



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **Re-Opening of National Borders for Air Travel**

#### ***Reopening the Borders***

- **When will the borders be re-opened to Visitors?**
  - Beginning June 15, the Jamaican borders will be opened to Visitors. Controlled entry will be facilitated by registration and approval.
  
- **Won't opening our borders increase the number of COVID-19 cases in Jamaica?**
  - Until we have mass access to a vaccine, we cannot eliminate the risk entirely. So, for now, we must use our available resources in a targeted way to manage and mitigate the risks as we restart our economy and bring it back to full productive capacity as quickly as possible. This must be done in the safest way possible that protects lives while securing our livelihoods.
  
- **What will happen if we see a spike in COVID cases once the borders re-open? Will we close the country to visitors again?**
  - The decision to reopen was made with extreme caution, expert counsel and evidence-based information. Jamaica continues to closely monitor the COVID-19 situation on-island as well as globally. We cannot anticipate what will happen with the changing landscape and updated information from health officials and experts, but public health and safety will always remain our top concern and the driving force for decisions made regarding our borders.

- **Is Jamaica prepared to handle a resurgence in COVID cases? What has been done to prepare?**
  - We are working hand in hand with the Ministry of Health & Wellness as well as with health facilities on rapid response protocols to implement when a COVID-19 case is identified. We are also in late stage discussions with insurance and logistics providers for coverage of health costs, extended hotel stays, and medivac if needed.
  - All of our protocols are intended to be dynamic. We will revisit our protocols every two weeks, which is consistent with the government's approach of evaluating the COVID -19 global situation. As we learn more about the virus, as medical advancements occur, or as the risk profile changes, we will make any necessary and appropriate revision to our protocols. Part of being resilient is being agile, and in a crisis this is more important than ever.

### ***Entry Screening and Testing***

- **What is the timeline for these re-entry measures?**
  - These measures relate to persons entering the country from June 15 to June 30.
- **Who gets tested when they enter the country?**
  - The Ministry of Health & Wellness is working in collaboration with the Airports Authority of Jamaica to ensure that airport operators will continue to screen, test and monitor all passengers arriving to the destination. All high-risk persons entering Jamaica will undergo a test for COVID-19. Testing applies to Nationals as well as to visitors. The health and safety of our residents and visitors remain Jamaica's top priorities as we reopen our borders.
- **Will a non-resident guest who tests positive and their immediate travelling party be quarantined for 14 days regardless of their original length of stay?**
  - If one member of a travelling party tests positive for COVID-19 on arrival, the person who tested positive will be isolated in a public health facility for a minimum period of 14 days, or until they are able to produce two consecutive negative tests in a 48-hour period.

- The Ministry of Health and Wellness is presently seeking to identify private facilities as an options for visitors to chose if they have a preference with the caveat that there will be a cost associated with any private facilities versus free for the public healthcare facility.
- The other members of the travelling party will be required to “stay in place” at the accommodation facility and have a daily check in with an assigned public health Official until the end of their scheduled stay, at which time they may check out and return home.
- **Where is the Resilient Corridor?**
  - In order to manage the risk, we are opening the industry in phases. In the first phase, we have opened a Resilient Corridor which runs from Negril along the north coast to Portland. A second Resilient Corridor is the Kingston Business District (New Kingston and environs) which will be open to business travellers.
- **Where are visitors allowed to stay during this period?**
  - For the period, only accommodation facilities located on the beach side of the main thoroughfare from Negril to Portland; and those in the Kingston Business District will be allowed to accept guests. Note that only properties which have received a COVID-19 Readiness Certificate will be opened on June 15. As the product quality authority assesses each property, the list will be updated daily on the Travel Authorization page on [www.visitjamaica.com](http://www.visitjamaica.com).

### ***Travel Authorization***

- **Why is the Jamaican government instituting a travel authorization?**
  - The Jamaican government, through the Ministry of Health and Wellness, has an obligation to assess and monitor the health risks of all travellers to the island.
  - The travel authorization provides a first line of risk management for travellers from countries with community transmission of the virus.
- **Who needs to register and get approval to enter the island?**
  - All persons intending to travel to Jamaica are required to get the pre-approval. This includes both Nationals and Non-nationals.

