

# TIME TO ADAPT

COVID-19

**RISQUES LIÉS AU VIRUS COVID-19**

24 mars 2020

## **Residence permits that expire between March 16 and May 15, 2020 will be extended**

On March 16, 2020 the French government took several measures aimed at slowing the spread of the Covid-19 virus including restrictions to reduce physical contact between persons and to limit unnecessary travel.

The emergency law to address the Covid-19 epidemic published on March 24, 2020 has provided specific measures relating to the validity of foreigners' residence permits in France. Article 16 of the law authorizes the government to take measures. The order extending the period of validity of residence documents was published on March 26, 2020.

As a result, all appointments for the application or extension of residence permits for foreign nationals at the various prefectures in France have been suspended until further notice.

The purpose of the said order is to secure the legal status of foreign nationals whose residence permit should expire in the coming days or weeks and thus to avoid breaches of rights.

It will allow the foreign nationals concerned to remain legally in France after the expiration date of their residence permit and for a period of 90 days.

This measure concerns the following documents that have expired between March 16 and May 15, 2020:

- Long stay visas
- Residence permits, whatever their nature, with the exception of special residence permits issued to foreign diplomatic and consular staff
- Temporary residence permits (APS)
- Certificates of asylum request
- Receipts for residence permit applications

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This measure becomes effective immediately and is also applicable in Saint-Martin and Saint-Barthélemy, in French Polynesia, in the Wallis and Futuna Islands and in New Caledonia.

Finally, it should be noted that short-stay visas are not included in the list of documents covered by the text.

However, due to the current situation, some holders of short-stay visas will meet difficulties in reaching their home country.

In this case, they can request an extension of their visa from the prefecture. Some prefectures have set up an online service.

Recommendations: It is important to understand each situation on a case-by-case basis and to follow the evolution of this critical situation.

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