SEYCHELLES

TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR VISITORS

INTRODUCTION

While the world continues to experience the COVID-19 pandemic, Seychelles remains open to visitors and has put in place protocols to ensure safe travel and stay for its visitors. As visitors enjoy their stay, it is essential that they remain conscious of these measures to keep Seychelles safe.

Seychelles International Airport is now open for all scheduled commercial flights. Furthermore, in its effort to make Seychelles more accessible to visitors and to restart its tourism activities it has been important to continuously review some of the procedures. The recent review follows the national immunization campaign that until to date is going well and a good percentage of the local adult population has been vaccinated. New procedures are as follows: -

Seychelles is ready to welcome all visitors irrespective of their vaccination status on the condition that they have a COVID-19 negative PCR test certificate that must be taken within 72 hours prior to travel**, except for visitors coming from countries on the restricted list as follows: South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe. This new measure is effective as of 27 November 2021**

No quarantine is required for visitors entering Seychelles. However, they are being strongly encouraged to be fully immunized before travel. They are allowed free movement throughout their entire holiday **but they must adhere to all public health measures**. They also are free to stay at any health certified tourism accommodation establishment **on the condition that they follow all health protocols that are in place at these establishments**.

All visitors require a valid Travel Authorization (TA) for entry into Seychelles. This must be done through the online portal at **https://seychelles.govtas.com/**. Additional information and instructions are available on the portal, including support to provide specific clarifications.

All visitors are requested to adhere to all stated procedures in this advisory and ensure that all requirements are met prior to arrival, failing which, may result in restriction of entry.

Furthermore, please note that once visitors are in Seychelles, there are Public Health Measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. A person who is fully vaccinated may still get infected, and infect others. It is therefore important that all visitors and residents follow all the public health and social measures in place. These include wearing facemasks, maintaining adequate distance with others, avoiding crowded spaces and exercise good hygiene practices.

Conditions for Entry by sea (for Yachts)

Visitors and crew entering Seychelles by sea must apply for health travel authorization via email pha@health.gov.sc .

- Visitors and crew arriving by sea must have valid medical insurance to cover potential COVID-19 related costs (quarantine, isolation, treatment).
- They must spend 14 days from the last port of call. Crew and passengers should be without symptoms of COVId-19 during this period.
- Arrival PCR test is not required.
- Early disembarkation is authorised on the condition that upon arrival, they undertake a PCR test (at a cost) or they must provide proof of completion of COVID-19 vaccination.
- All visitors/crew must report any illness to the management of the yachts/liveaboards company or to the Public Health Authority.

Please find below conditions of entry into Seychelles for visitors.

ENTRY CONDITIONS

PRE - TRAVEL PROCEDURES

- **Visitors coming from countries on the restricted list as follows: South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe are restricted entry into Seychelles.**

- All visitors including infants and children, regardless of vaccination status, must have a negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate from an accredited laboratory. Samples for this test must have been taken within 72 hours before departure.

- Visitors must have valid travel health insurance that covers at minimum COVID-19 testing, isolation, quarantine and clinical care.

- Online Travel Authorization is required prior to boarding flights to Seychelles. Visitors must submit their negative PCR test results, flight and accommodation details for Travel Authorization before departure. Visitors must submit their application for approval through the designated platform at this link: - https://seychelles.govtas.com/.

- Upon check in, all visitors coming to Seychelles must show approved Travel Authorization (TA) to their respective airline companies for verification.

- Visitors must comply with all airline protocols throughout their journey.

- **Visitors must ensure that accommodation bookings are made only at licensed establishments or liveaboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority.** Refer to the list of certified accommodation   The list of certified liveaboards is also available on our website www.tourism.gov.sc

- Booking vouchers reflecting the entire duration of stay in Seychelles must be presented at the Immigration counter for verification. Visitors without such a booking will be directed to another establishment that is certified.

DISEMBARKATION PROCEDURES

Airport Arrival

The authorities at Seychelles International Airport have established measures for safe movement at the airport as follows: -

- Disembarkation should be done in an orderly manner based on inflight seating arrangements.

- Facemasks should be kept on at all times.

- A distance of at least one metre should be maintained between all persons at all times (except members of the same household/family.

- Hand sanitisers are available throughout the terminal – must be used regularly after coming in contact with commonly touched surfaces or objects.

- When collecting luggage, visitors must ensure that a distance of at least one metre from other persons is maintained. The area around the conveyor belt has been demarcated to guide visitors.

- Visitors may make use of trolleys that have been disinfected and located at clearly demarcated areas.

- All visitors will undergo temperature checks and health screening.

- Any visitor (regardless of his vaccination status), who disembarks with fever and respiratory symptoms such as cough, runny nose or shortness of breath will be isolated from other travellers and be subjected to further assessment and COVID-19 testing as indicated.

TRANSFERS

Airport transfers

- **Visitors are encouraged to use safe certified transportation**. All visitors must observe rules for physical distancing, avoiding close physical contact such as handshakes, and wear a facemask throughout the journey to the establishment.

