

# The Republic of South Sudan



## Ministry of Health

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### Updated recommendations on border health controls for international travellers

#### 1.0 Background

Africa is currently experiencing a full blown third wave with a consistent rise in cases for six weeks up to the week ending 27 June 2021 when a 25% week-on-week case rise was recorded. The cases in Africa are currently doubling every three weeks and these trends are driven by the Delta variant that has been reported in at least 16 countries. The Delta variant is estimated to be 30%–60% more transmissible than other variants and has been detected in 97% of samples sequenced in Uganda and 79% of samples sequenced in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, that share borders with South Sudan. In recent weeks, corresponding COVID-19 case upsurges have been reported in India and South America amid circulating COVID-19 variants of concern and interest. To mitigate the risk of cross border transmission of COVID-19, the Ministry of Health has updated the recommendations on border health controls for international travelers and endorsed by the National Task Force on 15 July 2021 as follows:

#### 2.0 General guidance to travelers

- 2.1 Adhere to and ensure adequate personal and hand hygiene during travel
- 2.2 Observe proper respiratory etiquette including use of masks while travelling
- 2.3 Respect and maintain physical distance of at least one metre from others
- 2.4 Confirmed, probable and suspected cases, and contacts of confirmed or probable cases should not travel
- 2.5 Persons at risk of developing severe disease and dying, including people 60 years of age or older or those with comorbidities (e.g., heart disease, cancer, and diabetes) are advised to postpone travel plans

#### 3.0 Laboratory test certification and quarantine requirements

- 3.1 Molecular testing for SARS-COV-2 within 96 hours of sampling prior to arrival is the current requirement for entry into South Sudan. A hard copy of the PCR result is required from a recognized laboratory.
- 3.2 International passengers can quarantine for 10 days (Q10) OR be tested at their own cost on Day 5 (note: the day of arrival in South Sudan is Day 0) and exit quarantine on the 7<sup>th</sup> full day



of quarantine (Q7) if their RT-PCR test result is negative. Those choosing not to be tested on or after Day 5 may exit quarantine on Day 10. Any person exhibiting symptoms at any point during the quarantine period will need to be tested and may not exit quarantine before Day 10

3.3 International travellers should self-monitor for the potential onset of symptoms on arrival, report symptoms and travel history to local health facilities and follow the national protocols

#### **4.0 Categories of travellers eligible for quarantine waiver**

The following categories of travellers will be considered for a waiver from quarantine (Q7/Q10) upon presentation of a valid SARS-COV-2 PCR negative test certificate for a sample collected not more than 96 hours prior to arrival at the point of entry:

- 4.1 Persons on high priority short-term assignments (less than 7 days)
- 4.2 Travelers on short-term diplomatic visits (less than 7 days)
- 4.3 Crew members
- 4.4 Humanitarian workers on short-term visits (less than 7 days)
- 4.5 Medical emergencies
- 4.6 Others at the discretion of the COVID-19 National Taskforce and National Steering Committee

#### **5.0 Categories of travellers exempted from quarantine**

The following categories of travellers will be exempted from quarantine (Q7/Q10) upon presentation of a valid SARS-COV-2 PCR negative test certificate for a sample collected not more than 96 hours prior to arrival at the point of entry:

- 5.1 Travellers with documentation of full COVID-19 vaccination (completed at least two weeks before travelling) as recorded in the COVID-19 vaccine certificate or in the International Certificate of Vaccination or Prophylaxis (ICVP)
- 5.2 Travellers with: (a) documentary evidence of SARS-COV-2 PCR positive test result within the 6 months prior to travelling and (b) valid discharge certificate from isolation

#### **6.0 Laboratory testing after arrival at points of entry**

Mandatory SARS-COV-2 PCR or Ag-RDT testing on arrival will be implemented for the following traveller categories:

- 1) Symptomatic travelers for illness consistent with COVID-19
- 2) Travelers seeking exemption from the standard Q7/Q10 quarantine protocol as specified in Section 4.0 but who don't meet the conditions specified in Section 5.0

Note that arrival testing (PCR or Ag-RDT) will be undertaken by designated private laboratories while the traveller is in self-isolation or quarantine.

#### **7.0 Approval of waiver for quarantine and/or arrival PCR or Ag-RDT testing**

Approval of a waiver for quarantine and/or arrival PCR or Ag-RDT will be granted by the designated port health officer at each point of entry after a traveller fulfills the conditions specified in either Section 4.0



and/or Section 5.0. The waiver approval will be issued by way of quarantine-waiver stamp on the pre-travel COVID-19 PCR negative test certificate of the traveller.

**Note:** These travel recommendations will be reviewed and updated periodically based on the evolving epidemiological trends at the national, regional, and global levels.

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**And**

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