

# SEYCHELLES

## TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR VISITORS



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

Updated 19<sup>th</sup> February 2021

# INTRODUCTION

While the world continues to experience the COVID-19 pandemic, Seychelles remains open to visitors and has put in place protocols to ensure safe travel and stay for its visitors. As visitors enjoy their stay, it is essential that they remain conscious of these measures to keep Seychelles safe.

Seychelles International Airport is opened for scheduled commercial flights. Furthermore, in its effort to make Seychelles more accessible to visitors, and to restart its tourism activities it has been important to review some of the current procedures. The review follows the recent launch of the immunization campaign that has already started in the islands. The new procedures are as follows: -

All visitors require a valid Health Travel Authorization (HTA) for entry into Seychelles. This must be done through the online portal at <https://seychelles.govtas.com/>. Additional information and instructions are available on the portal, including support to provide specific clarifications.

With immediate effect all visitors from any part of the world who have been vaccinated and are able to show proof that they have taken the complete dose of the vaccine (the two doses) and that two weeks have elapsed after the second dose will be allowed to enter Seychelles. However, they must provide a valid certificate of vaccination authenticated by the local public health authorities from their country of origin and must also have a negative PCR test taken 72 hours prior to travel. They will also be allowed free movement throughout their stay in Seychelles.

Whereas visitors who have not been vaccinated coming from [Permitted Countries](#) will also be allowed entry.

Consideration for entry in Seychelles may also be given to visitors who are not on the permitted list of countries and who have not been vaccinated **but they must be arriving by private jets**. However, they will be limited to staying at certified island resorts or on board super yachts only. All pre-travel applications for authorisation of entry in the country by visitors from countries not on the permitted list and are arriving by private jets and have not been vaccinated must be submitted to the Public Health Authority on the following email address: [pha@health.gov.sc](mailto:pha@health.gov.sc) for approval.

Visitors are requested to adhere to all stated procedures in this advisory and ensure that all requirements are met prior to arrival, failing which, may result in restriction of entry.

A separate advisory for returning Seychellois residents and GOP holders is available on the website of the Department of Health at <http://www.health.gov.sc>.

In mid-March 2021, based on the progress of the local COVID-19 vaccination programme, Seychelles will open to visitors from any part of the world. However, they must still have a negative PCR test result taken 72 hours prior to travel.

The content of this advisory may be revised periodically based on the guidance of the Public Health Authority and decision taken by the government of Seychelles. All measures are subject to change without prior notice.

## **Entry by sea**

If one or more members of the crew have not been vaccinated they will have to follow the following entry conditions:

- If a minimum of 14 days has passed from the last port of call, and all crew and passengers of the vessel do not have any symptoms of COVID-19 throughout this period, entry into Seychelles is not subject to a PCR test upon arrival.
- If there are less than 14 days from the last port of call, a PCR test must be done upon arrival (at a cost), which once confirmed negative, will allow crew and passengers to disembark.
- If all members are vaccinated (with proof of vaccination), and nobody currently has, or recently had symptoms of COVID-19, there will be no entry restrictions.

**N.B. The above does NOT apply to cruise ships (once a decision has been made to allow cruise ships, a new guidance will be published).**

- Application form for Port Health Authorization is available on the Department of Health website and should be submitted to: [pha@health.gov.sc](mailto:pha@health.gov.sc).
- Disembarkation of any crew or passenger will be authorized after review of daily temperature and health checks recorded over the last 10 days prior to arrival. The records should be submitted to Port Health office ([newport@health.gov.sc](mailto:newport@health.gov.sc) or [garry.course@health.gov.sc](mailto:garry.course@health.gov.sc)).

