



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
Zambia National Public Health Institute**

**2020**

**GUIDANCE ON COVID-19 SCREENING AND  
TESTING PROCEDURES AT POINTS OF ENTRY  
IN ZAMBIA**

**VERSION 2.1 FEBRUARY 2021**

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

Zambia has 41 Points of Entry (POE), 27 of which are authorized and 14 are designated. There are four international airports in the country namely Kenneth Kaunda International Airport (KKIA) in Lusaka, Simon Mwansa Kapwepwe Airport in Ndola, Harry Mwanga Nkumbula Airport in Livingstone and Mfuwe Airport. Mpulungu in Northern Province hosts a harbor for international water transport from neighboring Tanzania, DRC, Burundi and Rwanda.

COVID-19 has had a significant impact on international travel with travel restrictions being imposed by many countries across the world. Screening of travelers has been intensified to minimize the risk of importation of COVID-19 across international borders. Zambia has been screening for COVID-19 at POE since January 2020. Currently Zambia requires that all travelers entering the country present with a valid PCR SARS Cov 2 negative certificate.

This document provides guidance on the travel requirements for travelers to and from Zambia in the light of the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 2.0 SARS COV2 REQUIREMENTS FOR TRAVELERS ENTERING ZAMBIA

### 2.1 SARS CoV2 Certification

All travelers coming into Zambia through ground crossings and international airports will be required to provide a negative SARS CoV-2 PCR test certificate result **from the country of departure**. The test should have been conducted within the previous 72 hours. Travelers not meeting this requirement will not be allowed into the country. Quality Assurance testing for SARS CoV-2 using nucleic acid-based testing platform will be conducted on randomly selected passengers presenting these negative results.

### 2.2 Entry Screening

All travelers entering the country will be subjected to temperature and symptom screening.

### 2.3 Documentation

Travelers' Health Questionnaires will be provided at all designated POEs, aircrafts, Zambian Embassies or High Commissioners' websites. These will be completed at the POE or pre-filled on board a vessel (e.g., aircraft, ships, cars, trucks and buses) in **ENGLISH**. The completed forms should be surrendered to port-health staff at the POE. Staff will review

the traveler's questionnaire to check for completeness of all required data elements such as full names, contact details (address and telephone numbers) in Zambia, vessel number, etc.

## **2.4 Symptomatic travelers**

The following category of travelers will be tested for SARS CoV2 at Points of Entry:

- i. All passengers with body temperature equal to or above 38°C
- ii. All passengers with symptoms compatible with COVID-19 including: fever, cough, shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing, sore-throat and headache, tiredness, loss of taste or smell.
- iii. Any traveler who is randomly selected for testing by Port Health Authorities.

All symptomatic travelers will be tested and quarantined at home or in a designated Government facility until they receive their results. Travelers who test positive will be managed according to the National COVID-19 Case Management Guidelines. Travelers who test negative but are symptomatic will be discharged from quarantine and advised to seek medical care.

## **2.5 Business Travelers**

- a. Asymptomatic business travelers coming into the country with a negative SARS CoV-2 PCR test are free to conduct their business as planned, while adhering to recommended COVID-19 prevention measures such as maintaining physical distance, masking and personal hygiene and seeking medical attention early if they develop symptoms.
- b. Business travelers without evidence of a negative SARS CoV2 PCR test will not be allowed into the country.

## **2.6 Tourists**

Tourists coming into the country with the negative SARS CoV-2 PCR test certificate will be allowed to conduct their touring. No quarantine will be required but they shall be required to adhere to the national public health guidelines in place. However, tourists without evidence of a negative CoV2 PCR test will not be allowed into the country.



## **2.7 Quarantine**

All asymptomatic travelers entering the country with valid SARS CoV2 negative results will not be required to observe quarantine but will adhere to COVID-19 prevention guidelines.

## **2.8 Cross border Freight Transport operators**

Cross border freight operators coming into the country will be required to produce evidence of a valid negative SARS CoV2 PCR test. The test should have been conducted within the previous 72 hours prior to arrival at the Point of Entry. Operators without a valid negative test shall be denied entry into the country. Trip sheets/logs should be completed and shared with Port Health authorities for easy contact tracing and monitoring of vessels. Operators will proceed and only stop at designated safe parking facilities along the highway corridor. No quarantine will be required but operators shall be required to adhere to the national public health in place.

## **2.9 Exemptions**

Children aged below five years entering Zambia will not be required to produce a negative SARS CoV2 negative result.

## **3.0 SARS COV-2 Testing for Travelers Leaving Zambia**

This guidance will only apply for travelers to countries requiring valid SARS CoV2 certificates for entry or transit. Travelers are encouraged to consult the country of destination or transit and relevant airlines for details.

1. Testing for SARS COV-2 for purposes of travel may only be conducted at designated facilities. These include all Provincial COVID-19 testing centers within the General Hospitals, Adult Center of Excellence(ACOE), Zambia National Public Health Institute (ZNPHI), the Center for Infectious Disease Research (CIDRZ) Central laboratory, Medlands and Victoria Hospital laboratories and Kansanshi Mine Hospital. Additional Centers will be added as they are accredited.
2. Certification will be anchored in Government health facilities. Only designated Government facilities (Provincial Health Offices, District Health Offices, Zambia National Public Health Institute, UTH-Adult Center of Excellence) are authorized to issue certificates.

3. An Individual who has tested in an accredited private health facility and require certification must produce a copy of the certified negative SARS -CoV-2 result prior to certification.
4. SARS- CoV-2 results must be verified in the database before a certificate can be issued
5. Tests done using any SARS CoV-2 testing platform indicated on the certificate will be recognized following appropriate verification
6. The cost for testing and certification within Ministry of Health facilities will be posted within all testing sites. Any review of the cost will be communicated to the public. Certification of results from accredited private facilities will attract an additional charge.

**Signed:**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dr Kennedy Malama', written in a cursive style.

Dr Kennedy Malama  
Permanent Secretary (TS)  
**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**