



## International Travel to and from South Africa during COVID-19

South Africa requires Travelers to have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result /certificate in order to be permitted entry into a country. These tests must have been done within 72 hours of their flight departure.

### Where the tests can be done:

The South African National Health Laboratory Service (NHLS) has set up testing units at OR Tambo, providing convenient testing facilities for travelers who need to obtain COVID-19 PCR test certificates before their travels from South Africa. The testing is available 24/7.

Travelers can be tested on the same day as their flights or have the test done a day or two ahead of their international flights, then collect their certificates on the day of departure. Remember to take into consideration any transit stops that may prevent the traveler from reaching their final destination within the 72 hours after taking the test.

### Arriving Travelers

- Must have a negative COVID-19 PCR test certificates on arrival. The certificates will be valid for all transit stops along the way. These certificates must be no older than 72 hours.
- Tests are only valid for **a single entry** to South Africa.
- If travelers are unable to provide a printed copy, digital copies must be e-mailed through to the port health authorities at OR Tambo International Airport, to: [ortia.operations@health.gov.za](mailto:ortia.operations@health.gov.za)
- Travelers must ensure the digital copy is sent in good time to reach the authorities prior to their arrival at the port. The traveler must show the authorities the certificate on the mobile device as well as proof of the email sent.
- For easy recognition of the e-mailed certificates, travelers must include their full name, surname, passport number, flight number and arrival date in the subject line of their emails to Port Health Authorities.
- On occasion, where authorities deem necessary, additional COVID testing may be required upon arrival.
- In such instances, or for any traveler who is not in possession of negative PCR results, they will be escorted by an NHLS staff member, to the airport's testing facility.
- All efforts will be made for the test to be carried out immediately.
- Travelers are responsible for the cost of the test themselves.
- The traveller must wait in a designated area for the results to be processed.
- If the test is negative, the traveller will be permitted to enter the country.
- If the test is positive, the traveller must enter quarantine for 10 days at a designated centre. The quarantine costs will be for the traveler's expense.
- Foreign travelers must have COVID-19 Insurance for travel to South Africa, to cover any quarantine costs if applicable.
- Any international traveler who refuses to be tested must enter quarantine at a designated centre at their own expense.
- It is highly recommended that all foreign travelers must download the free South African COVIDAlert SA Mobile App, which can be downloaded from the [App Store](#) or [Google Play](#).
- Must complete an [Exit Screening Health Questionnaire](#) or [Entry Screening Questionnaire](#)(whichever is applicable).
- Must preferably purchase international insurance before boarding their flight to South Africa.

### Departing Travelers:

- Children under the age of five are not required to be tested.
- Mobile testing units are situated at OR Tambo International Airport, in front of the police station, opposite the Intercontinental Hotel.
- Travelers will be advised of the test results within four to six hours, and they may wait at the airport in the designated area.

- Alternatively, they may do testing a day or two before their departure date and collect their test certificates once completed. Travelers will be notified by SMS once their results are processed.
- Once their COVID-19 PCR test certificates have been collected they may proceed to check-in.
- Quarantine restrictions must be adhered to otherwise a penalty fine or more serious consequences will be levied against the traveler.
- More information can be obtained at [www.nhls.ac.za](http://www.nhls.ac.za)

Ensure you have your ID (for locals), or your passport (for international travelers), on you when travelling. The **domestic travel health declaration** is currently not required for level 3.

### Temperature Screening

Temperature screening is done when you enter the airport, and upon your arrival at international arrivals. Travelers with a 37.2 degree temperature or higher will not be permitted entrance into the airport.

*If you have any flu—like symptoms, lack of sense of smell or taste, **do not travel.***

## Disaster Management Act: Regulations: Alert level 3 during Coronavirus COVID-19 lockdown

### Alert level 3

President Cyril Ramaphosa announced on 15 June 2021 that Adjusted Alert Level 3 will be in place from 16 June 2021.

Adjusted Level 3 regulations as gazetted in [Gazette 44715 of 15 June 2021](#).

