

Update July 2020.

Summary:

- **Five Irish VACs to reopen in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya and Gaziantep on Monday, 22 June 2020, by appointment only, two days a week, Wednesday and Friday.**
- **Reopening's signal the start of a wider plan to reopen Irish VACs in Turkey on a phased basis.**
- **VAC in Doha, Qatar will reopen on Tuesday 28 July, 2020, Sunday to Thursday 09:00 – 13:00, by appointment only, appointments can be made by emailing this address ops.irelandqatar@vfsglobal.com.**
- **Only long-stay visas ('D' categories) will be processed initially. Short-stay Visas ('C' categories) will not be processed due to ongoing restrictions in Ireland.**
- **Certain Priority/Emergency cases will continue to be processed as normal.**
- **Those travelling will be expected to serve a 14 day period of self-isolation upon arrival to Ireland.**

The Irish Embassy is pleased to announce the reopening of four Visa Application Centres (VACs) in Ankara, Istanbul, Izmir, Antalya and Gaziantep on Monday, 22 June 2020. This is the first stage of a plan to reopen all VACs across our Network in the coming months on a phased basis - subject to Irish Government Covid-19 measures and any local restrictions that may be in place.

The operation of these VACs will be carefully monitored by a range of stakeholders including VFS, Immigration Service Delivery (ISD) in Ireland and will be guided by public health advice set by the Irish Health Service Executive (HSE) and World Health Organisation (WHO).

Initially, the VACs will only allow long-stay applications to be made ('D' categories – further info below). No tourism or short-stay visas ('C' categories) will be processed at this time due to ongoing Covid-19 restrictions in Ireland. Please be assured that we fully intend to resume our full visa service just as soon as public health concerns have been abated in line with Irish Government policy.

Applicants should be aware: By law, those travelling to Ireland will be required to fill out a form called the '[Covid-19 Passenger Locator Form](#)'. This form (which can be completed before you travel) may be used by Irish health authorities to contact you to verify your location in Ireland. It will also help contact tracers to contact you if there is a confirmed case of coronavirus on your flight.

Applicants should also be aware that people can face a fine of up to €2,500 or six months in prison, or both, if:

- 1.) They do not complete this form;
- 2.) If they provide false or misleading information; or
- 3.) If they fail to provide an update of any information should they move to a different location within the 14-day self-isolation period.

Priority/Emergency Cases.

Certain Priority/Emergency Short Stay cases will continue to be processed:

- Emergency visa (e.g. Healthcare professionals, health researchers, and elderly care professionals);
- Immediate family members of Irish citizens*;
- Persons legally resident in the State;
- Persons entitled to avail of the provision of the EU Free Movement Directive;
- Transport personnel engaged in haulage of goods and other transport staff to the extent necessary;
- Diplomats, staff of international organisations, military personnel and humanitarian aid workers in the exercise of their functions.

(*Please note that where an applicant and Irish national have been living abroad, and Ireland is not their habitual residence, these cases will be processed in the normal manner. Exceptions will be made in cases where an Irish national is returning to provide medical/health services, or family members are being repatriated as part of a consular arrangement.)

If your application falls under one of these categories, please contact visaankara@dfa.ie so that we can guide you through the application process and advise you how to submit your documentation.

Further information.

For information on long-stay ('D'-category) visas, please visit:

<http://www.inis.gov.ie/en/INIS/Pages/Apply%20for%20a%20visa#long-stay>

A 'Frequently Asked Questions' (FAQ) document about the impact of COVID-19 on Immigration and International Protection in Ireland has also been published and can be found [here](#).

For our customers based in Turkey, please visit

<https://www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/turkey/English/> for further updates.

For our customers based in Azerbaijan, please visit

<https://www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/Azerbaijan/index.html> for further updates.

For our customers based in Qatar, please visit

<https://www.vfsglobal.com/ireland/qatar/index.html> for further updates.