

# SEYCHELLES

## TRAVEL ADVISORY FOR VISITORS



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TOURISM

Updated March 15, 2022

# INTRODUCTION

While the world continues to experience the COVID-19 pandemic, Seychelles remains open to visitors all over the world, irrespective of their vaccination status. As safe tourism experience remains essential, measures and protocols have been put in place to protect the population and visitors.

With the evolution of the sanitary situation worldwide and the successful ongoing national immunisation campaign undertaken by Seychelles since January 2021, the destination continues its journey towards the recovery of its tourism industry.

In an effort to keep the destination more accessible to visitors, the conditions and sanitary measures are reviewed periodically.

The recent review will take effect as of March 15, 2022 all fully immunised visitors will be exempted from pre-travel PCR test requirement, while unvaccinated or partially vaccinated visitors will be required to present a negative PCR test taken within 72 hours or a rapid antigen test done in a certified laboratory within 24hrs before departure to Seychelles.

Full immunisation will entail that any visitor over 18 years, have received the first two doses of the Covid-19 vaccine including a booster dose after 6 six months since completing the primary series. For visitors aged 12 to 18 years to be considered full immunised, they only necessitate the completion of two vaccine doses.

Potential visitors having tested positive to the COVID-19 virus -between 2 to 12 weeks prior to travel – are also exempted from pre-travel COVID-19 testing upon provision of proof of infection and recovery.

No quarantine is required for visitors entering Seychelles. They are allowed free movement throughout their entire holiday **but they must adhere to all public health measures.** Visitors are free to stay at any health certified tourism accommodation establishment **on the condition that they follow all health protocols that are in place at these establishments.**

All visitors require a valid Travel Authorization (TA) 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.

**All 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.**

Furthermore, please note that once visitors are in Seychelles, there are Public Health Measures in place to prevent the spread of Covid-19. A person who is fully vaccinated may still get infected, and infect others. It is therefore important that all visitors and residents follow all the public health and social measures in place. These include wearing facemasks, maintaining adequate distance with others, avoiding crowded spaces and exercise good hygiene practices.



### *Conditions for Entry by sea (for Yachts)*

Visitors and crew entering Seychelles by sea must apply for health travel authorisation via email to [pha@health.gov.sc](mailto:pha@health.gov.sc).

- Visitors and crew arriving by sea must have travel insurance in addition to a medical insurance to cover potential COVID-19 related costs (quarantine, isolation, treatment).
- All crew and passengers should be without symptoms of COVID-19 during this period.
- Visitors arriving by sea must have spent at least 10 days at sea from the last port of call and should be without symptoms of COVID-19 during this period.
- Arrival or Day 5 PCR test is not required, however should visitors or crew wish to disembark prior to the completion of 10 days at sea or on-board, they would need to undertake a COVID-19 PCR test (at cost) upon arrival, with all results negative.
- All visitors/crew must report any illness to the management of the yachts/liveboards company or to the Public Health Authority.

**Please find below conditions of entry into Seychelles for visitors.**



# ENTRY CONDITIONS

## PRE - TRAVEL PROCEDURES

- All fully immunised visitors are exempted from pre-travel PCR test requirement upon presentation of their vaccination certificate.
- Unvaccinated or partially vaccinated visitors will be required to present a negative PCR test certificate from an accredited laboratory departure to Seychelles. Samples for this test must have been taken within 72 hours before departure for PCR test and 24 hours for rapid antigen test.
- Visitors having tested positive to the COVID-19 virus -between 2 to 12 weeks prior to travel – are also exempted from pre-travel COVID-19 testing upon provision of proof of infection and recovery.
- Asymptomatic children under the age of 12 years are exempted from PCR or Antigen testing requirements.
- Visitors must have valid travel health insurance that covers at minimum COVID-19 testing, isolation, quarantine and clinical care.
- Online Travel Authorization is required prior to boarding flights to Seychelles. Visitors must submit their negative PCR test results, proof of recent infection and recovery or vaccination certificate, flight and accommodation details for Travel Authorization before departure. Visitors must submit their application for approval through the designated platform at this link: - <https://seychelles.govtas.com/>.
- Upon check in, all visitors coming to Seychelles must show approved Travel Authorization (TA) 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 establishments or liveboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority.** Refer to the [list of certified accommodation](#). The list of certified liveboards is also 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 uploaded on the following link [www.govtas.com](http://www.govtas.com) for Travel Authorization. The vouchers must also 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.
- Facemasks should be kept on at all times.
- A distance of at least one metre should be maintained between all persons at all times (except members of the same household/family).
- 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 (regardless of his vaccination status), 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.