(1) Every person is confined to his or her place of residence from **22H00** until **04H00** daily, unless a person-

(a) has been granted permission through directions by the relevant Cabinet member or a permit, which corresponds with Form 7 of Annexure A, to perform a service other than a service related to an activity listed under Table 2; or  
 (b) is attending to a security or medical emergency; or  
 (c) arrives on a flight or is travelling to or from an airport which necessitates travelling during restricted hours of movement: Provided that the person traveling is in possession of a valid boarding pass as proof of flight or a copy of the airline ticket.

(2) Any person who fails to abide by the curfew referred to in subregulation (1) commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine or a period of imprisonment not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) Closing time for the following establishments, whether indoors or outdoors, is **21H00**:

- (a) cinemas;
  - (b) theatres;
  - (c) casinos;
  - (d) museums, galleries and archives;
  - (e) public swimming pools;
  - (f) beaches and public parks;
  - (g) game parks, botanical gardens, aquariums and zoos;
  - (h) gyms and fitness centres;
  - (i) restaurants, bars, shebeens and taverns;
  - (j) venues hosting auctions;
  - (k) venues hosting professional sport; and
  - (l) restaurants, bars, shebeens and taverns; and
  - (j) social, political and cultural gatherings.
- (4) Inter-provincial travel is permitted.

### Opening and closure of schools

33A. The Cabinet member responsible for basic education may by direction contemplated in regulation 4(3), determine the dates on which schools may be opened or closed, as defined in the South African

Schools Act, 1996 (Act No.84 of 1996) and any matter related to the management of schools in the basic education sector, to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in all schools.

### **Mandatory protocols when in a public place**

34. (1) For the purposes of these Regulations, a 'face mask' means a cloth face mask or a homemade item that covers the nose and mouth, or another appropriate item to cover the nose and mouth.

(2) The wearing of a face mask is mandatory for every person when in a public place, and any person who fails to comply with a verbal instruction by an enforcement officer to wear a face mask, commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine or a period of imprisonment not exceeding six months, or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(3) No person will be allowed to -  
(a) use, operate, perform any service on any form of public transport;  
(b) enter or be in a building, place or premises, including government buildings, places or premises, used by the public to obtain goods or services; or  
(c) be in any public open space, if he or she is not wearing a face mask.

(4) The prohibition in subregulation (3)(c) shall not apply to a person who undertakes vigorous exercise in a public place, provided that the person maintains a distance of at least one and a half metres from any other person, and subject to directions on what is considered to be vigorous, issued by the Cabinet member responsible for health.

(5) An employer may not allow any employee to perform any duties or enter the employment premises if the employee is not wearing a face mask while performing his or her duties.

(6) Every business premises, including, but not limited to, a supermarket, shop, grocery store, retail store, wholesale produce market or pharmacy shall -  
(a) determine their area of floor space in square metres;  
(b) based on the information contemplated in paragraph (a), determine the number of customers and employees that may be inside the premises in order to comply with the limitation as provided for in regulation 36(15)(c) of the Regulations and subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures;  
(c) take steps to ensure that persons queuing inside or outside the premises are able to maintain a distance of one and a half metres from each other;  
(d) provide hand sanitisers for use by the public and employees at the entrance to the premises; and  
(e) assign, in writing, an employee or any other suitable person, as the compliance employee, who must ensure -  
(i) compliance with the measures provided for in paragraphs (a) to (d); and  
(ii) that all directions in respect of hygienic conditions and limitation of exposure to persons with COVID-19 are adhered to.

(7) Any business whose premises exceeds the maximum number of customers and employees determined in subregulation (6) commits an offence and is, on conviction, liable to a fine or to imprisonment for a period not exceeding six months or to both such fine and imprisonment.

(8) All employers must, adopt measures to promote physical distancing of employees, including -  
(a) enabling employees to work from home or minimising the need for employees to be physically present at the workplace;  
(b) the provision for adequate space;  
(c) restrictions on face to face meetings;  
(d) special measures for employees with known or disclosed health issues or comorbidities, or with any condition which may place such employees at a higher risk of complications or death if they are infected with COVID-19; and  
(e) special measures for employees above the age of 60 who are at a higher risk of complications or death if they are infected with COVID-19.

