different state.

Passengers in transit within international areas are not concern by those rules.

5. What are the conditions to travel to Canada?

From January the 07th 2021, all travelers above 5 years old, whatever their citizenship, must be tested within a laboratory less than 72 hours old prior the departure, and present the negative results to the airline company. The test must of one following type: RT-PCR or antigenic.

All travelers without a negative test (paper or electronic proof) will be denied boarding by the airline company.

There are a limited number of exemptions:

- Children under 4 years old,
- Flight crew members,
- Urgent health care officers, police officers or borders police officers,
- Personnel identified by the health administration of Canada,
- Persons with a special exemption from "Transports Canada"
- Passengers in transit

All passengers in transit within international areas without entering Canadian territory are exempted to realize any RT-PCR test.

All passengers must request an electronic traveling authorization (AVE) on the following website: <https://www.canada.ca/fr/immigration>

6. Is inter-islands travel possible within French Polynesia?

Yes, the current sanitary situation in french Polynesia allows residents to maintain, at this stage, their inter-island movements, in strict compliance with sanitary protection rules.

7. Where can I download the travel certificate?

The certificate can be downloaded from the High Commissioner's website. Depending on the reason for the trip, you will need to provide support with the following supporting documents:

- **for family reasons**: proof of address less than 3 months old (excepted telephone subscriptions), death certificate, for children a school certificate or a radiation certificate if minor and leaves to a new place of stay;

- **for health reasons**: medical summons from a specialist not available on the territory, certificate of the regular doctor;

- **for professional reasons** that cannot be postponed: certificate from the employer, invitation to take an examination or proving a competition, employment contract;

II - Compelling reasons

1- Why enforce compelling reasons?

These reasons mainly meet two objectives:

- Limit the flow of people to essential trips and thus reduce the risk of the virus spreading;
- Protect the territory from the introduction of the "variant" virus of Covid-19, which is highly contagious.

2- What are the compelling reasons for traveling to or from French Polynesia?

Travel of people by air and sea to or from French Polynesia are prohibited from February 3, 2021, unless they are based on:

- a compelling personal or family reason;
- an emergency health reason;
- a professional reason that cannot be postponed.

A derogatory certificate will be requested from the traveler by the airline company and may be subjected to additional checks by the border control authorities.

3- Is it possible to come to French Polynesia for tourism?

Given the health situation, travel for tourism is now prohibited. Only travel based on a compelling personal or family reason, emergency health or a professional reason that cannot be postponed are allowed if they are duly justified.

4- What is a compelling family reason?

A compelling family reason should be understood broadly as any travel related to an unavoidable family obligation, in a crystal-clear urgent or serious situation that requires traveling without delay.

This could be, for example, the death or serious illness of a close relative or an obligation to an imperative family move. This also concerns the exercise of visiting rights and accommodation of children for separated parents.

Proof of the overriding family reason must be provided by any document, in paper or digital format.

5- Can I visit a sick, dependent or dying relative?

Yes. This is a compelling family reason. When boarding, you must present the certificate relating to air travel and a nominative certificate attesting that the person's state of health requires your presence.

6- Is child care by grandparent a compelling reason?

Yes, only if the parent certifies that he or she does have no other choice for his or her child. Documents proving this situation will be requested before boarding (sick parents or single spouse).

7- Is it possible to come or go on subsidized leave to visit family?

No. Visiting family is not a compelling reason. Only people in geographic celibacy, who do not live with their minor children or in family reunification can travel.

8- Is traveling for a wedding or following childbirth a compelling family reason?

These reasons are valid for the spouse or the father of the child or the groom, but they are not valid for the extended family: grandparents, brothers, sisters, cousins...

9- I am in a long-distance relationship, can I visit my spouse?

Yes. It is a family reunion. You will have to present your family record book, marriage certificate, pacs, certificate of cohabitation or documents demonstrating the reality of cohabitation at the time of boarding.

10- Can students with parents residing in French Polynesia enter the territory?

Yes, the return of students to their homes is a compelling reason to travel. Right before boarding, it will be necessary to present the certificate relating to the air travel and a proof (internship contract, family record book, student card, proof of residence of the parents...).

11- I'm a student and I have to go to France for an internship. Is this considered a compelling reason ?

Only internships that are mandatory to validate a training course are considered a compelling reason to travel. Elective courses must be deferred. At the time of boarding, it will be necessary to present the attestation relating to the air travel and an attestation from the school or university, as well as the internship agreement.

12- Can I visit my child studying in France?

No. Visiting a student over the age of majority in metropolitan France is not considered a compelling family reason.

13- I have to go to metropolitan France for holidays and I bought my tickets before the new compelling reasons rules came into force. Is this considered a compelling motive?

No. Holidays are not deemed a compelling reason to travel. You can get in touch with your airline company to benefit from a deferral or reimbursement of your airline tickets.

14- What controls and penalties are at stake?

Airlines check certificates and supporting documents at the time of boarding. If these are not presented, boarding will systematically be denied.

Random checks are carried out by the border police at the time of boarding and disembarkation. Failure to present the documents is punishable by a refusal of boarding or a decision of non-admission at the border.

15- What is a compelling professional reason?

These refers to journeys between home and workplace when they are essential for the exercise of activities that cannot be organized via telework or cannot be postponed.

A compelling professional reason may be:

- A job interview in France, even if it is recommended to carry out these interviews as much as possible by audioconference or videoconference;
- Taking up a position in a new job ;
- A competitive and mandatory examination in metropolitan France, upon presentation of the invitation to attend.

16- I have found a job or I'm going for a job interview in France or French Polynesia. Is this a compelling reason?

Yes, this is a compelling professional reason. You will have to present the attestation relating to air travel and your employment offer, your invitation to the interview at the time of boarding. However, it is requested that job interviews must be conducted as much as possible by audioconference or videoconference.

17- I have to take a competitive exam in France, is this a compelling reason ?

Yes, this is a compelling professional reason, if the exam is maintained. You will be required to submit the attestation relating to air travel and your exam notification at the time of boarding.

18- I am moving to metropolitan France or French Polynesia. Is this a compelling reason to move?

Yes, this is a compelling reason. You will have to present the air travel attestation and a copy of your new lease, the letter of termination of the old lease (with AR), your transfer order, or any other document demonstrating the veracity of your move.

19- Can I be denied boarding by the airline company and on what grounds?

Yes, airlines company are required to deny boarding to passengers who test positive or do not presenting negative test results, as well as any passenger who fails to meet one of the compelling reasons or would not submit the declaration of honor to consent to the rules relating to entry into the territory.