

PORT HEALTH SERVICES

COVID-19 QUARANTINE PROTOCOL FOR NIGERIAN SEAPORTS



PROTOCOL FOR SHIP DISEMBARKATION FROM NIGERIAN SEAPORTS

A. Pre-departure from country of exit

- i. Passengers/crew are mandated to undergo PCR test for COVID-19 not more than 4 days (96 hours prior to boarding. They must have tested **NEGATIVE** for COVID-19 (pre-boarding PCR test in country of departure). Attempts should be made to upload the test on the Nigerian international travel portal (nitp.ndcd.gov.ng).
- ii. Tests done more than 4 days prior to departure should be considered as not valid by ship owners and persons should not be allowed to board vessels until a Negative PCR test done within 4 days of departure has been carried out.
- iii. All ships conveying passengers/crew that will disembark in Nigeria must submit (through their shipping agent/representative) the following documents to the Port Health Services (PHS) Officials at destination port within 24 to 72hrs before berthing:
 - A Maritime Declaration of Health clearly stating if any passenger/crew had developed symptoms/signs suggestive of Covid-19
 - Last Port(s) of Call list
 - A list of all Passengers and crew disembarking from the ship in Nigeria
- iv. Disembarking Passengers and crew must ensure that:
 - The information/contact details provided on the **Health Declaration/Self-Reporting Forms** are correct, verifiable and that they can be reached on the phone number and address provided. Passengers must inform Port Health Officials on arrival of any change in their health circumstances since completion of the Health Declaration/Self-Reporting Form.
 - They make available on arrival an electronic or hard copy of their **Negative COVID-19 test from the country of departure**. Passengers with internet access at sea are requested to upload their COVID-19 PCR NEGATIVE test results on to the international travel portal at nitp.ndcd.gov.ng

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- They receive from Port Health Officials an **appointment date and time** to present themselves at a government-accredited laboratory for a **repeat COVID-19 PCR test following arrival**. A list of accredited laboratory providers across the country will be available both on the portal and with the Port Health Officials. Passengers/crew will be provided with the options of where and when to carry out the PCR test. **Payment** for the repeat (second) PCR test can either be done **online or electronically (POS or ATM) at the accredited laboratory** upon arrival in Nigeria.
 - Those with internet access at sea should complete the online registration process. On completion, an **Access Report containing a QR Code** will be sent to the email address provided by the Passenger or crew member. An electronic copy of this QR code should be presented on arrival.
- v. **Ships that embark passengers/crew without a Negative COVID-19 PCR test will be sanctioned.** Similarly, ships that board passengers/crew with test results of more than 96 hours prior to boarding will also be sanctioned.
- Non- Nigerians may be refused entry and disembarkation at Nigerian ports.
 - Nigerians will be allowed entry but subjected to 14 days of mandatory quarantine at a facility approved by Government and at cost to the passenger(s)/crew.
 - Ships will be fined USD 3,500 per passenger/crew for failure to comply with the pre-boarding requirements.

B. On Arrival in Nigeria

All passengers/crew disembarking at a Nigerian seaport will be:

1. Required, on arrival at the seaport, to go through the routine public health screening by Port Health Officials and present the electronic Access Report sent to their emails for verification (for those with internet access) for approval by the Port Health Officials. Passengers/crew without internet access/unable to upload negative PCR COVID-19 to web portal, will present their filled Self-Reporting Forms/Maritime Declaration Health Form

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and a Negative COVID-19 PCR test results to the Port Health Officials. These passengers/crew will be given laboratory appointments for a repeat COVID-19 PCR test and directed to make **electronic payments** to the accredited laboratories.