(9) The requirements as set out in subregulation (6) applies with the necessary changes, to any other building that is not provided for by subregulation (6).

(10) All courier and delivery services shall provide for minimal personal contact during delivery.

### **Attendance of funerals and cremations**

35. (1) Attendance of a funeral and cremation is limited to 50 persons or less and if the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and all persons maintaining a distance of one and a half metres from each other.

(2) Night vigils are not allowed.

(3) After-funeral gatherings, including "after-tears" gatherings, are not allowed.

(4) During a funeral and cremation, a person must wear a face mask and adhere to all health protocols and social distancing measures.

(5) The duration of a funeral or cremation service is restricted to a maximum of two hours.

### **Gatherings**

36.(1) Every person, when attending a gathering and in order to limit exposure to COVID-19 must -  
(a) wear a face mask;  
(b) adhere to all health protocols;  
(c) maintain a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other; and  
(d) adhere to the curfew hours as provided for in regulation 33; and  
(e) adhere to any other health protocols and social distancing measures as provided for in directions issued by the relevant Cabinet member after consultation with the Cabinet member responsible for health.

(2) An owner or operator of any indoor or outdoor facility where gatherings are held must display the certificate of occupancy which sets out the maximum number of persons the facility may hold.

(3) All -  
(i) faith-based or religious gatherings; and  
(ii) social, political and cultural gatherings,  
are permitted but limited to 50 persons or less for indoor venues and 100 persons or less for outdoor venues and if the venue is too small to hold the prescribed number of persons observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures.

(4) Gatherings at a workplace for work purposes are allowed, subject to strict adherence to all health protocols and social distancing measures.

(5) (a) Hotels, lodges, bed and breakfasts, timeshare facilities, resorts and guest houses are allowed full capacity of the available rooms for accommodation, with patrons wearing face masks and observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other when in common spaces.  
(b) Restaurants, bars, shebeens and taverns are subject to a limitation of a maximum of 50 persons or less for indoor venues and 100 persons or less for outdoor venues and if the venue is too small to hold 50 persons indoors or 100 persons outdoors observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used.  
(c) Conferencing, dining and entertainment facilities are subject to a limitation of a maximum of 50 persons or less for indoor venues and 100 persons or less for outdoor venues and if the venue is too small to hold 50 persons indoors or 100 persons outdoors observing a distance of at least one and a half metres from each other, then not more than 50 percent of the capacity of the venue may be used.  
(d) Every business premises, including but not limited to supermarkets, shops, grocery stores, produce markets and pharmacies, are subject to a limitation of 50 percent of the floor space, which includes customers and employees, and subject to strict adherence to all health protocols including wearing of face masks, sanitising and social distancing measures.

(6) Sporting activities, including both professional and nonprofessional matches, by recognised sporting bodies are allowed, subject to strict adherence to the times of operation as provided for in regulation 33(3) and the following:

- (a) Directions for sports matches issued by the Cabinet member responsible for sport after consultation with the Cabinet member responsible for health;
- (b) only journalists, radio, television crew, security personnel, emergency medical services, and the necessary employees employed by the owners of the venue of the sport match, are allowed at the venue of the sport match;
- (c) only the required number of players, match officials, support staff and medical crew required for the sport match, are allowed at the venue of the sport match;
- (d) no spectators are allowed at the venue of the sports match; and (e) international sport events involving countries with a low or medium COVID-19 infection and transmission rate are allowed.

(7) An enforcement officer must, where a gathering in contravention of the regulations takes place-  
(a) order the persons at the gathering to disperse immediately; and  
(b) if the persons refuse to disperse, take appropriate action, which may, subject to the Criminal Procedure Act, 1977 (Act No. 51 of 1977), include the arrest and detention of any person at the gathering.

### **Places and premises closed to the public**

39.(1) Night clubs are closed to the public.  
(2) The Cabinet member responsible for cooperative governance and traditional affairs may, by directions, determine a place or premises that must be closed, if there is a risk of any members of the public being exposed to COVID-19 at such a place or premises.

