



South African Embassy  
Kingdom of the Netherlands

## INFORMATION RE: ALERT LEVEL 1 SOUTH AFRICA

### 1. GENERAL INFORMATION

- a) South Africa has developed a risk categorisation model for different international travellers. This model classifies international travellers according to a scale of high, medium and low risk. High risk travellers are those who come from countries with higher numbers of COVID-19 infections and reported deaths compared to South Africa.
- b) Medium risk travellers are from countries with relatively equal number of infections and death toll to South Africa and low risk travellers originate from countries with lesser number of infections of COVID-19 and death toll than South Africa.
- c) The Netherlands remains on the list of high-risk countries and leisure travel to SA by persons travelling from the Netherlands is not currently permitted. The list of high-risk countries will be revised every 2 weeks.
- d) South African passport holders are able to travel to South Africa, provided the below health procedures/requirements in para 4 below are met.

### 2. 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 can be found on the Home Affairs website:  
<http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/statements-speeches/1376-home-affairs-minister-dr-aaron-motsoaledi-provides-an-update-on-the-partial-re-opening-of-borders-and-services-during-alert-level-1>
- b) Leisure travellers from the above listed countries will not be allowed entry into South Africa.
- c) Other categories of people from these countries are allowed under special conditions, as it appears in the Regulations and Directives.
- d) In terms of the list of high-risk countries, the following categories of travellers are exempted:

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

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

- a) Any person from a country listed as having a high COVID-19 infection and transmission rate, who wishes to undertake business travel to 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 by email to: 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.
- c) 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.
- d) Travellers from medium and low risk countries will only be allowed into the country subject to the prevailing visa requirements.
- e) 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.

### **4. 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 shall not be older than 72 hours and 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) All travellers will be subjected to screening by Port Health Officials upon arrival and departure.
- d) All travellers with symptoms will be required to remain in quarantine until a repeat COVID-19 test is conducted at their own costs.
- e) All travellers to complete Traveller Health Questionnaire prior to arrival or upon arrival at the PoE.
- f) Every traveller must have mandatory travel insurance which covers the COVID-19 test and quarantine costs.
- g) All travellers should wear masks at all times whilst within the Ports of Entry controlled area;
- h) Port officials to ensure that port users adhere to social distance as part of queue management protocol;
- i) We encourage 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.
- j) Travellers will also need to provide proof of accommodation should they need to self-quarantine at the time of arrival in the country.

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

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

## **6. 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.

## **7. 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.
- d) 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.

## **8. 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.

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

- g) 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.

#### **10. ADDITIONAL COMMENT:**

- h) We are conscious that there will be various questions by the public on aspects not yet specifically addressed in this statement and guideline. Our Page and website will be updated with additional information as soon as it is available.
- i) South African citizens will now be able to depart for SA without their SA citizenship and residence status being pre-verified by Missions/DIRCO with the DHA/ Natjoints;
- j) Therefore, South African Missions will no longer be required to clear any passengers and issue the so-called Letters of Passage to persons travelling to SA. Airlines should also no longer require such letters upon boarding;
- k) Travellers arriving in SA without the required documents will be returned in terms of the applicable immigration / health regulations;
- l) The standard immigration/ visa services rendered to applicants who qualify in terms of Alert Level 1 regulations will be offered by the Mission, keeping the local COVID 19 precautionary measures in mind;
- m) All standard civic services rendered to SA citizens continues to be offered by the Mission, subject to the local COVID-19 precautionary measures;
- n) DIRCO and Missions will no longer assist SA nationals with information re flights to and from SA. There are no longer any dedicated COVID-19 repatriation flights to SA. Travellers should proceed to book commercial flights as before;
- o) All persons entering SA should be in possession of the required negative COVID 19 Test Results not older than 72 hours and subject themselves to the required health screening at the time of arrival.

#### **See additional FAQs:**

<https://www.gov.za/cov.../models/current-alert-provincemetro>