SEYCHELLES

VISITOR TRAVEL ADVISORY

MINISTRY OF TOURISM, CIVIL AVIATION, PORTS AND MARINE

4th August 2020

INTRODUCTION

As the world recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic that brought tourism and travel to a standstill, Seychelles is focused on resuming operations within the 'new normal' context.

Seychelles has so far, recorded a very low number of cases and there has been no community transmission, deaths nor any infection amongst health care workers. With travellers' wellbeing and that of the local population at heart, Seychelles has put in place protocols to ensure safe travel and stay for its visitors. While visitors enjoy their stay, it is essential that they remain conscious of these safety measures to keep Seychelles safe.

The procedures and restrictions present in this advisory are applicable to visitors staying at tourism accommodation establishments as well as liveaboards that meet the safe criteria. The content of this advisory may be revised periodically based on the guidance of the Public Health Authority.

As of 1st August 2020, Seychelles International Airport is open for scheduled commercial flights. Only passengers from permitted countries published by the Public Health Authority will be allowed in the country.

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

A separate advisory for returning residents and GOP holders is available on the website of the Department of Health at http://www.health.gov.sc

PRE - TRAVEL PROCEDURES

1. Visitors, including infants and children, coming from permitted countries must have a negative COVID-19 PCR certificate from an accredited laboratory. The test must be taken maximum of 72 hours before departure. The list of permitted countries is available at http://tourism.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/List-of-Permitted-Countries-28th-July.pdf and is revised periodically. Persons from other countries will not be authorized to enter Seychelles for the time-being.

2. Visitors must submit their negative PCR test results, flight and accommodation details before departure. The Submission form is available on the websites of the Department of Tourism and Department of Health. Completed forms should be submitted to the email address visitor@health.gov.sc. Failure to submit the form may result in delayed arrival procedures and additional testing.

3. Upon check in, all travellers coming to Seychelles must show their approved test results to their respective airline companies for verification. Visitors must comply with all airline protocols throughout their journey.

4. Visitors transiting through countries not on the permitted list will be allowed entry into Seychelles only if they do not exit the airport during transit.

5. Visitors must ensure that accommodation bookings are made only at licensed establishments or liveaboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. The list of certified establishments is available on the website of the Department of Tourism: www.tourism.gov.sc . All 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.

6. Visitors must ensure that they have valid travel insurance with full medical coverage, including Covid-19 related medical care, for the duration of their stay in Seychelles.

DISEMBARKATION PROCEDURES

Airport Arrival

1. 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.
- Face masks should be kept on until exit from the terminal.
- A distance of at least one metre should be maintained between all persons at all times.
- Hand sanitisers are available throughout the terminal.
- 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.

2. All visitors will undergo temperature checks and health screening.

- Any visitor 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.
- Additionally, visitors may be required to undertake a COVID-19 test upon disembarkation.

TRANSFERS

Airport transfers

- Transfer of visitors from the airport to the place of accommodation will be done by authorized transport and visitors must at all times follow instructions provided by the operators.
- Visitors will not be authorised to use public buses.
- Physical distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Visitors with connecting domestic flights to other islands should remain on the airport premises until departure of their flight. In the case where the connecting flight is on the following day, accommodation must be booked for the overnight stay in an authorized establishment.

STAY AT ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS OR LIVEABOARDS

- Visitors may only stay in establishments or liveaboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. Upon arrival in Seychelles, visitors must stay in not more than two accommodations/liveaboards for the first 7 days.
- Visitors are not permitted to stay at private residences.
- To ensure the safety of staff and visitors, all persons at tourism establishments are monitored daily for signs of illness by the Health and Safety Officer or designated person.
- All tourism establishments have set up measures to increase vigilance, enhance hygiene and social and physical distancing. Visitors are required to adhere to all guidelines and should keep interaction with other visitors not in their travel group to a minimum.
- 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 are required to wear face masks in public areas.

PCR TESTING IN SEYCHELLES

PCR testing is not required to depart Seychelles. However, your airline or final destination may require it. PCR test facilities are available on the 3 main islands namely Mahe, Praslin and La Digue to visitors prior to departure. Visitors requiring the test should contact the Public Health Authority well in advance on the email address covid19test@health.gov.sc or telephone +248 4388410 to make the necessary arrangements. The PCR test currently costs SCR2, 500.00. Children below the age of 12 years and persons of 65 years and above are exempted from the fee. All PCR tests administered in Seychelles are accredited by the Ministry of Health.

SYMPTOMATIC CASES

Emergency Procedures

Visitors who develop symptoms of a possible respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath) will be referred to the health services for prompt attention. 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.

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