### **Controlled visits by members of the public**

41. All visits by members of the public to-  
(a) correctional centres;  
(b) remand detention facilities;  
(c) police holding cells;  
(d) military detention facilities;  
(e) health establishments and facilities, except to receive treatment or medication, subject to strict adherence to health protocols; and  
(f) older persons' residential facilities, are prohibited except to the extent and in the manner directed by the relevant Cabinet member.

(2) The Independent Electoral Commission will be allowed to visit the institutions referred to in subregulation (1), where required for the purposes of voter registration, or special voting, to the extent and in the manner set out in Directions by the relevant Cabinet member.

### **Partial re-opening of borders**

42. (1) The 20 land borders which are fully operational, will remain as such and the 33 land borders which were closed, will remain closed.

(2) Traveling to and from the Republic is allowed, subject to subregulation (3).

(3) Daily commuters from neighbouring countries who attend or teach at a school in the Republic, and who are allowed entry into and exit from the Republic, are subject to compliance with protocols relating to-

- (a) screening for COVID-19 and quarantine or isolation, where necessary;
- (b) the wearing of a face mask;
- (c) transportation; and
- (d) sanitisation and social distancing measures as per the relevant health protocols on safety and prevention of the spread of COVID-19.

(4) (a) International air travel is restricted to the following airports -  
(i) OR Tambo International Airport;  
(ii) King Shaka International Airport;  
(iii) Cape Town International Airport;  
(iv) Lanseria International Airport; and  
(v) Kruger Mpumalanga International Airport.

(b) Long-haul flight departures and landings at the airports listed in paragraph (a) are permitted during the hours of curfew as provided for in regulation 33(1).  
(c) All international travellers arriving at the airports listed in paragraph (a) must provide a valid certificate of a negative COVID-19 test, recognised by the World Health Organisation, which was obtained not more than 72 hours before the date of travel.  
(d) In the event of the traveller's failure to submit a certificate as proof of a negative COVID-19 test, the traveller will be required to do an antigen test on arrival at his or her own cost and in the event of a traveller testing positive for COVID-19, he or she will be required to isolate him or herself at his or her own cost, for a period of 10 days.

(5) All commercial seaports will remain open and small crafts will be allowed entry into seaports, in-line with all health and border law enforcement protocols.

### **Transportation of cargo**

42A. (1) Rail, ocean, air and road transport is permitted for the movement of cargo to and from other countries and within the Republic, subject to national legislation and any directions issued in terms of subregulation (2), for the transportation of goods for export and for import.

(2) The Cabinet member responsible for trade, industry and competition may, after consultation with the Cabinet members responsible for transport and finance, issue directions that provide for the management, administration and prioritisation of exports or imports, taking into account the need to prevent and limit the spread of COVID-19 and to deal with the destructive and other effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

(3) The Cabinet member responsible for transport may, after consultation with the Cabinet members responsible for cooperative governance and traditional affairs, trade, industry and competition, health, justice and correctional services, finance and public enterprises, issue directions relating to health protocols applicable to sea cargo operations and air freight operation.

### **Public transport**

43. (1) For purposes of this regulation "long distance travel" is a trip of 200 km or more.

(2) The Cabinet member responsible for transport must, after consultation with the Cabinet members responsible for cooperative governance and traditional affairs, health, police, trade, industry and competition, and justice and correctional services, issue directions for the resumption of different modes of public transport to cater for the gradual return to work of people, in respect of-

- (a) domestic air travel;
- (b) rail, bus services, taxi services;
- (c) e-hailing services; and
- (d) private vehicles.

(3) Bus and taxi services -  
(a) may not carry more than 70 percent of the licensed capacity for long distance travel; and  
(b) may carry 100 percent of the licensed capacity for any trip not regarded as long distance travel in terms of subregulation (1).

(4) A driver, owner or operator of public transport may not allow any member of the public who is not wearing a face mask, to board or be conveyed in a public transport owned or operated by him or her.

(5) The directions to be issued by the Cabinet member responsible for transport must set out the health protocols that must be adhered to and the steps to be followed for the limitation of the exposure of members of the public using public transport to COVID-19.