- **Do Jamaicans have a different pre-approval process?**
  - No, the path taken will depend on the responses to the questions.
- **How and where do I get pre-approval to travel to Jamaica?**
  - Registration and approval will be done online at [www.visitjamaica.com/travelauthorization/](http://www.visitjamaica.com/travelauthorization/)
- **When can I request the travel authorization?**
  - The Jamaican health regulations require that the approval is issued a maximum of 72 hours before arrival in Jamaica.
- **How long does it take to obtain the Travel Authorization?**
  - A response will be generated within 10 minutes of receipt of the submission.
- **For how long is the Travel Authorization valid?**
  - The approval is valid for 7 days
- **What if I do not get approval before I travel?**
  - If you do not have the approved Travel Authorization, you will not be allowed to board your flight.
- **Can I check in on-line through my airline's website with my approved Travel Authorization or will I have to check-in at the airport?**
  - On arrival at the airport, an Airline Representative will ask to see your Travel Approval to Jamaica before you are allowed to board the aircraft.
- **What kind of information is needed for the Travel Authorization to be approved?**
  - The questions will relate to your passport information, your possible exposure to COVID-19 and your intended place of stay in Jamaica.
- **What if I provide false information?**
  - This is a legal requirement. Any false information supplied may have consequences under Jamaican law.
- **Where will this data reside? Will my data be used for marketing purposes?**
  - The sole use of this information is to assist with the risk assessment of all travellers to Jamaica.

- **Is a printout of my Travel Authorization required? What if I forgot my approval certificate when I go to the airport or lose it during my travel to Jamaica?**
  - You will be required to show the Travel Authorization at check-in whether in print or on an electronic device.
  - The Travel Authorization can be saved electronically on your phone / tablet or can be printed and presented with your travel documents.
- **What if I am denied approval? How long do I need to wait to apply again?**
  - You may apply again after 14 days.
- **If I am not approved, will the airline be required to rebook me?**
  - Your ability to rebook will be dependent on the restrictions on the air ticket purchased.
- **Does the Travel Authorization have any length of stay requirement or restrictions?**
  - No. Whether you are staying overnight or for longer does not matter. You will still need the travel authorization.
- **Who will enforce the Travel Authorization?**
  - Three sets of persons will enforce the Travel Authorization. The Airline will need to see the approval before you are allowed to board the aircraft.
  - Officers of the Ministry of Health and Wellness will also use it in their risk assessment.
  - Immigration Officers will also see it before you are landed.
- **Will individuals from the Caribbean be required to get approval for travel to Jamaica?**
  - Yes. All persons intending to travel to Jamaica require the Travel Authorization.
- **What if I have travelled from another country to a “bubble” country, from which I am entering Jamaica. Do I still need the approval?**
  - Yes.

## ***Tourism Protocols***

- **How did Jamaica arrive at the protocols being put in place for the tourist industry?**
  - The Jamaican government worked closely with and continues to work in partnership with international organizations to develop public health-focused tourism protocols. These protocols were designed based on benchmarks of nearly 20 markets in the Caribbean and globally and global health agencies. They were also based on extensive consultations with the Ministries of Health and Wellness, National Security and Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade, as well as private sector, the unions, and our international partners within and beyond the tourist industry including WTTC, the CDC, The World Bank, PWC, and development finance banks.
- **Will these protocols keep hospitality workers safe?**
  - Our robust protocols are carefully designed to prevent transmission of COVID-19 and include health screening before entry and upon entry, the wearing of masks in public spaces for tourists and workers, PPE for workers based on job description, frequent use of sanitizers and hand washing stations, and physical distancing.
- **What are these protocols?**
  - We have designed an extensive set of operational protocols to manage risks to workers, communities and travelers across the lifecycle of prevention, detection and response. Safety is paramount to a resilient and sustainable tourism sector.
  - Beyond the airports, Jamaica has nine fundamental protocol elements that TPDCo is working with businesses to implement.
    - Sanitization for all workers, tourists and surroundings; face masks and PPE for workers and tourists in public places;
    - Physical distancing, allowing people to be together but physically apart; frequent communications and messaging to ensure transparency;
    - Enhanced digital enablement across the industry, to allow for more contactless transactions

- Real-time health monitoring and reporting in conjunction with the Ministry of Health, including solutions for quick isolation and containment as needed;
  - Rapid response in the event of a positive test;
  - Training to ensure workers and communities can implement protocols properly and thoroughly
- **Where can we find the protocols? Are they available online?**
    - The Tourism Protocols are available. In addition to being distributed by email, they are housed on <https://jtbonline.org>. The Airport Protocols are also housed in the same space.
- **Will employers supply hospitality workers with PPE or will this be on the employee to protect themselves?**
    - Employers will provide hospitality workers with the proper PPE appropriate for their specific responsibilities. Concurrently, employees will be personally accountable and required to adhere to safety measures and regulations as dictated by their place of work including strict hygiene practices and proper social distancing to ensure a safe environment for all.
- **Are you prepared to contain people within hotel properties if any individual property has a breakout?**
    - Each accommodation facility is required to have safety protocols and regulations in place and properly train all staff. To detect cases which might develop, we have included temperature checks, ongoing health screening, trained onsite medical professionals or COVID-19 Safety Point Persons at each property, isolation areas at each property, and risk-based testing as appropriate.
    - The Ministry of Health will collaborate with hotels for ongoing monitoring and assessment. If there are suspected or confirmed cases of the virus, persons will be isolated and managed.