



health

Department:
Health
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PORT HEALTH SERVICES

MEMO

TO: REGIONAL DIRECTORS

**SUBJECT: HEALTH MEASURES FOR PROCESSING TRAVELLERS
BY PORT HEALTH DURING ALERT LEVEL ONE**

On 16 September 2020, the President of the Republic had announced that the Country would be moving to alert level 1 as part of the continuous effort to contain the spread of COVID-19. In line with this move to alert level 1 as indicated on the Presidential address, additional requirements will be introduced by the Department at all Ports of Entry. This would include a requirement for a negative COVID-19 test result not older than 72 hours from the time of departure from the country of origin for travellers arriving in the country. The negative test result must be produced to the Port Health Official on arrival and shall be valid for a period of 14 days from the date the result was issued by the laboratory.

In addition, Port Health will be required to intensify screening and ensure that arriving travellers are screened in line with Port Health standard operating procedures on communicable disease control. All travellers including those in possession of a negative COVID-19 test must be subjected to mandatory primary screening at the port which will include completion of the travel health questionnaire and submitting it to the Port Health officials on arrival or prior to departure, temperature screening and visual observation by Port health.

In ensuring compliance with the requirement above, Port Health Officials must take note of the following:

Daily commuters (Learners and Educators) and Children 5 years and below

Learners and educators arriving daily into the country during the school terms, shall be excluded on the above requirement of producing test results and will not be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test on arrival at the Port of Entry. Children who are 5 years and below shall also be excluded from the test requirement and will not be required to produce a negative COVID-19 test on arrival into the country. However, they will still be required to comply with other screening requirements including completion of traveller health questionnaire on arrival and departure.

Travellers arriving without a negative COVID-19 test result

All travellers who are not in possession of a valid negative COVID-19 test result will be subjected to mandatory quarantine at a state identified facility at their own cost. Travellers without a valid COVID-19 test result as mentioned above, must on arrival, complete and sign a written declaration committing to adhere to quarantine requirements, attached **Annexure A**. Travellers will be liable for all costs related to quarantine and transportation. A list of approved quarantine facilities closest to each port of entry has been identified and shall be utilised for this purpose. **It is advisable that travellers book and pay for their accommodation prior to arrival at the port of entry.** Where necessary, Port Health will issue travellers with the details of the nearest facility, whereby travellers will be required to make booking arrangement and produce proof of payment for their stay at the facility for not less than 5 days prior to entering the country.

Secondary Screening by Port Health

Travellers who are not cleared during primary screening due to the outcome of primary screening assessments must be subjected to secondary screening. Travellers must be escorted to the Port Health Clinic/ or designated area, for further medical assessment / in depth interview to determine if they fit the case definition, have a travel history, are experiencing any other symptoms and have a history of exposure. Where Port Health Clinic is not available, Port Health Officer (EHPs) must conduct further assessment through an in-depth interview of the traveller. If a traveller is found to fit the case definition of a suspect case, he/she must be isolated at the port of entry until a risk based decision to either transport the suspect traveller to a health facility or place the traveller under isolation is made. The decision on the further management of the traveller must be taken in consultation with Provincial/District CDC coordinator and NICD. Port health must facilitate the transport arrangement where transportation of the suspect case to an identified health facility for further management is required.

Regional Directors are requested to ensure that the content of this memo is brought to the attention of all Port Health Officials for implementation. Further information on the list of quarantine sites and validity of laboratory results will be shared once received.

Regards



MS APR CELE
CHIEF DIRECTOR: ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH AND PORT HEALTH SERVICES

DATE.....2020/09/30