



## DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SEYCHELLES

PRESS RELEASE

FRIDAY 29<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2020

### Conditions for entry of persons into Seychelles

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**These guidelines are in force during the month of June and will be reviewed periodically.**

#### **As of 1<sup>st</sup> June 2020**

- Airport opens gradually for transactions on conditions set by Department of Health.
- Application for international flights carrying passengers to be made to Public Health Commissioner (PHC). A standard form (APPLICATION FOR ENTRY INTO SEYCHELLES BY AIR AND SEA) is available on DoH website is to be completed and submitted.
- Applications will be processed on a case by case basis as per Public Health Order:

*7A.(1) Where a public health emergency or the incidence of infectious disease renders it necessary to restrict or prohibit the entry into or exit of any person or class of persons from Seychelles, the Commissioner, may make orders prohibiting the entry into or exit of any person or class of persons from Seychelles within a specified period and with such restrictions or exemptions as may be specified in the order.*

*(5) The Commissioner, in consultation with the relevant public authorities, may issue a permit to a person or class of persons to enter into, or exit from, Seychelles within a specified period and with such restrictions or conditions as may be specified in the order.*

*7B.(1) Where a person returns to Seychelles after the publication of a Public Health Emergency Notice or where the incidence of infectious disease renders it necessary that person shall be required to undergo medical examination, medical surveillance or isolation or quarantine, as the case may be.*

#### **Types of flights to be allowed:**

- Private jets with passengers destined to authorized resort, yacht or residential facilities.
- Chartered passengers flights with passengers from low risk countries published by the Department of Health.

- Chartered cargo flights that may carry passengers under permission (eg patients, returning Seychellois, students who completed their studies)

### **Criteria for allowing entry into Seychelles**

- For the month of June, private flights carrying passengers who have been given approval will be permitted.
- Chartered flights carrying passengers from approved countries may be permitted.
- All passengers must have proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test that is 48 hours or less prior to boarding the flight to Seychelles.
- Aircraft/Airline are not to board any passengers or crew who are symptomatic of COVID-19.
- Any passengers who arrives in Seychelles without this proof will be turned back on the same aircraft.
- Exit screening must have been completed by all incoming passengers and crew.
- Entry screening will be done upon arrival starting with completion of the health check form, symptomatic check, temperature scanning. The passenger may be required to undergo a rapid antigen test.
- All passengers must provide proof of accommodation in an approved establishment for the entire period of stay and must show booking vouchers at Immigration on entry.
- During the month of June, they are not to change accommodation during their stay and must not interact with the community apart from those at their place of residence.
- In order to minimize interaction between groups of clients arriving on different dates client groups should be segregated within the Establishment. The Establishments will be visited prior to re-opening to verify that this can be effected.
- For 14 days after arrival the client will be monitored daily by the designated Health and Safety officers or focal person.
- All clients must ensure strict hygiene measures and physical distancing are enforced.
- All staff must be monitored daily by the designated Health and Safety Officer or focal person and record kept.
- Any illness must be reported immediately to the nearest Health Facility who will provide appropriate guidance.
- All cost of screening and test will be borne by the passenger.

### **Entry by Seychellois**

- All Seychellois entering Seychelles will be quarantined for at least 14 days.
- Seychellois currently overseas may return if Seychelles has opened travel from the country they are in.
  - Until further notice only the following groups are permitted to enter:
    - Seychellois who had to delay their return because of travel restrictions
    - Seychellois students who have completed their studies
    - Seychellois working with international organisations and diplomatic missions
- The following conditions will apply:
  - All passengers must have proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR test that is 48 hours or less prior to boarding the flight to Seychelles.
  - Aircraft/Airline are not to board any passengers or crew who are symptomatic of COVID-19.
  - Exit screening must have been conducted by all incoming passengers and crew.

- Entry screening will be done upon arrival starting with completion of the health check form, symptomatic check, temperature scanning. The passenger may be required to perform a rapid antigen test.
- All cost of screening and test will be borne by the passenger.
- Seychellois and persons holding resident permit in Seychelles are strongly advised not to travel overseas until further notice.
- Any person who disregards this advise should note that entry into Seychelles will be based on condition that the country from which they are returning or have visited is on the permitted list for entry. Travellers will be required to deposit the full cost of quarantine and testing prior to departure.

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## Review of Countries for entry into Seychelles

At its last review on the 28th May 2020, the Public Health Emergency Operations Centre (PHEOC) identified a number of countries as low risk. In conducting its review PHEOC considered the following criteria:

- Magnitude of transmission
- Trend in outbreak
- Low incidence of cases
- Responsiveness of the public health system
- Advisories from Public Health Authorities
- Reliability of data

PHEOC recommended to the Public Health Commissioner that the following countries could be designated low risk.

Risk assessment is dynamic and the list of countries will be kept under constant review and may be amended.

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|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Australia   | 11. Mauritius   |
| 2. Austria     | 12. Monaco      |
| 3. Botswana    | 13. Namibia     |
| 4. China       | 14. New Zealand |
| 5. Croatia     | 15. Norway      |
| 6. Greece      | 16. Slovakia    |
| 7. Hungary     | 17. Slovenia    |
| 8. Israel      | 18. Switzerland |
| 9. Japan       | 19. Thailand    |
| 10. Luxembourg |                 |

The PHEOC has also examined the progress of the epidemic in other countries and identified the following countries where the epidemic appears to be under good control and therefore recommended to the Public Health Commissioner that entry from these countries could be considered with effect from mid July 2020.

The PHEOC will continue to monitor the situation in these and other countries to further advise the Public Health Commissioner.

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|---------------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Albania                | 10. Ireland     |
| 2. Bosnia and Herzegovina | 11. Italy       |
| 3. Bulgaria               | 12. Latvia      |
| 4. Cyprus                 | 13. Lithuania   |
| 5. Denmark                | 14. Malta       |
| 6. Estonia                | 15. Netherlands |
| 7. Finland                | 16. Serbia      |
| 8. France                 | 17. South Korea |
| 9. Germany                |                 |