



REVISED GUIDELINES FOR STRENGTHENING SURVEILLANCE AT THE POINTS OF ENTRY (PoE)

Zambia has started witnessing a surge in the number of the COVID-19 cases and admissions to hospitals. This situation is being fueled by local person to person transmission and importation of cases from outside the country. The emergence of the variants of concern and variants of interest poses another challenge to the COVID 19 response in the country.

The COVID 19 pandemic continues to ravage many parts of the world notably in Asia, North America, South America and parts of Europe. Unrestricted travel between Zambia and countries with active outbreaks remains a high risk factor for importation of COVID-19 into the country.

The emergence of the SARS CoV-2 variants of concern globally and regionally poses an even higher risk of rapid spread of the COVID 19 infection and an increase in cases of severe disease cases as observed in other countries.

The following guidelines shall therefore apply:

1. Point of Entry screening

- Port Health officers will conduct general observation of passengers to detect those with signs of illness.
- Port Health Officers to collect and review health declaration forms, noting country of origin.
- Port Health Officers to review the SARS-CoV-2 negative certificates being presented by travelers to determine authenticity and validity.
- All passengers to undergo thermo-scanning and temperature to be recorded on the health declaration forms.

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2. SARS COV - 2 test requirements at Points of Entry (PoE)

- a. All travelers entering Zambia **must produce** evidence of a Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR)-based SARS-CoV-2 negative test conducted within 72 hours prior to departure from the country of origin.
- b. All travellers from countries that are **NOT classified** as COVID - 19 High risk countries (see list of high risk countries on annex) and have a **negative PCR SARS-CoV-2 test result** do not need to quarantine.
- c. All travelers from countries that are Classified as High risk of COVID-19 by the Ministry of Health / Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI) **will be subjected to SARS CoV -2 testing at the Points of Entry even if they have a negative PCR test certificate.** Specimens will be collected on arrival or within 48hours of entry into the country.
 - **Travelers who transit through high risk countries are not considered high risk if the transit time is less than 24 hours**
- d. Testing at the Points of entry using the Polymerase Chain Reaction test will be done at the travelers cost.
- e. Travelers presenting at the PoEs with symptoms and signs suggestive of COVID-19 shall be re-tested and quarantined in designated facilities until results are available to inform decision making.
- f. All **positive COVID 19 tests** identified from specimens collected at Points of Entry or collected from persons within 48 hours of arrival in Zambia will be subjected to **genomic sequencing.**

3. Quarantine

- a. All travellers from countries that are NOT classified as COVID -19 high risk countries (see annex) and have a **Negative PCR SARS-CoV-2 test result** do not need to quarantine.
- b. Mandatory self – quarantine will be instituted for all travelers from countries classified as " High risk".
- c. However, travelers from countries classified as "high risk" shall be allowed to discontinue the 14-day quarantine **once the Negative PCR test results** from tests conducted on arrival in Zambia or within 48hrs of arrival in Zambia are communicated to the traveler.
- d. Travelers from Countries classified as "High risk" who test positive will be managed in accordance with the prescribed Zambia's COVID 19 management guidelines.

These guidelines are in line with the Statutory Instruments No 21, 22 and 62 of 2020 of the Public Health Act, Cap 295 of the Laws of Zambia which provide a legal framework for the control and prevention of COVID 19, including the quarantine or isolation of suspected or confirmed infected persons.

The guidelines will be effective from **9th June 2021 and supersedes the guidelines which were released earlier.**



Professor Victor Mukonka
Director General ZNPHI



Dr. Kennedy Malama
Permanent secretary -Technical Services
MINISTRY OF HEALTH