**Please find below all entry conditions for visitors who have been vaccinated as well as for those who have not been vaccinated.**



# CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR VISITORS WHO HAVE BEEN VACCINATED AND ARE FROM ANY COUNTRY.

## PRE - TRAVEL PROCEDURES

- Adult visitors who have taken their complete dose of vaccine (the two doses), with travel to Seychelles planned 2 weeks after the last dose, are considered fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and follow procedures as for vaccinated visitors. Partially vaccinated visitors (e.g. travel after only 1 dose of a 2-dose COVID-19 vaccination regimen, or within 2 weeks after completion of the last dose), will follow entry criteria as for an unvaccinated person.
- Visitors must have valid travel health insurance that covers, at minimum, COVID-19 related isolation, quarantine and clinical care.
- A valid vaccination certificate must be issued by an entity registered and recognised by a national/provincial authority such as the Ministry of Health or Public Health Authority, and must identify the holder of the certificate who has completed a full course (the two doses). The name and manufacturer of the vaccine must be presented. Ideally, the certificate should contain a barcode that permits authentication with the national authority.
- All visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, must have a negative COVID-19 PCR test certificate from an accredited laboratory. Samples for this test must have been taken within 72 hours before departure.
- Infants and children below 17 years old, accompanying adults who are vaccinated, may not be required to be vaccinated. However, they will need to have a negative COVID-19 PCR certificate taken 72 hours from an accredited laboratory before travel. Conditions for stay for children/infants up to the age of 17 will be as for the parent/guardian who is accompanying them during their holiday in Seychelles.
- Online Health Travel Authorization is required prior to boarding flights to Seychelles. Visitors must submit their authenticated certificate of vaccination and negative PCR test results, flight and accommodation details before departure. Visitors must submit their application for approval through the designated platform at this link: - <https://seychelles.govtas.com/>. This can only be done two weeks after they have received their complete doses of vaccination and after they have received their negative PCR test results.
- Upon check in, all travellers coming to Seychelles must show their approved Health Travel Authorisation (HTA) to their respective airline companies for verification.
- Visitors must comply with all airline protocols throughout their journey.
- Visitors must ensure that accommodation bookings are made only at licensed tourism accommodation establishments or liveaboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. Refer to the [list of certified accommodation](#). The list of certified liveaboards is available on our website [www.tourism.gov.sc](http://www.tourism.gov.sc)

- Booking vouchers reflecting the entire duration of stay in Seychelles must be presented at the Immigration counter for verification. Visitors without such a booking will be directed to another establishment that is certified.



## **DISEMBARKATION PROCEDURES**

### *Airport Arrival*

The authorities at Seychelles International Airport have established measures for safe movement at the airport as follows: -

- Disembarkation should be done in an orderly manner based on inflight seating arrangements.
- Face masks should be kept on at all times.
- A distance of at least one metre should be maintained between all persons at all times.
- Hand sanitisers are available throughout the terminal – must be used regularly after coming in contact with commonly touched surfaces or objects.
- When collecting luggage, visitors must ensure that a distance of at least one metre from other persons is maintained. The area around the conveyor belt has been demarcated to guide visitors.
- Visitors may make use of trolleys that have been disinfected and located at clearly demarcated areas.
- All visitors will undergo temperature checks and health screening.
- Any visitor who disembarks with fever and respiratory symptoms such as cough, runny nose or shortness of breath will be isolated from other travellers and be subjected to further assessment and COVID-19 testing as indicated.

- Visitors must use authorised and certified transportation. All visitors must observe rules for physical distancing, avoiding close physical contact such as handshakes, and wear a facemask throughout the journey to the establishment.

## **TRANSFERS**

### *Airport transfers*

- Transfer of visitors from the airport to the place of accommodation will be done by authorized transport and visitors must at all times follow instructions provided by the operators.
- Visitors are not authorised to use public buses.
- Whilst still at the airport, physical distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Visitors with connecting domestic flights to other islands should remain on the airport premises until departure of their flight. In the case where the connecting flight is on the following day, accommodation must be booked for the overnight stay in a health certified tourism accommodation establishment.