- a) Passengers/crew who have been on the sea voyage for more than 2 weeks (>2weeks) from departure port, will have repeat COVID-test within 24hours following disembarkation. On disembarkation, they are immediately under quarantine. If the test results are negative, they exit quarantine. If test results are positive, they will be managed according to national treatment guidelines for COVID-19.
- b) Passengers/crew who have been on the sea voyage for 2 weeks or less (≤ 2 weeks) from departure port, will have a repeat COVID-test on Day 7 following disembarkation. On disembarkation, they are immediately under quarantine. If the test results are negative, they exit quarantine. If test results are positive, they will be managed according to national treatment guidelines for COVID-19.
- c) Passengers/crew who have been on the sea voyage for 2 weeks or less (≤ 2 weeks) but scheduled to leave Nigeria before the 7th day of disembarkation, will do a repeat PCR test within 24-48hours. On disembarkation, they are immediately under quarantine. If the test results are negative, they remain in quarantine till they depart the country. If test results are positive, they will be managed according to national treatment guidelines for COVID-19.

2. Passengers/crew for disembarkation who meet the case definition for COVID-19 following health screening on arrival by PHO or/and based on the health information reported in the Maritime Health Declaration/Self-Reporting form will be required to undergo institutional quarantine. They will not be allowed to self-quarantine. The State Epidemiologist/State Team/PHEOC are contacted to this effect, ensuring they proceed to a compulsory quarantine facility in the State. The following categories are required to undergo institutional quarantine

- (a) Passengers/crew reporting or developing symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival or during screening will be placed in institutional quarantine; and will not be allowed to self-quarantine.

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- (b) Passengers/crew who do not have Negative COVID-19 test result or failed to do a pre-departure PCR COVID-19 test, will be placed in institutional quarantine; and will not be allowed to self-quarantine
- (c) Passengers/crew arriving Nigeria from countries with the **new variant/strain of COVID-19** (UK, South Africa, Brazil, etc) will be placed on institutional quarantine; and will not be allowed to self-quarantine
3. During the self-isolation/quarantine period, passengers/crew are to avoid physical interaction with friends, family, colleagues, and other members of the public (i.e. must observe strict physical and social distancing). They are to adhere to the Nigeria Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) guidelines for isolation/quarantine. (https://covid19.ncdc.gov.ng/media/archives/Selfisolation_QuarantineGuide.pdf.pdf)
4. Passengers/crew are strongly advised to stay in the residential address provided in order to facilitate public health support in Nigeria.
5. Passengers/crew must present themselves at the sample collection centres at specified date for repeat COVID-19 PCR test; a reminder text message may be sent to the passenger by the accredited laboratory provider a day before the appointment.
- Passengers/crew who fail to submit themselves at the Sample Collection Centres on their appointment date will be reminded by sms and their details forwarded to the State Public Health Department teams and NCDC for active follow up.
 - Accredited laboratories will be required to forward details of passengers who decline repeat PCR tests for sanctioning. These passengers/crew may be sanctioned with suspension of their passports or inclusion on a travel list banning them from sailing for 6 months, and denied foreign travel for this period.
6. Test results will be ready within 24 to 48 hours and the State Public Health Department teams & Nigeria Centre for Disease Control will be informed accordingly.

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7. If one person tests positive for COVID-19 on a ship, all close primary contacts will be required to undergo enhanced screening and a follow-up PCR test if necessary.
 - a) Passengers/crew will be monitored by Public Health Officers during the period of self – isolation/quarantine.
 - b) For this reason, passengers/crew will be required to provide a functioning telephone number on their online or paper registration forms.
 - c) Persons who develop symptoms of COVID-19 during the isolation period will immediately be tested for COVID-19. If POSITIVE, they will be managed based on National Guidelines for COVID-19 treatment.

C. Exit from Self-Isolation

1. Persons who have tested NEGATIVE for COVID-19 after 7 days of self-isolation/quarantine will be allowed to exit self-isolation on day 8.
2. Those who have been on a ship for more than 2 weeks before disembarking, and who show no sign/symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival, will also exit self-isolation if they test negative after 24 hours.

PROTOCOL FOR SHIP EMBARKATION FROM NIGERIAN SEAPORTS

Passengers/crew embarking on ships at Nigerian seaports to offshore or international locations, should undergo a supervisory quarantine for *2 weeks in suitable accommodation and preferably ashore; they should undergo a PCR test for COVID-19 at the end of the period of quarantine. If negative test result, they are cleared to embark the ship from the Nigerian seaport. If positive test result, they will be managed according to the national treatment guidelines.

*This is in line with International Maritime Health Association (IMHA) recommendations