



# BVOR NEWS

Refugee  
Sponsorship  
Training  
Program

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## Welcoming BVOR Refugees During COVID-19

### Question:

**How do we fulfill our role as sponsors when receiving BVOR refugees during this time?**

**Answer:** According to IRCC:

"Sponsors are expected to continue to provide refugees with support as set out in the Sponsorship Undertaking, however IRCC recognizes that some activities may be delayed due to current COVID-19 related limitations. For recently arrived refugees, sponsors are expected to, at minimum, provide basic orientation, making sure to include information on health, e.g. Interim Federal Health Program (IFHP), and local essential services, nearest grocery stores, etc., and current COVID-19 guidance as well as assistance in completing applications for provincial health care insurance, Social Insurance Number, and Canada Child Benefit (all of which can be done online or by phone).

As a result of COVID-19, some refugees may have additional needs and require further support, such as private transportation to urgent medical appointments, masks, cleaning supplies etc. Sponsors should continue to assess and address any urgent needs during this period.

While sponsors are not expected to have in-person interactions with newcomers, they should still be checking-in using virtual technology. These check-ins will help ensure that sponsored refugees have access to food and essentials and that they are aware of the health risks related to COVID-19 and what is expected of them during this time." For more information, please click on the following links.

- [English](#)
- [French](#)

## The Blended Visa Office-Referred (BVOR) Program

The BVOR Program helps resettle refugees identified by United Nations Refugee Agency (UNHCR) as the most vulnerable in need of resettlement. It is called blended because it is a cost sharing arrangement. Immigration Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC) provides up to six months of income support for the newcomers, while private sponsors provide another six months of financial support, start-up costs and up to one year of social and emotional support.

### Question:

**What are some of the requirements for a BVOR refugee traveling to Canada at this time?**

**Answer:**

"Starting November 21, 2020, all travellers flying to Canada will need to submit the following information via [ArriveCAN](#), either by using the free mobile app, or by signing in online before they board their flight:

- contact information
- travel information
- quarantine plan (unless they are exempt)
- COVID-19 symptoms self-assessment

IRCC is aware of the challenges that this poses for vulnerable refugees, many of whom will not have either the technological or the literacy skills to provide this information. Therefore, the sponsors are encouraged to inform or help the refugees submit their information before arrival. While [ArriveCAN](#) is a mandatory requirement, travellers who have not submitted their information via ArriveCAN on or after November 21, 2020, will still be allowed to board their flight to Canada.

Upon arrival all travellers, including resettled refugees, must use [ArriveCAN](#) or call the 1-833-641-0343 toll-free line to confirm they have arrived at their place of quarantine within 48 hours of entering Canada, and must complete daily COVID-19 symptom self-assessments during their quarantine period. It is the private sponsors' responsibility to arrange accommodations for newcomers for their quarantine period and to assist them in completing the [ArriveCAN](#) requirements upon arrival."

**Question:**

**Should BVOR refugees meet their RAP Officer in person, or has the process changed due to COVID-19?**

**Answer:**

**We contacted IRCC about this question. Here is their response:**

"Local offices are not meeting in person with clients at this time. The local office will reach out and provide instructions to sponsors shortly after arrival. The RAP agreement and other documents will be signed electronically by the RAP Officer then emailed to the sponsor for them to print and have the refugee sign. The sponsor will then scan the fully signed documents and email them back to the local office. The local office will provide instructions on what to do with the originals.

Intake interviews can be done by phone. The local office will provide further details on how each office wishes to finalize the orientation with the clients and sponsors. A reminder that sponsors are still obligated to provide the interpretation for this, if needed.

If sponsors have any questions regarding the process for their specific case, they can communicate directly with the local office managing their RAP file for more information."

## RSTP services to sponsors continue virtually

RSTP continues to provide a full range of virtual services to Canada's refugee sponsorship community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Please check our website, [www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca), for dates and times of upcoming online workshops and courses.

RSTP trainers across Canada are available for virtual consultation from 9 to 5 each day, by appointment. Among the services they provide by telephone, email and virtual platforms are:

- Support with refugee sponsorship applications
- Guidance for sponsors with post-arrival issues

Please refer to our website's contact list for the name, phone number and email address of the RSTP trainer in your region: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/contact-us/>

### Subscribe to RSTP's Email List

Subscribe to the RSTP email list by [clicking here](#) to receive the latest updates on how COVID-19 is affecting refugee sponsorship/resettlement to Canada, as well as to get the details of all of our upcoming online training, workshops and webinars as soon as they are posted.

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## BLENDÉD VISA OFFICE-REFERRED (BVOR) PROGRAM

For more information, visit [www.rstp.ca](http://www.rstp.ca) or email [bvor@rstp.ca](mailto:bvor@rstp.ca)

Refugee Sponsorship Training Program

 **CCS**  
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