### **Sale, dispensing, distribution and transportation of liquor**

44.(1) The sale of liquor -  
(a) by a licensed premises for off-site consumption is only permitted from 10H00 to 18H00, from Mondays to Thursdays, excluding Fridays, Saturdays, Sundays and public holidays, and  
(b) by a licensed premises for on-site consumption is permitted, subject to strict adherence to the curfew provided for in regulation 33(3).

(2) The provisions of subregulation (1)(a) do not apply to duty-free shops, registered wineries, wine farms, micro-breweries and micro-distilleries.

(3) The consumption of liquor in public places, except in licensed on-site consumption premises, is not permitted.

(4) Registered wineries, wine farms, micro-breweries and micro-distilleries may continue to operate in offering wine-tastings and other brew-tastings and the selling of wine and other brews to the public for off-site consumption, subject to strict adherence to the curfew provided for in regulation 33(3) and strict adherence to social distancing measures and health protocols.

(5) The transportation of liquor is permitted.

(6) The sale and consumption of liquor in contravention of subregulations (1) and (3) is an offence.

### **Operation of economic sector**

45. (1) Businesses may operate except for those set out in Table 2.

(2) Relevant health protocols and social distancing measures for persons employed in private residences must be adhered to.

(3) Relevant health protocols and social distancing measures set out in directions must be adhered to, in addition to the occupational health and safety directions issued by the Cabinet member responsible for employment and labour, and applicable labour legislation.

(4) (a) Firms must adhere to any sector-specific health protocols intended to limit the spread of COVID-19 in the sector concerned.

(b) Sector-specific health protocols may address matters such as work rotation, staggered working hours, shift systems, remote working arrangements, special measures affecting persons with greater vulnerabilities or similar measures. In order to achieve social distancing, protect employees or limit congestion in public transport and at the workplace.

(c) Sector-specific health protocols where these are still to be developed, must be developed and issued by Cabinet members responsible for a sector in consultation with the Cabinet member responsible for health.

### **Table 2: Adjusted alert level 3**

All persons who are able to work from home must do so. However, persons will be permitted to perform any type of work outside the home, and to travel to and from work and for work purposes under Alert Level 3, subject to-

(a) strict compliance to health protocols and social distancing measures;

(b) the return to work being phased-in in order to put in place measures to make the workplace COVID-19 ready;

(c) the return to work being done in a manner that avoids and reduces risks of infection; and

(d) the work not being listed under the specific exclusions in this Table.

### **SPECIFIC EXCLUSIONS**

1. Night vigils.

2. After-funeral gatherings including "after-tears" gatherings.

3. Night clubs.

4. The land borders that remain closed, excluding the land borders contemplated in regulation 42(1).

5. Passenger ships for international leisure purposes, excluding small crafts, in line with health and border law enforcement.

6. Attendance of any sporting event by spectators.

7. Exclusions relating to public transport services as set out in the directions issued by the Cabinet member responsible for transport.

8. Exclusions relating to education services as set out in the directions issued by the Cabinet members responsible for education

**The Airports Company of South Africa (ACSA)** manages all main airports in the country. For all COVID-related concerns re hygiene protocols, here are a few FAQ's from their website:

