



MALDIVES CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY
Republic of Maldives

AIR TRANSPORT CIRCULAR
AT 14/2020 - Issue 20

PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST NOVEL CORONAVIRUS
(COVID-19)

25th July 2021

1.0 Introduction

As part of the planned activities outlined by the Government of the Maldives to ease the travel restrictions, all international airports in the Maldives were opened for international travel from 15th July 2020 with precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19, which are being reviewed from time to time.

2.0 Purpose

2.1 The purpose of this Circular is to advise the airlines, aircraft operators and the relevant airport authorities on the latest health measures taken by the Government of the Maldives relating to the entry of passengers and crew.

3.0 Requirements

3.1.0 Inflight

3.1.1 The following announcement should be made inflight:-

The following are the health measures requested by the Health Protection Agency of Maldives:

“Please wear your mask during the flight and inside the terminal at your destination.

If you have developed any of the following symptoms;

- Fever,
- Cough,
- Sore throat,
- Runny nose,
- Breathing difficulty,

please stay in your seat and inform the cabin crew.

If you develop any of the symptoms upon arrival, please inform the Immigration desk or the Border Health desk.”

3.1.2 Airlines must ensure that the following measures are taken on-board an aircraft by passengers during a flight into Maldives:

(a) Every passenger on board wears a mask, unless he or she:

- (i) is less than 6 (six) years old,
- (ii) is having a medical reason for not wearing facemasks,
- (iii) is eating, drinking or taking oral medication,
- (iv) is removing the mask under a crew member’s direction

(b) Passengers must be advised to replace face masks when it becomes wet or soiled.



3.2.0 On Arrival

3.2.1 Tourists travelling to the Maldives will be provided visa on arrival. Tourists must have a hotel reservation confirmation for the entire stay in a registered tourist facility.

Tourists (excluding children who are not eligible for vaccination) intending to check-in or stay at Tourist Guesthouses in local islands must have completed the prescribed dose(s) of a Covid-19 Vaccine (approved by the World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing (EUL) or the Maldives Food and Drug Authority and at least 14 (fourteen) days have passed after the prescribed doses(s).

However, Tourists intending to check-in at Tourist Guesthouses in local islands who have not completed the prescribed dose(s) of a Covid-19 Vaccine will be allowed to check-in to Tourist Guesthouses in local islands that complies to the following criteria provided in the Health Protection Agency's (HPA) - Announcement Number: (IUL) 23-L/452/2021/5 (dated 21st July 2021);

- (a) At least 60% of the Tourist Guesthouse Island population eligible for vaccination have completed the prescribed dose(s) of a Covid-19 Vaccine and 14 (fourteen) days have passed after the prescribed dose(s).
- (b) At least 95% of staff in all tourist facilities of the Tourist Guesthouse Island have completed and 14 (fourteen) days have passed after the prescribed dose(s).
- (c) At least 90% of resident population of the Tourist Guesthouse Island who are 65 years & above, have completed and 14 (fourteen) days have passed after the recommended dose(s).

Tourist Guesthouse Islands that meet the above criteria will be announced by the HPA.

3.2.2 Expatriates travelling to the Maldives shall hold a valid visa issued by Maldives Immigration.

3.2.3 The following categories of passengers, including those who have completed the prescribed dose(s) of a COVID-19 Vaccine, must hold a negative result for a nucleic acid test (PCR test) for COVID-19 prior to entry into the Maldives:

- (a) All Tourist
- (b) Special Visa holders
- (c) Business Visa holders
- (d) Foreign diplomats and their accompanying family members
- (e) Airline/aircraft crew whose transit stay in the Maldives
 - is arranged in an accommodation other than a designated transit facility and/or;
 - duration of stay will exceed seven days
- (f) Crew of ships who arrive by air to sign onto a ship
- (g) Maldivian Nationals and Work Visa Holders

3.2.4 Children below one year old are exempt from the requirement of a PCR test.

3.2.5 The sample for the PCR test must be taken at most 96 (ninety six) hours before the departure from the first port of embarkation.

If the passenger makes a transit during the journey, the initial PCR test will be valid if the transit does not exceed 24 hours.

If the passenger makes a transit exceeding 24 (twenty four) hours, the passenger must take a repeat PCR test prior to embarkation at the point of transit.

