

THE UNITED REPUBLIC OF TANZANIA.



MINISTRY OF HEALTH, COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT, GENDER AND CHILDREN.

COVID-19 TESTING GUIDE FOR PEOPLE TRAVELLING ABROAD.

SECOND EDITION – 04 JANUARY 2021

1.0 Introduction.

The COVID-19 outbreak has continued to affect various countries since it was confirmed in December 2019. As of **03 January 2021**, a total number of **83,322,449** patients and **1,831,412** deaths have been reported worldwide. Various countries have continued taking measures including the condition of COVID 19 Testing for all travelers, International travel bans and lock down. Tanzania is one of the countries that has taken concrete steps to control the transmission of COVID-19.

This guide is based on the increasing number of new cases reported worldwide and the emergence of new COVID-19 variant strains in some countries. At the same time, the increases in the cost of COVID-19 testing is attributed to the increase in the travelers and tourists entering the country, technological changes in testing, where some countries have requested increased **IgM** antibody testing in line with **PCR** and increased demand for sampling facilities has led to the improvements to the first guide issued on **20 July 2020**. As a result, the Ministry has prepared a Testing Guide for the second edition of **4 January 2021** for travelers travelling abroad and visitors to Tanzania including tourists.

1.1 Guide Areas.

This guide sets out the procedure for applications, testing, how to get answers, border checks and test costs for travelers (All people travelling abroad from Tanzania including freight drivers, departing visitors and tourists).

1.2 Application and Testing Procedure.

- 1.2.1 Travelers should be educated to get information from the embassy offices of the country he or she wants to go to, on the need for COVID-19 testing.
- 1.2.2 A traveler who needs a COVID-19 testing service should reach the Regional Hospital or specialized accreditation center including all facilities that carry out daily monitoring of Influenza sentinel sites in the country with the proof of need for testing of the country he or she

wants to go to including travel certificate (Passport). In Dar es salaam region, Muhimbili National Hospital, Regional Referral hospitals of Amana, Mwananyamala and Temeke will be responsible for sampling. Agakhan Hospital, IST Clinic, Sinza hospital, Mbagala and Kigamboni hospitals will also be involved in the sampling exercise with the aim of reducing the congestion of customers waiting for the service at the National Laboratory so that the laboratory can at large remain with testing.

- 1.2.3 The office of Chief Physician in each region should supervise this sampling exercise and send it to the National Main Laboratory located in Mabibo, Dar es saalam.
- 1.2.4 Traveler samples should be clearly identified by pasting the word of Region_IRT (International traveler).
- 1.2.5 Traveler should be educated to test five days before the day of travel. The COVID-19 Certificate will last for 14 days or depends on the conditions of the country in which he or she travels.

1.3 Procedure for obtaining answers and Certification:

The results of the tests will be sent to the Chief Physician of the respective Region. For non-infected travelers, they will be issued with Certificates and their names will be sent electronically to the respective travelers and a copy to the Regional Chief Physician and border health officer to facilitate verification that will reduce the inconvenience to travelers and drivers. Responses (Answers) will be provided within 48 hours for the regions outside Dar es salaam and 24 hours within Dar es salaam region before the trip.

1.4 Border certification/ Verification:

Travelers who have COVID-19 Certificates should be advised that their certificates will be verified at the borders. This procedure can be done electronically.

1.5 Testing Costs:

The cost of COVID-19 tests will be **USD 100** for any traveler travelling abroad including tourists.

N.B: These payments should be paid into the Government's National Laboratory Services account and the persons should be provides with Government electronic receipts.

This guide will be updated according to the need.

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