



# PRESIDENTIAL STEERING COMMITTEE ON COVID-19

## OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY TO THE GOVERNMENT OF THE FEDERATION

22<sup>nd</sup> October, 2021

### COVID-19 RESPONSE: PROVISIONAL QUARANTINE PROTOCOL FOR TRAVELLERS ARRIVING NIGERIA

**This protocol is a revision of the Travel Protocol released on 13<sup>th</sup> September, 2021**

1. Turkey, Brazil and South Africa have been removed from the list of “restricted countries”;
2. Unvaccinated and partially vaccinated in-bound travellers will be required to observe a mandatory 7-day self-isolation in addition to a COVID-19 PCR test on Days 2 and 7 after arrival in Nigeria; and
3. Fully vaccinated in-bound travellers will not be required to observe the mandatory 7-days self-isolation but will be required to do a COVID-19 PCR test on Day 2 of arrival in Nigeria (*Fully vaccinated means: 2 completed or mixed doses of either Astra Zeneca, Pfizer or Moderna vaccines; OR a single dose of Johnson and Johnson vaccine*).

#### A. PRE-DEPARTURE FROM COUNTRY OF EXIT:

##### I. Pre-Boarding:

STEP 1 - Travellers MUST perform a COVID-19 PCR test **not more than 3 days (72 hours)** before boarding. PCR tests done more than 72 hours before departure are not valid and persons will not be allowed to board. Rapid antigen or antibody test are not acceptable; only PCR tests can be used for this purpose. Test validity commences from the time of sample collection. For travellers with multiple connections before arrival in Nigeria, the PCR test must be valid within 72 hours of boarding from the first point of departure. Travellers must bring along an electronic or hard copy of their negative COVID-19 PCR test for presentation at the departure airport and upon arrival in Nigeria.

STEP 2 - All intending travellers (**including diplomats and children less than 10 years old**) MUST register via an online national travel portal (Nigeria International Travel Portal – <https://nitp.ncdc.gov.ng>) and proceed to fill in the online Health Declaration/ Self-Reporting form located on the portal. They should ensure that the information/ contact details provided on the form are correct and verifiable. Travellers must provide valid phone numbers, residential addresses, and functional e-mails where they can be contacted. Travellers must also inform Port Health officials on arrival of any change in their health status since completion of the Health Declaration/Self-Reporting Form.

STEP 3 - After filling the online Health Declaration/Self-Reporting Form, travellers will be directed to upload their negative COVID-19 PCR test on to the portal. **Only children less than 10 years old are exempted from uploading a pre-arrival negative COVID-19 PCR test result.** Once this is successfully done, travellers will proceed to the payment section of the travel portal. **Diplomats and Children less than 10 years are exempted from payment for the repeat test in Nigeria.** Travellers are advised to still bring along an electronic or hard copy of their negative COVID-19 PCR test for presentation at the airport.

#### STEP 4 – **For unvaccinated and partially vaccinated travellers:**

On reaching the payment section of the portal, travellers will be requested to select their preferred Laboratory/ Sample Collection Centre based on where they will be self-isolating for the period of 7-days in Nigeria. A list of accredited private laboratory providers/Sample Collection Centers across the country are available on the payment platform. The next stage is to choose a bank payment gateway and then proceed to pay for the **Day 2 (arrival day + 1 day)** and **Day 7 (arrival day + 6 days)** in-country COVID-19 PCR tests. Please **note** that travellers paying in Naira should use cards issued by a Nigerian bank.

#### **For fully vaccinated travellers:**

On reaching the payment section of the portal, travellers will be requested to select their preferred Laboratory/ Sample Collection Centre based on where they will be located 2 days after arrival in the country for the **Day 2 test (arrival day + 1 day)**. A list of accredited private laboratory providers/ Sample Collection Centers across the country are available on the payment platform. The next stage is to choose a bank payment gateway and then proceed to pay for the Day 2 in-country COVID-19 PCR test.

STEP 5 - Following successful payment, travellers should download the **Permit to Travel Certificate/ QR Code** using the “Get Permit to Travel” button visible at the top right corner of the portal, save and print the form for presentation at the point of boarding. The Permit to Travel Certificate/ QR code will have a “PAID” label if payment is successful and “UNPAID” label if payment had not gone through yet or is unsuccessful. A copy of the Permit to Travel Certificate/QR Code will also be sent to the email address provided by the traveller.

## II. Boarding

1. Prior to boarding for Nigeria, travellers **MUST** present **TWO** documents at their point of departure to be allowed to board;
  - a. A **negative** COVID-19 **PCR** test administered within 3 days (**72 hours**) of departure. Airlines have been directed not to board travellers with non-PCR COVID-19 tests (such as antigen or antibody tests), a positive COVID-19 PCR test result, or tests performed beyond 72 hours of boarding; and
  - b. **Permit to Travel Certificate/QR Code** - generated from the Nigeria International Travel Portal on completion of a health questionnaire, uploading of a negative COVID-19 PCR result and schedule of PCR tests on Days 2 and 7 (for partially vaccinated or unvaccinated travellers) and on Day 2 (for fully vaccinated travellers) on arrival in Nigeria. Travellers failing to show a Permit to Travel Certificate/QR Code will not be allowed to board.
2. Airlines that board travellers without any of the required documents (a negative COVID-19 PCR test done not more than 72hours prior to boarding and a Permit to Travel Certificate/QR code, shall be sanctioned as follows:
  - a. Travellers, who are non-Nigerians, will be refused entry and returned to the point of embarkation at cost to the airline;
  - b. Travellers who are Nigerians or holders of permanent resident permit will be allowed entry, but subjected to the procedure outlined in Section D below. In addition, **travellers arriving with forged (fake) COVID-19 PCR results will be escorted to a designated quarantine facility (government approved hotel) for a mandatory quarantine for a period of 7 days at expense to the traveler and also be referred for prosecution;**

- c. Airlines shall be fined **USD 3,500** per traveller for failure to comply with any of the pre-boarding requirements;
  - d. Airlines who consistently fail to comply with the above requirements may be banned from coming to Nigeria.
3. At the time of boarding, travellers will be required to undergo temperature screening and asked about COVID-19 symptoms. Travellers with temperature  $>38^{\circ}\text{C}$  and other COVID-19 related signs and symptoms shall not be allowed to board the flight.

