



## IMPORTANT INFORMATION DURING LEVEL 1



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## **1. HEALTH INFORMATION**

- a) On arrival, travellers will need to present a negative COVID-19 test results not older than 72 hours from time of departure **from the time of departure from the country of origin to South Africa.**
- b) **This PCR (polymerase chain reaction) test that is not older than 72 hours** must have been conducted by a certified medical practitioner and should have the details (including name, official stamp and signature) of the practitioner who conducted such test.
- c) Where a traveller has not done a Covid-19 test prior to departure, they will be required to remain in mandatory quarantine at their own cost for the period of ten (10) days.
- d) All travellers will be subjected to screening by Port Health Officials upon arrival and departure.
- e) All travellers detected with symptoms will be required to remain in quarantine until a repeat COVID-19 test is conducted at their own costs.
- f) All travellers to complete Traveller Health Questionnaire prior to arrival or upon arrival at the PoE.
- g) Every traveller must have mandatory travel insurance **which is supposed to cover the COVID-19 test and quarantine costs.**
- h) All travellers should wear masks at all times whilst within the Ports of Entry controlled area;
- i) Port officials to ensure that port users adhere to social distance as part of queue management protocol;
- j) We encourage the international travellers who intend to visit the country to download the APP so that they are able to monitor and minimise their risk of exposure to the COVID-19 virus.
- k) **Travellers will also need to provide proof of accommodation address should they need to self-quarantine at the time of arrival in the country.**

## **2. VISAS THAT EXPIRED DURING LOCKDOWN**

- a) The Department of Home Affairs is extending the validity period of legally issued visas which expired during the lockdown period to 31 January 2021.
- b) Holders of such visas are permitted to remain in the country under the conditions of their visas until 31 January 2021.
- c) Those wishing to be repatriated to their countries within this period can depart without being declared undesirable persons.

### **3. VISA SERVICES**

a) Visa services, including submission of applications through VFS Global, will resume in the following categories:

- Visitor's visas;
- Study visa;
- Treaty visa;
- Business visa;
- Crew visa;
- Medical treatment visa;
- Relative's visa;
- General work visa;
- Critical skills work visa;
- Intra-company transfer work visa;
- Retired person visa;
- Corporate visa;
- Exchange visa;
- Waiver of prescribed requirement, as contemplated in section 31(2)(c);
- Appeals or reviews contemplated in section 8 of the Immigration Act.

b) Some of these services will also be available through our Missions abroad.

### **4. BUSINESS TRAVEL FROM HIGH RISK COUNTRIES**

a) Any person from a country listed as having a high COVID-19 infection and transmission rate, who wish to undertake a business travel into South Africa, may with effect from 01 October 2020, in writing, apply to the Minister of Home Affairs and demonstrate reasons for their request to enter the Republic for business purposes during the period of the national state of disaster.

b) Such applications must be directed to email [Covid19BusinessTravel@dha.gov.za](mailto:Covid19BusinessTravel@dha.gov.za) and supported by:

- a copy of passport and/or temporary residence visa;
- proof of business activities to be undertaken in the Republic;
- proof of travel itinerary; and
- proof of address or accommodation in the Republic.

**5. HIGH RISK COUNTRIES AS IT CURRENTLY STANDS (SUBJECT TO PERIODIC REVIEW AND UPDATE/AMENDMENT BY THE RELEVANT AUTHORITIES)**

- a) The list of these high risk countries will also be found on the Home Affairs website; [www.dha.gov.za](http://www.dha.gov.za)
- b) The following countries are currently listed as High risk countries

Albania	Brazil	France	India
Argentina	Chile	Georgia	Iran
Armenia	Columbia	Greece	Iraq
Austria	Costa Rica	Guatemala	Ireland
Bahrain	Croatia	Guyana	Israel
Belgium	Czech Republic	Honduras	Jamaica
Bolivia	Denmark	Hungary	Jordan
Bosnia &Herzegovina	Ecuador	Iceland	Kuwait
Lebanon	Nepal	Peru	Suriname
Luxemburg	Netherlands	Portugal	Switzerland
Maldives	North Macedonia	Puerto Rico	Ukraine
Malta	Oman	Qatar	United Emirates
Mexico	Palestine	Romania	United Kingdom
Moldova	Panama	Russia	USA
Montenegro	Paraguay	Slovakia	Venezuela

- c) Leisure travellers from the above mentioned countries will not be allowed entry into South Africa
- d) Other categories of people from these countries, are allowed under special conditions, as it appears in the Regulations and Directions.