## **STAY AT ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS OR LIVEBOARDS**

- Visitors may only stay in establishments or liveboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. Vaccinated visitors will be allowed free movement and are not restricted to the number of certified establishments or duration of stay in an establishment but they must follow all health protocols in place at their respective tourism accommodation/liveboards.
- Bareboat charters are authorized for **vaccinated visitors only**. However only certified yachts/liveboards companies will be allowed to charter bareboats and they should have appropriate health measures to increase vigilance, hygiene and social and physical distancing.
- Vaccinated visitors will not be subjected to surveillance PCR test once in Seychelles, except if their airlines or countries of origin are requesting for an exit/departure negative PCR test certificate.
- All tourism establishments have set up measures to increase vigilance, enhance hygiene and social and physical distancing. All visitors are required to adhere to all guidelines in place at the accommodation establishments/liveboards including wearing of facemasks in common areas and should avoid interaction with other visitors not in their travel group.
- To ensure the safety of staff and visitors, all persons at tourism establishments are monitored daily for signs of illness by the Health and Safety Officer or designated person. Any visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, who develop symptoms compatible with COVID-19 during their stay may be subject to further assessment and testing.

- All visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, must continue to observe all health measures such as consistent use of face-masks, maintaining social/physical distancing and practice respiratory and hand hygiene, throughout their travel and stay in Seychelles.
- It is compulsory for all visitors to wear face masks in all public areas (except when exercising alone or with household members).
- Visitor wishing to take part in recreational activities such as tours, excursions, sightseeing etc. are required to use licensed tourism service providers that have been certified by the Public Health Authority.
- During their stay in the country, visitors must avoid close prolonged interactions with the local community, avoid any gatherings or meetings and avoid crowded places, including markets.

## **PCR TESTING IN SEYCHELLES FOR DEPARTING VISITORS**

PCR testing is not required to depart Seychelles. However, your airline or final destination may require it. PCR test facilities are available on the 3 main islands namely Mahe, Praslin and La Digue to visitors prior to departure. Visitors requiring the test should contact the Public Health Authority well in advance on the email address [covid19test@health.gov.sc](mailto:covid19test@health.gov.sc) or telephone +248 4388410 to make the necessary arrangements. The PCR test currently costs SCR2, 500.00. Children below the age of 12 years and persons of 65 years and above are exempted from the fee. All PCR tests administered in Seychelles are accredited by the Ministry of Health.

Certain Private health service providers offer on-site sample collection for PCR tests, and point-of-care rapid antigen tests, at additional cost. All PCR tests are currently run at the Seychelles Public Health Laboratory of the Ministry of Health, although private providers may be available in the near future.



# CONDITIONS OF ENTRY FOR VISITORS WHO ARE FROM PERMITTED COUNTRIES AND HAVE NOT BEEN VACCINATED.

## PRE - TRAVEL PROCEDURES

- Visitors must have valid travel health insurance that covers, at minimum, COVID-19 related isolation, quarantine and clinical care.
- Visitors, including infants and children, must have a negative COVID-19 PCR certificate from an accredited laboratory. The test must be taken within a maximum of 72 hours before departure.
- Visitors must submit their negative PCR test results, flight and accommodation details before departure. Health Travel Authorization (HTA) is required. Visitors must submit their application for Health Travel Authorization through the designated platform at this link: - <https://seychelles.govtas.com/>. This can only be done after they have received their negative PCR test results.
- Upon check in, all travellers coming to Seychelles must show their approved test results to their respective airline companies for verification.
- Visitors must comply with all airline protocols throughout their journey.
- Visitors who have not been vaccinated and are transiting through countries not on the permitted list of countries will be allowed entry into Seychelles only if they do not exit the airport during transit.
- Visitors who have not been vaccinated and are from countries who are not on the permitted list of countries, but have stayed for at least 14 days in a permitted country, and have a negative PCR test within 72 hours before departure, will also be authorised entry into Seychelles. However, they must provide proof of their stay in the permitted country.
- Visitors must ensure that accommodation bookings are made only at licensed establishments or liveaboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. Refer to the list [of certified accommodation](#). The list of certified liveaboards is available on our website [www.tourism.gov.sc](http://www.tourism.gov.sc)
- Booking vouchers reflecting the entire duration of stay in Seychelles must be presented at the Immigration counter for verification. Visitors without such a booking will be directed to another establishment that is certified.