## **B. ON ARRIVAL IN NIGERIA**

All travellers are required to strictly adhere to instructions given by Port Health Services at the arrival terminal. Travellers who fail to adhere to instructions will be sanctioned by relevant security personnel.

**All travellers arriving in Nigeria will be required to:**

1. Go through the routine Port Health screening and present electronic or print-out evidence of **pre-boarding COVID-19 PCR test, Permit to Travel Certificate/ QR Code**; and **Vaccination Certificate (where applicable)**; and
2. Present their international passports for clearance through the Nigerian Immigration Service System's Migrants Identification Data Analysis System (MIDAS).

### **For unvaccinated and partially vaccinated in-bound travellers**

- i. Proceed on **mandatory 7 days** self-isolation/quarantine in their selected in-country destination address. Travellers are to avoid physical interaction with friends, family members, colleagues, and other members of the public during the period of self-isolation. Travellers should check their emails/text messages regularly for updates regarding the arrangement for their repeat COVID-19 PCR test from the laboratory of their choice. During this period the traveller may be contacted by the COVID-19 Response team to ascertain state of self-isolation, Days 2 & 7 testing appointment and health status;
- ii. Show-up at the laboratory/sample collection centers on the **2<sup>nd</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> day of arrival**. Samples will be taken, and a COVID-19 PCR test done. The selected private laboratory will send a reminder text message, email, or phone call to the traveller a day before the appointment date; and

- iii. Persons who test negative for COVID-19 after 7 days of self-isolation/quarantine will be allowed to exit self-isolation on receipt of their result.

### **For fully vaccinated in-bound travellers**

- i. Show-up at the laboratory/sample collection centers on the **2<sup>nd</sup> day of arrival**. Samples will be taken, and a COVID-19 PCR test done. The selected private laboratory will send a reminder text message, email, or phone call to the traveller a day before the appointment date.

### **C. NOTE:**

- a. Travellers who fail to show up at the sample collection centers on Days - 2 and 7 of arrival (as applicable) will be sent text reminders and their details forwarded to the State Public Health Department teams and Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) for active follow-up;
- b. Travellers who fail to show up for testing will have travel restrictions placed on their passports for at least 6 months and will not be able to travel abroad during this period. Non-Nigerian passport holders will have their visas revoked and deported from the country;
- c. Test results will be provided within 24 hours and the State Public Health Departments & NCDC will be informed accordingly; if test result is not received after 24hrs, the traveller may contact the private Laboratory for his/her test result;
- d. Partially vaccinated or unvaccinated Persons who test negative for COVID-19 after 7 days shall end self-isolation on receipt of their test result but must continue to self-monitor for symptoms until Day-14; and MUST continue to observe Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention measures (e.g. wearing face mask, maintaining social distance, regular washing of hands and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers);
- e. Fully vaccinated persons who test negative for COVID-19 after the post-arrival Day-2 test MUST continue to observe Non-Pharmaceutical Intervention measures (e.g. wearing face mask, maintaining social distance, regular washing of hands and use of alcohol-based hand sanitizers);
- f. Travellers reporting or developing symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival in Nigeria, or during screening will not be allowed to self-isolate and will be placed in institutional quarantine; and
- g. Persons who test positive for COVID-19 after the post-arrival Days 2 and 7 test (as applicable) shall be managed based on national guidelines for COVID-19 treatment.

#### **D. PROCEDURE FOR TRAVELLERS ARRIVING WITHOUT A VALID PCR RESULT**

Any traveller arriving in Nigeria without a valid COVID-19 PCR result (i.e., no COVID-19 PCR test result, a forged COVID-19 PCR test result or COVID-19 antigen or antibody test result) will be subjected to the following measures:

1. If holding foreign passport and non-resident in Nigeria, the traveller will be denied entry into the country and returned to the point of embarkation at cost to the airline.
2. For Nigerians and foreign passport holders with residency rights:
  - a. Port Health Services will screen the traveller to include a temperature check and review of health questionnaire to establish infectivity risk;
  - b. Traveller will be escorted by Port Health Services and security personnel to a designated quarantine facility (government approved hotel) for a mandatory quarantine for a period of 7 days **at expense to the traveler**;
  - c. Traveller's passport will be collected by relevant authorities and will not be released to him/her until after successful completion of mandatory quarantine period; and
  - d. A COVID-19 PCR test will be conducted by a designated private laboratory within 24 hours of arrival at the quarantine facility at expense to the traveller. If the test result is Positive for COVID-19, the traveller will be transferred to an isolation facility and managed according to National treatment guidelines. If test result is negative, partially vaccinated or unvaccinated travellers will CONTINUE with mandatory isolation at the quarantine facility until a satisfactory Day-7 COVID-19 PCR test is done whereas vaccinated travelers will be allowed to exit quarantine after a negative COVID-19 PCR test.

**This protocol comes into effect from 12:01 am on Monday, 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2021.**

**-Signed-**

**Boss Mustapha**

Secretary to the Government of the Federation/  
Chairman, Presidential Steering Committee on COVID-19