3.2.6 The PCR Test document containing the test result should state:

- (a) Name of the passenger (name as in passport)
- (b) Name and address of the testing laboratory
- (c) Type of test stated as PCR test
- (d) Date of sampling
- (e) Result

3.2.7 The PCR test result may be presented in paper or electronic form during airline check-in and if required at arrival

- 3.2.8 All arriving passengers and airline crew should complete and submit the online Traveller Health Declaration form available from Maldives Immigration website portal <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/> prior 24 hours to their departure from the Maldives. Passengers are required to present PCR Test results on arrival and should attach the applicable documents when completing the online Traveller Health Declaration form.
- 3.2.9 All arriving passengers and airline crew should report to the Immigration counter if they have fever, runny nose, cough, sore throat or breathing difficulties or report directly to the International Border Health counter.
- 3.2.10 The following categories of passengers are required to undergo mandatory home quarantine for 14 (fourteen) days in their place of residency or work. Such passengers must obtain a COVID-19 negative PCR Test result before they are released from home quarantine;
- (a) Special Visa Holders whose duration of stay in the Maldives will be more than 7 (seven) days
 - (b) Business Visa Holders whose duration of stay in the Maldives will be more than 7 (seven) days
 - (c) Foreign diplomats and their accompanying family members
 - (d) Maldivian Nationals and Work Visa (Employment Visa) holders
- However, the above category of passengers (including accompanying children who are not eligible for vaccination) will be exempted from home quarantine if;
- (a) they have completed recommended dose(s) of a COVID-19 Vaccine (approved by World Health Organization Emergency Use Listing (EUL) or Maldives Food and Drug Authority), and at least 14 (fourteen) days have passed after the completion of the prescribed dose(s). Such passengers (including accompanying children) must do a PCR Test between 5 to 7 days after their arrival to the Maldives,
 - (b) they have tested and positive and recovered from a COVID-19 infection in the Maldives, and travelling to the Maldives within 60 (sixty) days from the sample date of the COVID-19 positive PCR test result.
- 3.2.11 Work Visa holders and their Dependents travelling to Maldives from South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka) who do not meet the quarantine exemption criteria stated in paragraph 3.2.10, will be required to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 (fourteen) days in a facility designated by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Such passengers must do a PCR Test between 48 (forty eight) hours and 72 (seventy two) hours of their arrival to the Maldives, and obtain a COVID-19 negative PCR Test result before they are released from quarantine.
- Work Visa holders who are required to undergo mandatory quarantine must obtain confirmation of reservation at a designated quarantine facility prior to their travel to Maldives. Details regarding the designated quarantine facilities and quarantine guidelines applicable to such passengers will be announced by HPA.
- The quarantine guidelines for Work Visa holders travelling from South Asia is available from HPA website <https://covid19.health.gov.mv/quarantine-guidelines-for-work-permit-holders-travelling-from-south-asia>
- 3.2.12 Airline crew, ship crew and children specified in paragraph 3.2.3 (e) and (f), 3.2.4 and Tourists staying at an approved tourist facility are exempt from the home quarantine requirement.
- 3.2.13 The operating airline shall assist and cooperate with the International Border Health Officials in carrying out contact tracing and aircraft disinfection when required, in accordance with the applicable HPA's regulations and guidelines.
- 3.2.14 It is the responsibility of the Operating Airline to ensure that their passengers are following the entry requirements prior to boarding. The operating airline shall also ensure that those passengers presenting their PCR Test results complies with the requirements stated in this Circular.
- Operating Airlines may verify passengers Visas and/or their reservations at designated facilities, prior to boarding by email; arrivals.heoc@health.gov.mv and airport@immigration.gov.mv

- 3.2.15 HPA will hold the operating airline and passengers liable for violations of its guidelines, and may take appropriate legal and administrative actions corresponding to the extent of such violations.
- 3.3.0 **On Departure**
- 3.3.1 It is the responsibility of the passenger and airline crew to attain the health requirements for the country of departure. If it is a requirement of the country of departure, then passengers and crew must carry COVID-19 negative PCR Test results or Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate with them when arriving at the airport check-in counter.
- 3.3.2 All departing passengers and airline crew must report to the COVID-19 hotline number 1676 if they develop any of the following symptoms, within 24 (twenty four) hours of their departure time;
- Fever, sore throat, runny nose, cough, or breathing difficulties
 - They must verify with the COVID-19 hotline if they need to cancel their current booking
- 3.3.3 All departing passengers and airline crew must complete the online Traveller Health Declaration form for departure. The Health Declaration form for departure must be submitted before the time of departure but not exceed 24 (twenty four) hours before the time of departure. The online Traveller Health Declaration form is available from Maldives Immigration website portal <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/>
- 4.0 **Applicability**
- 4.1 The requirements in this Circular applies to all international airlines, aircraft operators operating to and from the Maldives, passengers arriving to and departing from Maldives by air and to the relevant airport authorities in the Maldives.
- 5.0 **Effectivity**
- 5.1 This Circular will come into effect from 26th July 2021, and will supersede Circular AT 14/2020 – Issue 19 dated 22nd July 2021.



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