## **DISEMBARKATION PROCEDURES**

### *Airport Arrival*

The authorities at Seychelles International Airport have established measures for safe movement at the airport as follows: -

- Disembarkation should be done in an orderly manner based on inflight seating arrangements.
- Face masks should be kept on at all times.
- A distance of at least one metre should be maintained between all persons at all times.
- Hand sanitisers are available throughout the terminal and must be used regularly after coming in contact with commonly touched surfaces or objects.
- When collecting luggage, visitors must ensure that a distance of at least one metre from other persons is maintained. The area around the conveyor belt has been demarcated to guide visitors.
- Visitors may make use of trolleys that have been disinfected and located at clearly demarcated areas.
- All visitors will undergo temperature checks and health screening.
- Any visitor who disembarks with fever and respiratory symptoms such as cough, runny nose or shortness of breath will be isolated from other travellers and be subjected to further assessment and COVID-19 testing as indicated.
- Visitors must use authorised and certified transportation. All visitors must observe rules for physical distancing, avoiding close physical contact such as handshakes, and wear a facemask throughout the journey to the establishment.

## **TRANSFERS**

### *Airport transfers*

- Visitors with connecting domestic flights to other islands should remain on the airport premises until departure of their flight.
- In the case where the connecting flight is on the following day, accommodation must be booked for the overnight stay in a health certified tourism accommodation establishment.
- Whilst still at the airport, physical distancing must be maintained at all times.
- Transfer of visitors from the airport to the place of accommodation will be done by authorized transport and visitors must at all times follow instructions provided by the operators.
- Visitors are not authorised to use public buses.

## **STAY AT ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS OR LIVEBOARDS**

- Visitors may only stay in establishments or liveboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. Upon arrival in Seychelles, visitors must stay in their first tourism accommodation/liveboard for 6 nights before leaving the tourism accommodation compound/liveboard.
- Bareboat charters are not authorised. Only liveboards with crew/skippers employed by the respective health certified liveboard/yacht companies are authorised.
- Visitors arriving by commercial/charter flights and staying 6 nights or more will be required to do the 5<sup>th</sup> day PCR surveillance test. This means the testing will be conducted on the fifth day after the arrival of the visitor. If the test result is confirmed to be negative the visitor will be free to leave the establishment and continue with his planned holiday.
- If the PCR test result is positive, but the visitors are without symptoms of COVID-19 illness, the visitors will be isolated in their rooms, until they are cleared by the Public Health Authority.
- Where there is evidence that the visitor is symptomatic, Public Health Authority requires that the person is isolated in a medical facility until recovery from the infection. Seychelles has extensive and modern health care services and visitors can expect quality care.
- Visitors who are on holiday in Seychelles for less than five nights will not be required to do the 5<sup>th</sup> day PCR surveillance test. However, they will be required to stay within the tourism accommodation compound for the entire duration of their stay in the country.



- Visitors are not permitted to stay at private residences.
- To ensure the safety of staff and visitors, all persons at tourism establishments are monitored daily for signs of illness by the Health and Safety Officer or designated person.
- All tourism establishments have set up measures to increase vigilance, enhance hygiene and social and physical distancing. Visitors are required to adhere to all guidelines in place at the accommodation establishments/liveboards including wearing of facemasks in common areas and should avoid interaction with other visitors not in their travel group.
- Visitors are required to wear face masks in all public areas, including within the establishment, particularly in closed spaces, or outdoor places where more than 1 metre physical distancing cannot be maintained reliably.
- Visitor wishing to take part in recreational activities such as tours, excursions, sightseeing etc. are required to use licensed tourism service providers that have been certified by the Public Health Authority.
- During their stay in the country, visitors must avoid close prolonged interactions with the local community, avoid any gatherings or meetings and avoid crowded places, including markets.

