

## NEW COVID – 19 IMPLEMENTATIONS FOR PASSENGERS ARRIVING NIGERIA FROM INDIA, BRAZIL AND TURKEY.

### INTRODUCTION

The Federal Government of Nigeria, in a press release dated **May 1, 2021**, and signed by the secretary to the government of the federation/ chairman of the presidential steering committee on **COVID – 19, Boss Mustapha**, has introduced new preventive measures to be put in place due to the upsurge of cases and general prevalence of variants of concern in certain countries such as Brazil, Turkey and India.

These precautionary measures were prompted following a risk assessment conducted by the committee on the increase in cases and prevalence of the variants in the above-mentioned countries in a bid to continuously safeguard the interest and health of Nigerians and to curb the further spread of the virus.

### NEW IMPLEMENTATIONS

The presidential steering committee on **COVID – 19**, after due consideration of the risk assessment conducted, has approved the implementation of the following measures:

- (i) Reduction of the validity period of pre – boarding **COVID – 19 PCR test** for all Nigeria – bound passengers from **96hrs to 72hrs**. Henceforth, PCR test taken more than 72hrs before departure shall not be accepted. **Please note that this directive is applicable to all countries.**
- (ii) Passengers who have visited Brazil, India or Turkey within **fourteen (14) days** preceding travel to Nigeria, shall be denied entry into Nigeria. The directive, however, does not apply to passengers who transited through these countries.
- (iii) Defaulting airlines and passengers shall be liable to pay a penalty of **three thousand five hundred dollars (\$3500)** on each Nigerian passenger, while non-Nigerians on board from the above-mentioned countries who do not possess a valid residence permit will be denied entry into Nigeria and returned to the country of departure at the cost of the airline.
- (iv) Upon arrival, passengers shall be required to undergo a compulsory **seven (7) day** quarantine period in a government approved facility at the point of entry city at the passenger's expense.
- (v) Passengers shall be required to carry out a **COVID – 19 PCR test** within 24 hours of arrival; (a) where the test is positive the passenger will be admitted into a government approved isolation center for the necessary treatments in line with the **COVID – 19** protocol; (b) where the test is negative the passenger shall continue to remain in quarantine and after the **seven (7) day** quarantine period the passenger shall carry out another PCR test before reintegration into the society.
- (vi) Passengers arriving from countries other than turkey, India and brazil will be required to undergo a **seven (7) day** self-isolation and carry out a PCR test after the isolation period before a reintegration into the society.

### CONCLUSION

The new implementations are to come into effect from **Tuesday, May 4, 2021** and any passenger/airline who defaults or fails to comply with any of the directives or provides false or misleading information will be liable to prosecution.

The committee urges a full compliance of the new directive and all other preventive measures already in place to curb the spread of the virus. The new implementation will be subject to a further review after an initial period of four (4) weeks.

For more information on this briefing, please contact



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