TRAVEL TO SOUTH AFRICA
REOPENING OF BORDERS AND SERVICES DURING ALERT LEVEL 1

Updated: 06/01/2020

For the most updated restrictions regulations please refer to *https://www.gov.za/covid-19/*

The President Cyril Ramaphosa has announced that on 1 October 2020 South African borders would be opened for business and leisure travel for international traveller's subject to a number of protocols and restrictions.

These restrictions included that all travellers visiting the country will be expected to abide by the regulations which, amongst others, include mandatory wearing of masks at all times, practicing social distancing in public spaces, regular washing or sanitizing of hands.

Three airports will be opened and operational for international air travel. These airports are OR Tambo International (in Johannesburg, Gauteng), Cape Town International (in Cape Town, Western Cape) and King Shaka International in (Durban, KwaZulu-Natal).

HEALTH INFORMATION

1. On arrival, travellers will need to present a negative **PCR** (polymerase chain reaction) test that is not older than 72 hours from the time of departure from the country of origin to South Africa. This test must be conducted by a certified medical practitioner and should have the official stamp; name and signature of the practitioner who conducted such test.

2. 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.

3. All travellers will be subjected to screening by Port Health Officials upon arrival and departure

4. All travellers detected with symptoms will be required to remain in quarantine until a repear COVID-19 test is conducted at their own costs.

5. Travellers will need to provide proof of accommodation address should they need to self-quarantine at the time of arrival in the country.

6. All travellers must complete the Traveller Health Questionnaire prior or arrival or upon arrival at the point of entry.

7. All international travellers should possess a mandatory travel insurance which is supposed to cover the COVID-19 test and quarantine costs.

8. All travellers will be asked to install the COVID Alert South Africa mobile app.

9. All travellers should wear masks at all times whilst within the Ports of Entry controlled area.
10. Port officials will ensure that travelers adhere to social distance as part of queue management protocol.

11. **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.**

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TRANSIT THROUGH SOUTH AFRICA

1. Transit traveler through South African by **air** will be allowed to connect to their destinations, subject to them complying with applicable health protocols and need to produce the 72 hours negative COVID-19 test certificate.

2. Transit travelers through South Africa by **road** will be allowed to connect to their destinations, subject to them complying with applicable health protocols and will need to produce the 72 hours negative COVID019 test certificate.

3. If a traveler in transit displays symptoms of COVD-19, must, upon arrival and under the direction of Port Health

   a. be taken through primary and secondary screening, including COVID-19 testing, where applicable;
   b. 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
   c. if travelling with family, be quarantined at own cost, with the whole family.

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EXTENSION OF VISAS OF FOREIGN NATIONALS ALREADY IN SOUTH AFRICA

The Department of Home Affairs is extending the validity period of legally issued visas which expired during the lockdown period to 31 January 2021.

Holders of such visas are permitted to remain in the country under the conditions of their visas until 31 January 2021. Those wishing to be repatriated to their countries within this period can depart without being declared undesirable persons.

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TRAVELLERS FROM AFRICAN COUNTRIES

1. Travelers from all African countries are allowed to visit our country

2. They must possess relevant travel documents and will also be screened for COVID-19 symptoms.

3. Daily commuters who reside in cross-border areas / towns and those who are from neighboring countries including those with relevant work permits, school children and teachers will be allowed to enter and exit the borders for work / school purposes.

4. These commuters will be screened for COVI-19 symptoms and where necessary will be subjected to quarantine and isolation.

5. Furthermore, these commuters will be expected to wear face masks, wash hands, sanitize regularly and practice social distancing measures.

LAND BORDERS THAT WILL BE OPERATIONAL

Amongst others, the following land borders will be operational:

- Beitbridge
- Martin's drift
- Ramatlabama

- Groblerbrug
- Maseru
- Skilpadshek

- Kopfontein
- Nakop
- Tlokweng

- Lebombo
- Oshoek
- Vioolsdrift

- Mahamba
- Pioneer
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PASSENGER SHIPS

1. All passenger ships for international leisure purposes are prohibited from disembarking any international passengers at any South African seaport.

2. Registered research foreign vessels and marine safety tugs are allowed to dock at sea ports, subject to mandatory quarantine laws, as may be applicable

3. All other cargo vessels must be allowed to dock at seaports for purposes of cargo works, repairs, replenishing fuel and provisions.

4. Passenger ships are allowed to call at any South African seaport 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.

FOREIGN CREW CHANGES (SEA PORTS)

1. Foreign crew changes are permitted at all nine commercial ports

2. 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.

3. 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.

4. 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.

5. A crew member's failure to adhere to the requirement will warrant quarantine, at the crew member's own cost.

6. 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.

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The Cabinet member responsible for home affairs in consultation with the Cabinet members responsible for health and transport must develop International Travel Containment Protocols to be issued in directions, to ensure that entry into South African ports of entry will only be allowed subject to adherence to ensure COVID-19 positive travelers are not allowed into the Republic.

These regulations came into operation at 00H01 on 12 November 2020.