

JAMAICA CONTROLLED ENTRY PROGRAMME FOR 2020 JULY 1 – 31

Dear Valued Partners,

In a recent update to the nation, Jamaica's Prime Minister, the Hon Andrew Holness, has announced the revised Orders for entry into the island. These revised orders are in effect to July 1 – 31. The revised Orders are as follows:

TRAVEL AUTHORIZATION

All persons travelling to Jamaica require a Travel Authorization. A Travel Authorization is NOT required to book your flight. It is however a requirement for check-in and boarding and the airlines will not allow passengers to board without it. In order to obtain a Travel Authorization, persons ordinarily resident in Jamaica (nationals as well as non-nationals by virtue of marriage, work permit, etc.) should apply on visitjamaica.com.

HEALTH SCREENING, RISK ASSESSMENT AND SENSITIZATION

All persons arriving in Jamaica will go through a health screening and risk assessment by the health authorities. The health screening will include temperature checks, observation of symptoms as well as a short interview with a Health Officer. All persons will also be required to go through a sensitization session that will advise them of the various infection prevention protocols within Jamaica – such as washing/sanitizing hands, wearing masks, physical distancing, gathering restrictions and curfew hours.

TYPES OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES UNDER THE ORDER

The risk assessment will determine the applicable testing and quarantine measures based on four categories of travellers. For persons required to be tested for COVID-19, a PCR test will be administered, and a sample will be taken by oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabbing.

Stay at Home for Returning Residents – Under this measure, persons are required to remain at home for 14 days. They are allowed to leave only once per day to obtain food, medical supplies, conduct financial transactions, and physical exercise. If they leave home, the protocols for persons in a public place such as wearing a mask, physical distancing and not gathering in groups exceeding 20 persons apply. Persons under this measure must work from home.

Stay in Zone – This measure applies only to visitors who are staying in the "COVID-19 Resilient Corridor" designated for tourism purposes. Under this measure, persons are required to remain within the Corridor for the duration of their stay.

Stay at Declared address for Business Travellers – Under this measure, short stay business travellers are required to remain at their declared address, whether a hotel or private home, and allowed to leave only to conduct their business meeting(s). They are required to wear a mask in all public spaces, comply with the physical distancing rule and are not allowed to meet with persons aged 65 and over, to take public transportation or to attend any meeting, event or gathering of more than 20 persons.

Quarantine– Quarantine is intended to restrict movement and may be at home, a hotel or a government facility as determined by the health authorities. Persons under quarantine are not permitted to leave their quarantine location, except with permission from the health authorities.

Isolation – Isolation is intended to separate persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are suspected to be positive, from other persons. This may be at home or a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Monitoring During Quarantine or Isolation - Persons who are quarantined or placed in isolation at their home or hotel will be monitored electronically by the health authorities to ensure that they do not leave their designated quarantine or isolation location.

RISK-BASED TESTING AND QUARANTINE MEASURES

The risk-based testing and quarantine protocols differ among the following four categories of passengers:

1. Residents - Jamaican nationals and non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica by virtue of work permit, marriage, being a dependent of a national, etc.
2. Non-residents visiting Jamaica for tourism purposes staying within the “Resilient Corridor”
3. Non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes
4. Non-residents visiting Jamaica for other purposes including visitors not staying within the designated “Resilient Corridor”

Pre-testing requirement for visitors from high risk locations

Non-residents, except business travellers, visiting Jamaica, aged 12 and over, who are residents of locations designated as high risk by the Jamaican health authorities will be required to obtain a COVID-19 PCR test no more than 10 days prior to their intended date of arrival in Jamaica. This requirement will become mandatory for persons arriving in Jamaica on or after July 10. All persons applying to enter on visitjamaica.com on or after July 7, 2020 from the designated high risk locations will be required to upload their COVID-19 PCR test certificate as part of the application process. The locations currently designated as high risk for this purpose by the Jamaican health authorities are the states of Arizona, Florida, New York and Texas in the United States of America. Please note that this list of high risk locations is subject to ongoing reassessment and could therefore change. The pre-testing requirement will not apply to visitors who are not residents of these high risk locations.

Category 1 - Residents (Jamaican nationals and non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica)

Jamaican nationals and non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica will be subject to testing if assessed as high risk as a result of exhibiting symptoms, exposure to persons who have tested positive, belonging to a high risk group or other risk factors. High risk groups include cruise ship workers, involuntarily returned migrants and health care workers.

Persons assessed as high risk will be required to schedule an appointment online to test at a health centre/testing facility convenient to them and await their test result under quarantine at home or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

If the test is negative, they will be under either a “stay at home for returning residents” measure or be placed in quarantine at home for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica depending on the assessed risk.

If the test is positive, they will be isolated either at home or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Persons not assessed as high risk will be under either a “stay at home for returning residents” measure or be placed in quarantine at home for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica.

Category 2 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for tourism purposes and staying within the “Resilient Corridor” (a defined geographical area designated for tourism purposes)

The pre-testing requirement described above is applicable to persons in this category if they are residents of locations designated as high risk by the Jamaican health authorities.

Based on health screening and risk assessment on arrival, persons may still be required to be tested at the airport or designated facility, if, for example, they are exhibiting symptoms or belong to a high risk group despite presenting a negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate. In this case, they would await their test result in their hotel room.

If the test is negative, they would remain within the “Resilient Corridor” under the “Stay in Zone” measure.

If the test is positive, they would be isolated either at the hotel/resort or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Persons not required to be tested on arrival will be allowed to go to their hotel/resort under the “Stay in Zone” measure.

Category 3 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes

All non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes for less than 14 days will be required to be tested at the airport. Business purposes do not include funerals and weddings or other personal activities.

They will await their test results under quarantine at their hotel or declared address.

If the test is negative, they would be released from quarantine and be under a “stay at declared address for business travellers” measure.

If the test is positive, they would be isolated either at their hotel/declared address or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes for 14 days or more will be subject to the same testing and quarantine protocols as described above for category 1.

Category 4 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for other purposes including visitors not staying within the “Resilient Corridor”

The pre-testing requirement described above is applicable to persons in this category if they are residents of locations designated as high risk by the Jamaican health authorities.

Persons who are not required to pre-test will be required to be tested at the airport or other designated facility, if assessed by the health authorities as high risk based on health screening and risk assessment on arrival. They will then await their test results under quarantine at their hotel/declared address.

If the test is negative, persons will be placed in quarantine at their declared address or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities for a period of 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica.

If the test is positive, persons will be isolated either at their declared address or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

For more information, visit www.moh.gov.jm