The exception will be:

- business travellers with scarce and critical skills
- Long term visa holders who visit the country for business purposes
- Diplomats,
- Repatriated persons,
- Investors
- People participating in professional sporting and cultural events

- e) They will also undergo the same health protocol screenings
- f) If the passport of the traveller from a high risk country indicates that he/she has spent 10 days or more in a low risk country before departure, he/she will be considered to be arriving from a low risk country.
- g) Travellers from medium and low risk countries will only be allowed into the country subject to the prevailing visa requirements.

- h) Airlines from high risk countries are not necessarily banned, but their crew will be required to isolate in facilities at designated accommodation at the cost of their employer.
- i) **In the interest of all citizens, and the continuing public health efforts, South Africa reserves the right to deny entry of any traveller who is travelling from a high risk country for tourism purposes.**

## **6. TRAVELLERS FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES**

- a) Travellers from all African countries are allowed to visit our country
- b) They must possess relevant travel documents and will also be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.
- c) Daily commuters who reside in cross-border areas/towns and those who are from neighbouring countries including those with relevant work permits, school children and teachers will be allowed to enter and exit the borders for work/school purposes.
- d) These commuters will be screened for COVI-19 symptoms and where necessary will be subjected to quarantine and isolation.
- e) Furthermore, these commuters will be expected to wear face masks, wash hands, sanitise regularly and practise social distancing measures.

## **7. AIRPORTS THAT WILL BE OPERATIONAL**

- a) OR Tambo International Airport;
- b) King Shaka International Airport; and
- c) Cape Town International Airport

## **8. LAND BORDERS THAT WILL BE OPERATIONAL**

Amongst others, the following land borders will be operational:

- a) Maseru
- b) Nakop
- c) Vioolsdrift
- d) Oshoek
- e) Mahamba
- f) Beitbridge
- g) Lebombo

- h) Kopfontein
- i) Ramatlabama
- j) Tlokweg
- k) Martin's drift
- l) Pioneer
- m) Skilpadshek
- n) Groblerbrug

## **9. TRANSIT THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA**

- a) A passenger in transit must be in possession of a negative PCR test certificate or a valid COVID -19 negative test certificate, obtained not more than 72 hours before the date of travel, from an accredited laboratory;
- b) If **he/she** displays symptoms of COVID-19 must, upon arrival and under the direction of Port Health-
  - (aa) be taken through primary and secondary screening, including COVID -19 testing, where applicable;
  - (bb) be quarantined, at own cost, if a positive test result is obtained. All Department of Health protocols and Department of Transport guidelines must be followed; and
  - (cc) if travelling with family, be quarantined at own cost, with the whole family;

## **10. PASSENGER SHIPS**

- a) All passenger ships for international leisure purposes are prohibited from disembarking any international passengers at any South African sea port.
- b) Registered research foreign vessels and marine safety tugs are allowed to dock at sea ports, subject to mandatory quarantine laws, as may be applicable
- c) All other cargo vessels must be allowed to dock at sea ports for purposes of cargo works, repairs, replenishing fuel and provisions.
- c) Passenger ships are allowed to call at any South African sea port only for the following purposes:
  - Disembarking returning South African citizens and holders of South African permanent residence permits;
  - Replenishing fuel, stores and provisions;
  - Medical evacuation; and
  - Search and rescue.

## **11. FOREIGN CREW CHANGES (SEA PORTS)**

- a) Foreign crew changes are permitted at all nine commercial ports
- b) Signing -on crew must produce a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test certificate or a valid certificate of COVID -19 negative test results, obtained not more than 72 hours before the date of travel, from an accredited laboratory and in line with World Health Organization requirements at the first South African Port of Entry.
- c) In the event of a crew member's failure to produce a valid PCR test certificate, this will warrant quarantine, at the crew member's own cost.
- d) Signing -off crews are not required to produce a valid PCR test certificate if the vessel has not had crew changes or has not visited a foreign port within 10 days before arrival at a South African sea port.
- e) A crew member's failure to adhere to the requirement will warrant quarantine, at the crew member's own cost.
- f) Foreign crew may layover at a designated quarantine facility for a period not exceeding seven days, at their own cost, but must proceed directly to Ports of Entry once this period has lapsed and must also comply with South African Immigration requirements and Port Health protocols.

## **12. FOREIGN STUDENTS WISHING TO RETURN TO SOUTH AFRICA**

- a) International students returning who remained outside our country will need to meet the requirements of the COGTA regulations – which includes having a test, not older than 72 hours, showing that they are negative for the virus on arrival in South Africa; if not, they will need to go into quarantine at their own expense for at least 10 days before proceeding to their respective institutions.