<https://www.airports.co.za/>

1. **How will you ensure that wheelchairs are sanitised knowing many people will be touching them?**  
Wheelchairs will be sanitised after every use.
2. **Will Passenger Aid Unit assistance be wearing Personal Protective Equipment's when assisting passengers?** All staff members will wear Personal Protective Equipment when assisting passengers.
3. **How will the airlines ensure that seats are deep cleaned after every flight?**  
Please kindly refer to your respective airline for more information on sanitation and hygiene within the aircraft.
4. **Are IDs and driver's licenses safe from contamination considering the number of people touching them at the airport?** Passengers are encouraged to use online check-in to minimise touching of personal identity documents. Security will also request that passengers scan their boarding cards.
5. **Will baggage handlers wear full Personal Protective Equipment because they could pass the virus from one bag to another?** All baggage handlers will wear full Personal Protective Equipment when assisting passengers and handling baggage.
6. **How safe is luggage from contamination during loading and offloading?**  
Airports Company South Africa adheres to the strictest health and safety protocols. All baggage will be fully sanitised and baggage handlers will wear complete Personal Protective Equipment. Bags must be wrapped as an additional safety measure.
7. **How frequently are high touch areas and bathrooms sanitized?**  
The bathrooms and high touch areas will be sanitised in accordance with the public health procedure as approved by the South African Civil Aviation Authority.
8. **Will trolleys be sanitized and how frequently?**  
Yes, after every use. As an extra safety precaution, we recommend passengers also sanitize their hands before using a trolley.
9. **What will you do to people who do not observe airport rules?**  
They will not be permitted in the terminal building or they will be escorted off the premises by airport security.
10. **Will there be isolation facilities available for people who show symptoms or who present a temperature of 38 and higher?**  
There will be secondary screening and isolation facilities available for those with temperature higher than 37.2 degrees.
11. **How will social distancing be enforced in airports?**  
Social distancing signage is up in the terminal building, and Covid-19 monitors will ensure that guidelines are enforced.
12. **Will masks be available to passengers who don't have and will you have a shop selling masks?**  
Passengers must have a mask to be permitted inside the terminal building. Masks will also be sold at vending machines within the airport building
13. **Where will hand sanitisers be placed at the airports?**  
Hand sanitisers have been made available at strategic passenger journey touchpoints throughout the terminals. Soap is also provided in all bathroom facilities. Hand sanitizers have been made available throughout the entire terminal building.

**14. Can South Africans travel to high-risk countries?**

South African citizens who wish to travel to high-risk countries must check with the country if their borders are open and requirements of travel. Please note that South African residents who want to travel to high-risk countries should contact the Department of Home Affairs for clarity.

The contact details are as below:

**Contact centre:** 0800 60 11 90 // **Facebook:** @HomeAffairsZA // **Twitter:** @HomeAffairsSA

**Email:** [hacc@dha.gov.za](mailto:hacc@dha.gov.za) // **Website:** <http://www.dha.gov.za/index.php/ask-us>

**15. What are the rules inside the aircraft cabin?**

Passengers must confirm with the airline directly.

**16. What Personal Protective Equipment should staff wear? Do they change the Personal Protective Equipment during a shift?**

ACSA has developed a Personal Protective Equipment guideline that is compliant with local legislation as well as WHO guidelines for Ports Of Entry. We have also done extensive studies on the quality grades of Personal Protective Equipment that best suits our environment. The guideline prescribes Personal Protective Equipment based on the nature of work as well as the occupational exposure. All staff change their Personal Protective Equipment during the shift (eg. after tea break). This is because the general assumption is that Personal Protective Equipment will be contaminated and exhibits a high risk to someone that will want to reuse them. ACSA does provide such Personal Protective Equipment to staff at no cost.

**17. What training has staff been given on the new procedures?**

All staff have been given compulsory Back To Work occupational health and Safety training on COVID-

**18. What will Airports Company South Africa do if a person who works at the airport becomes infected with Covid-19?**

We will activate our Occupational Health and Safety staff response plan. Any staff member who is suspected to be ill will be placed in isolation. The Department of Health will be informed, and the employee will be attended to.

**19. We have bought tickets, what will happen to them if the airport doesn't open?**

Please ensure that all ticket enquiries are taken up with the respective airline.

**20. How many hours before departure must a passenger be at the airport?**

Passengers must be at the airport at least ninety minutes for domestic flights.

International travel: Passengers must be at the airport at least four hours for domestic flights to ensure enough time is allocated for screening and operational procedures.

**21. What have you done to make airports safer?**

Airports Company South Africa has recruited additional staff and implemented strict health compliance protocol, including social distancing, temperature screening all passengers and staff, regular deep cleaning, and surface sanitizing of the airports. We have equipped all staff with the necessary Personal Protective Equipment and sanitizers.

**22. What happens if the traveller is unable to afford a COVID-19 test or quarantine?**

Please contact the Department of Health for clarity. **Whatsapp:** 0600 123 //

**Website:** <http://www.health.gov.za>

**National Institute for Communicable diseases:**

<http://www.nicd.ac.za/media/>

**World Health organisation:**

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/events-as-they-happen>

**South Africa Corona Virus Website:** <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/>