

SOP FOR ARRIVING AND DEPARTING PASSENGERS AT ENTEBBE INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT AND OTHER BOARDER CROSSINGS POINTS.

Testing is the is the main diagnostic method for COVID-19, and therefore it is very important for prevention and control of the virus. As we open the airport and borders, we will be having two categories of travelers who will require testing: those coming into Uganda and those going outside the country. A number of procedures will have to be undertaken to control the spread of the disease into our country or from our country to abroad. I therefore direct as follows:

Incoming passengers

- a) Passenger must have had a negative PCR COVID 19 test done within 72 hours before arrival in Uganda, and has not shown any signs and symptoms of any infectious disease before boarding.
- b) The PCR test must have been done from a laboratory approved by the country where the journey is initiated.
- c) A passenger who shows signs and symptoms of an infectious disease on arrival will be put in a waiting infectious disease ambulance and taken to an isolation center (Entebbe Hospital) where infectious disease checks and a Sample for COVID-19 tests are carried out and results will be returned within 24- 48 hours.

- d) If a passenger tests positive for COVID 19 he/she is taken to the COVID 19 treatment center, or is repatriated for treatment in another treatment facility outside Uganda at their own cost following COVID 19 medical evacuation protocol.
- e) Airlines and airport authorities will ensure that before boarding to Entebbe International Airport, a passenger must have met the above requirement.
- f) Ministry of Health will ensure there is an accessible COVID 19 PCR laboratory outside the terminal building which will be able to take samples and avail results within a short time, for exceptional circumstances.
- g) An infectious disease laboratory is not allowed within the vicinity of an international airport, therefore, passengers that require a PCR COVID 19 test will have to be transported to the facility by MoH or at their own cost escorted by security.

Outgoing Passengers

- a) A Passenger leaving Uganda will ensure he/she has carried out a COVID 19 PCR test and valid within 72 hours before boarding
- b) Passengers with special situations that may not allow them to present a PCR test certificate will have to ensure they have a clearance from the country they are travelling to showing they may not take a PCR COVID 19 test and will be allowed to enter the country on arrival.

c) A Passenger who shows up with signs and symptoms of an infectious disease as detected by Port Health staff will not be allowed to board but will be taken to an isolation facility for medical investigation and treatment.

The guidelines also apply to passengers arriving or departing at other border points of entry or exit – on land or lake.

These guidelines have been compiled in consultation with the current International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) guidelines and regional airports practices of COVID 19 SOPs.