STAY AT ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS OR LIVEABOARDS

- Visitors may only stay in establishments or liveaboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. Visitors are required to adhere to all health protocols in place at their respective tourism accommodation/liveaboards including wearing of facemasks in common areas.

- Bareboat charters are authorized. However only certified yachts/liveaboards companies are allowed to charter bareboats.

- All individuals arriving in Seychelles must report any illness to their hotel management, local health centre and/or public health authority, even if fully vaccinated.

- To ensure the safety of staff and visitors, clients and staff should do self-monitoring for COVID -19 illness and reporting of any symptoms. Immediate reporting should be done to the hotel management staff and subsequently to the Public Health Authority.

- Any visitor regardless of his vaccination status, who develops symptoms compatible with COVID-19 during their stay, or through investigation is proven a close contact of a positive person, may be subject to further assessment and testing.

- Where visitors are assessed to be close contacts of a potentially infectious case of COVID-19, they will also be issued hotel-quarantine as per guidance.

- Visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, must continue to observe all health measures especially in all public places, such as consistent use of facemasks, maintaining social/physical distancing, practice respiratory, and hand hygiene throughout their travel and stay in Seychelles.

- Visitor wishing to take part in recreational activities such as tours, excursions, sightseeing etc. are required to use licensed tourism service providers that have been certified by the Public Health Authority.

- **Visitors must avoid public grouping, gatherings and crowded places throughout their travel and stay in Seychelles.**

- **All persons who are already in Seychelles who have been to South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe, in the last two weeks are required to go for a PCR test if they have been in Seychelles from five (5) up to fourteen (14) days after arrival. Those who have been in Seychelles for less than 5 days should wait for day 5 to go for the PCR test.**

- **PCR test for visitors following travel to the mentioned countries (i.e. South Africa, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia and Zimbabwe) is free of charge at all <u>government testing stations.</u>**

PCR TESTING IN SEYCHELLES FOR DEPARTING VISITORS

PCR testing is not required routinely to depart Seychelles. However, your airline or final destination may require it. PCR test facilities are available on the three (3) main islands namely Mahe, Praslin and La Digue to visitors prior to departure. Visitors requiring the test should contact the Public Health Authority at least a week in advance on the email address <u>covid19test@health.gov.sc</u> or telephone +248 4388410 to make the necessary arrangements. The PCR test currently costs SCR2, 500.00 per test. **Effective as of 24th May 2021, children below the age of 12 years and persons of 63 years and above will also be charged the same fee for PCR test.**

Two Private Health Service Providers (Euro Medical and Seychelles Medical) offer on-site sample collection and PCR test at a cost. **The contact detail for Euro Medical Tel: + 2484324999 or + 2482715763, website for additional information is <u>https://covid.euromedical.info</u> and the contact detail for Seychelles Medical +2484366999 and their website for additional information is <u>https://pcrtest.sc/.</u> Please refer to the link<u>http://tourism.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/List-of-Private-Health-Services-in-Seychelles-Offering-COVID-19-testing-services-3.pdf</u> for additional private medical services.**

However, testing is still being done through government laboratory at the Seychelles Public Health laboratory of the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health accredits all PCR tests administered in Seychelles.

Please note that if you receive a positive PCR test result, regardless of your COVID-19 vaccination status, the Public

Health Authority requires that you are isolated in your hotel/guesthouse at your own cost for a minimum period. If you are without any symptoms throughout, you may expect to be released by the 10th day from the date you tested positive. If you develop any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 illness, the required period of isolation is 14 days.

Any of your close contacts, for example a travelling companion, who might have been infected, may be asked to undergo quarantine.

During the isolation/quarantine period, guests may not change accommodation, except with the approval of the Public Health Authority. A repeat test is not required at the end of the period, unless required by the airline or next destination country. At the end of this period, you will be issued with a certificate or letter of completion of isolation.

A second test by a different laboratory immediately after the initial positive result does not invalidate the first result. You should be aware that such a second test, even if negative, does not alter the public health measures, including isolation that are required on the basis of the initial positive test.

SYMPTOMATIC CASES

Standard Procedures

Visitors who develop symptoms of a possible respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or new loss of smell/taste) will be referred to the health services for further assessment and testing as indicated. In the event that a visitor is found to be infected with COVID-19, the Public Health Authority requires that the person is isolated from the population and other visitors until recovery from the infection. Seychelles has extensive and modern health care services and visitors can expect quality care in the event of illness.
Symptomatic cases, especially if they fall in the 'high-risk' group for deterioration will be cared for in a health-managed isolation facility.

ASYMPTOMATIC CASES

Standard Procedures

Asymptomatic/mildly symptomatic cases must undergo quarantine at a certified tourism accommodation establishment at their own cost.

N.B. It is important to note that these procedures are subject to change at short notice, and visitors are invited to check for the latest requirements on the Tourism and Health websites.

For any further enquiries, please email info@tourism.gov.sc