## TRANSFERS

### *Airport transfers*

- **Visitors are encouraged to use safe 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.



## STAY AT ACCOMMODATION ESTABLISHMENTS OR LIVEBOARDS

- Visitors may only stay in establishments or liveboards that have been certified by the Public Health Authority. Visitors are required to adhere to all health protocols in place at their respective tourism accommodation/liveboards including wearing of facemasks in common areas.
- Bareboat charters are authorised. However only certified yachts/liveboards companies are allowed to charter bareboats.
- All individuals arriving in Seychelles must report any illness to their hotel management, local health centre and/or public health authority, even if fully vaccinated.
- To ensure the safety of staff and visitors, clients and staff should do self-monitoring for COVID -19 illness and reporting of any symptoms. Immediate reporting should be done to the hotel management staff and subsequently to the Public Health Authority.
- Any visitor regardless of his vaccination status, who develops symptoms compatible with COVID-19 during their stay, or through investigation is proven a close contact of a positive person, may be subject to further assessment and testing.
- Where visitors are assessed to be close contacts of a potentially infectious case of COVID-19, they will also be issued hotel-quarantine as per guidance.

- Visitors, regardless of their vaccination status, must continue to observe all health measures especially in all public places, such as consistent use of facemasks, maintaining social/physical distancing, practice respiratory, and hand hygiene throughout their travel and stay in Seychelles.
- 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.
- Visitors must avoid public grouping, gatherings and crowded places throughout their travel and stay in Seychelles.

## PCR TESTING IN SEYCHELLES FOR DEPARTING VISITORS

PCR testing is not required routinely to depart Seychelles. However, your airline or final destination may require it. PCR test facilities are available on the three (3) main islands namely Mahe, Praslin and La Digue to visitors prior to departure. Visitors requiring the test should contact the Public Health Authority at least a week 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 per test. **Effective as of 24<sup>th</sup> May 2021, children below the age of 12 years and persons of 63 years and above will also be charged the same fee for PCR test.**

Two Private Health Service Providers (Euro Medical and Seychelles Medical) offer on-site sample collection and PCR test at a cost. The contact detail for Euro Medical Tel: + 2484324999 or + 2482715763, website for additional information is <https://covid.euromedical.info> and the contact detail for Seychelles Medical +2484366999 and their website for additional information is <https://pcrtest.sc/>. Please refer to the link <http://tourism.gov.sc/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/List-Private-Health-Services-in-Seychelles-Offering-COVID-19-testing-services-17th-JAN-2022.pdf> or additional private medical services.

However, testing is still being done through government laboratory at the Seychelles Public Health laboratory of the Ministry of Health. The Ministry of Health accredits all PCR tests administered in Seychelles.

Please note that if you receive a positive PCR test result, regardless of your COVID-19 vaccination status, the Public Health Authority requires that you are isolated in your hotel/guesthouse at your own cost for a minimum period determined by the Seychelles Public Health Authority. If you are without any symptoms throughout, you may expect to be released by the 7<sup>th</sup> day from the date you tested positive. If you develop any symptoms consistent with COVID-19 illness, and if the symptoms persist beyond day 6<sup>th</sup> of isolation, your isolation may be extended to a total of 10 days.

Any of your close contacts, for example a travelling companion, who might have been infected, may be asked to undergo quarantine.

During the isolation/quarantine period, guests may not change accommodation, except with the approval of the Public Health Authority. A repeat test is not required at the end of the period, unless required by the airline or next destination country. At the end of this period, you will be issued with a certificate or letter of completion of isolation.

A second test by a different laboratory immediately after the initial positive result does not invalidate the first result. You should be aware that such a second test, even if negative, does not alter the public health measures, including isolation

that are required on the basis of the initial positive test.

## 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 CASES

### *Standard Procedures*

Asymptomatic/mildly symptomatic cases must undergo quarantine at a certified tourism accommodation establishment at their own cost.



N.B. It is important to note that these procedures are subject to change at short notice, 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)*