

Manoeuvring the Business Travel Insurance Minefield



Business Travel is not the same as before. There are now a number of factors to take into consideration before setting foot onto an overseas flight to attend to work commitments or perhaps a Complementary Health Industry related Conference.

What are the rules and conditions of the country I am departing from and entering coming back home when it comes down to the impact of COVID variants?

How will this impact my busy schedule when planning my scheduled dates?

If I am connecting with other airlines, or other forms of transport, is there a chance my plans could be disrupted?

After all, my business trip will be taking me from one country to another and they all have differing requirements impacting the humble traveller given COVID-19.

How unpredictable will the consequences be of the ever-changing pandemic and how can this adversely impact my plans and commitments?

In a world of uncertainties, it pays to be well armed.

Just as you would draw up a risk management plan for your own Complementary Health business given the above uncertainties, you should also be thinking of a contingency plan in the event the unexpected arises for what would normally be a simple business sojourn overseas. Whatever your plans are, before you leave Australia, we encourage you to refer to the Australian Government website <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/> and have the confidence in knowing how you should prepare for your business trip. In fact, even whilst overseas we encourage you to refer to this website often.

Making sure your Business purchases Corporate Travel Insurance is just as important as making sure your travelling employees' passports are up to date and valid.

Corporate Travel Insurance is also not the same as it was before given the impacts of the pandemic, however there are travel insurers who are prepared to offer limited cover for COVID-19 related events.

Such covers available in the market may include:

- Medical and Additional expenses (including evacuation) if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 whilst on your journey.
- Costs incurred that are in association with you cancelling or changing your travel arrangements if you are diagnosed with COVID-19 before you leave, and your journey is cancelled or amended,

Some costs that are usually not covered relating to pandemic caused changes or cancellations.

- Refunds for travelling costs or compensation for rearranging plans in the event of general COVID-19 lockdowns or border closures.
- Your loss of deposits, and cancellation related costs arising from a related COVID-19 event. If the travel advice before you leave is do not travel to certain countries and you decide to travel regardless, this would not be covered.
- You contracting coronavirus (COVID-19) or a related disease due to the fact you have not complied with DFAT recommendations, travelled to a country where DFAT has issued a warning of "Do Not Travel" prior to the commencement of the journey or the warning is current at the beginning of the journey, and you have remained in a country after DFAT upgraded the warning to "Do Not Travel" and you did not make any reasonable effort to leave the country immediately.

Putting COVID-19 to one side, it can still be the case that when you are overseas your Travel arrangements do not go according to plan. Whether you fall ill (unrelated to COVID-19), have an accident, experience an extreme weather event, or your luggage is lost or stolen. These are but a few examples of events that are usually covered by a Corporate Travel insurance policy.

Example key features of a Corporate Travel policy include:

- Unlimited overseas medical expenses.
- Overseas leisure travel for directors and designated executives, their accompanying spouses, and dependent children - with no age restrictions for most benefits.
- Cover for combined business and leisure travel.
- Stolen baggage.
- An unauthorised use of credit cards etc.
- Kidnap and ransom cover.
- Search and rescue expenses benefit.
- Hire Car Excess Coverage and return of hire car.
- Travel costs of replacement staff to complete a mission should a covered event occur to an initial traveller.

And one of the most important aspects of your policy is a 24/7 Emergency Assistance Service to hold your hand and guide you through what can be a stressful time.

Medical claims continue to top the number of claims recorded under Business Travel Insurance policies in the last few years. When employees fall seriously ill or are severely injured on their business travels, a medical evacuation to the nearest centre of medical excellence or a repatriation back to their home country for further treatment is the best chance of a positive outcome. Twenty-four-hour assistance gives you confidence that help is just a phone call away.

If you would like to know more about the right Corporate Travel policy to align with your business needs, please contact the friendly team at IME Insurance Brokers on **1800 641 260** or visit us at:

<https://imeinsurance.com.au/products-services/corporate-insurance/>

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