

## Information for foreign nationals seeking medical treatment in Russia

### IMPORTANT INFORMATION-

- 1) International travel for the purpose of seeking medical care in Russia amid the current Covid-19 safety restrictions in effect in Russia should be deemed as an **urgent** necessity to receive specialized health care by medical professionals of Russian healthcare facilities.
- 2) If a foreign citizen **knowingly provides false information** to obtain a visa to enter Russia for the purpose of medical treatment, or if, when crossing the Russian border, a foreign citizen presents fraudulent documentation stating that a medical facility in Russia is willing to provide healthcare services to this foreign citizen, then **criminal action** will be taken against them in accordance with Article 322 of the Criminal Code of the Russian Federation (Illegal crossing of the state border of the Russian Federation).

These guidelines are to be followed amid the current Covid-19 safety restrictions.

#### *Steps to take:*

1. Foreign citizens should first select a medical institution where they would like to receive medical care. It does not matter to what property type the medical institution of your choice belongs to – it may be an institution within the national healthcare system or a privately owned medical facility.

Please see the list of some Russian medical institutions at <https://russiamedtravel.ru>.

2. Next, you should contact the medical facility of your choice. The medical facility may ask you to provide information that it may need to establish whether it will be able to provide the medical care you require, and to make a decision on whether to issue you a letter stating that it is willing to treat you.
3. Foreign entry requirements:
  - a. For foreign citizens **eligible to travel to Russia without obtaining a visa** – A foreign citizen travelling to Russia for medical treatment must be able to present a valid passport/ID which is recognized as such by Russia and a visa or none, if a foreign citizen is from a country participating in the visa waiver program with Russia, and a letter (its copies) from a medical facility in Russia stating that it is willing to provide medical care and detailing the projected length of treatment, or documents (their copies) from the Ministry of Health of Russia. These rules are to be observed amid the current Covid-19 safety restrictions in accordance with Item 1 of Government Order No.

1511-r of June 6, 2021 ‘On amendments to Government Order No. 635-r of March 16, 2020 and No. 763-r of March 27, 2020’.

To sum up, when crossing the Russian border foreign citizens must be able to present a valid passport/ID and a letter from a medical facility in Russia stating that this medical facility is willing to provide medical treatment and detailing the projected length of treatment (copies of the letter).

- b. For foreign citizens **not eligible to travel to Russia without a visa** – If the medical facility of your choice has deemed that it is able and willing to provide medical treatment to you, the medical facility should lodge a request with the department of immigration of a local branch of the Ministry of the Interior of Russia to issue an invitation letter to a foreign citizen or a person without citizenship to travel to Russia on an ordinary business visa for the purposes of receiving medical care.

The list of documents to be supplied together with the request, the wait time and the overview of the process are detailed in items 24, 27, 62-82 and 122-131 of the Russian Ministry of the Interior’s Administrative procedure for the issue of invitations to foreign citizens and persons without citizenship as approved by Order No. 735 of the Ministry of the Interior of Russia on September 21, 2017. For more information please visit the website of the Ministry of the Interior of Russia at <https://en.mvd.ru/>.

Upon your request, the invitation letter can be made available either in paper or electronic format.

The invitation letter is then sent to a foreign citizen to be taken to a Russian embassy or consulate to apply for a visa.

To sum up, when crossing the Russian border foreign citizens must present a valid passport/ID, a visa and a letter from a medical facility stating that it is willing to provide medical care and detailing the projected length of treatment (copies of documents).

4. Please be advised that when planning to travel to Russia you should take into consideration the current Covid-19 safety restrictions of an area/city of your destination. For more information please visit the website of the Federal Service for Surveillance on Consumer Rights Protection and Human Wellbeing (Rospotrebnadzor) at <https://www.rospotrebnadzor.ru/about/info/news>.

The Ministry of Health of Russia, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Russia, the Federal Security Service of Russia and the Ministry of the Interior of Russia have developed an information memo for foreign citizens travelling to Russia for medical treatment. The memo is available in Russian and English on the website of the Development of Export of Medical Services federal project at <http://russiamedtravel.ru/> in the Medical Tourism-Information Support section. The memo is attached herein to be use in the normal course of work.

Attachment: 1 document on 3 pages.

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[electronically signed]