## **PCR TESTING IN SEYCHELLES FOR DEPARTING VISITORS**

PCR testing is not required to depart Seychelles. However, your airline or final destination may require it. PCR test facilities are available on the 3 main islands namely Mahe, Praslin and La Digue to visitors prior to departure. Visitors requiring the test should contact the Public Health Authority well in advance on the email address [covid19test@health.gov.sc](mailto:covid19test@health.gov.sc) or telephone +248 4388410 to make the necessary arrangements. The PCR test currently costs SCR2, 500.00. Children below the age of 12 years and persons of 65 years and above are exempted from the fee. All PCR tests administered in Seychelles are accredited by the Ministry of Health.

Certain Private health service providers offer on-site sample collection for PCR tests, and point-of-care rapid antigen tests, at additional cost. All PCR tests are currently run at the Seychelles Public Health Laboratory of the Ministry of Health, although private providers may be available in the near future.



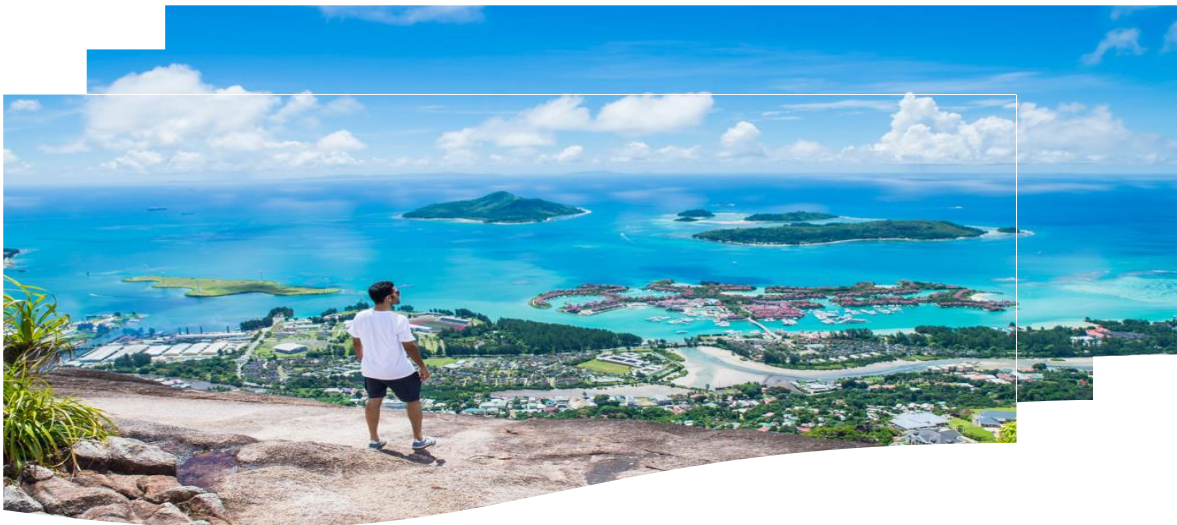
## SYMPTOMATIC CASES

### *Standard Procedures*

Visitors who develop symptoms of a possible respiratory infection (fever, cough, shortness of breath, or new loss of smell/taste) will be referred to the health services for further assessment and testing as indicated. In the event that a visitor is found to be infected with COVID-19, the Public Health Authority requires that the person is isolated from the population and other visitors until recovery from the infection. Seychelles has extensive and modern health care services and visitors can expect quality care in the event of illness.

Symptomatic cases, especially if they fall in the 'high-risk' group for deterioration will be cared for in a health-managed isolation facility. Asymptomatic and mildly symptomatic cases are encouraged to undergo hotel isolation.

**N.B. It is important to note that these procedures are subject to change, and visitors are invited to check for the latest requirements on the Tourism and Health websites.**



*For any further enquiries, please email [info@tourism.gov.sc](mailto:info@tourism.gov.sc)*