

COVID-19 PROTOCOL UPDATE: NEW TRAVEL DIRECTIVE FOR TRAVELLERS ARRIVING NIGERIA

Introduction

In reaction to the discovery of the new Omicron variant of the COVID-19 virus in some countries, the Nigerian government has issued a revised travel protocol for passengers coming into the country. The Presidential Task Force ("PTF") on COVID-19 has announced that effective from Monday, December 6, 2021, all passengers coming into the country must; (a) register on the Nigeria International Travel Portal;(b) complete the health questionnaire and; (c) upload a negative COVID-19 Polymerise Chain Reaction ("PCR") result with a validity of not more than 48 hours before the date of departure.

Additionally, as a prerequisite to entry into Nigeria, intending passengers are also expected to pay for a COVID-19 PCR test which would be administered on the second day and seventh day of their arrival in Nigeria without which they would not be allowed to board their flights.

What Companies and Foreign Nationals need to know!

Effective from Monday, December 6, 2021, **ALL** passengers including diplomats and children less than ten years old coming into Nigeria need to take note of the following:

1. Register on the Nigerian International Travel Portal <https://nitp.ncdc.gov.ng/>
2. Complete the health questionnaire which is a Health Declaration/ Self Reporting form;
3. Upload a negative COVID-19 PCR result online with a validity of not more than 48 hours (only children less than ten years old are exempted from uploading a negative COVID-19 PCR result);
4. Two major documents required for travel to Nigeria are a negative COVID-19 PCR result and a Permit to Travel Certificate or Quick Response ("QR") Code, which is the barcode generated once the payment for the repeat test is confirmed;
5. Fully vaccinated travellers will be required to conduct a COVID-19 PCR test on day two of arrival;
6. Passengers who are partially vaccinated (this means the passenger has only completed one dose of the vaccine) or unvaccinated will be required to observe a mandatory 7-day self-isolation in addition to a COVID-19 PCR test on days two and seven post- arrival; and
7. There will be penalties for not abiding by the revised entry protocols.

Conclusion

In conclusion, as the world grapples with coping with the new Omicron variant of the COVID- 19 pandemic, Nigeria must also take necessary measures to ensure that its citizens and lawful residents are protected. Currently, Indonesia, Canada and the United Kingdom have placed Nigeria on a travel ban due to this development of this new variant. While there are no restrictions on passengers travelling into Nigeria from any country presently, it is important that all these measures put in place must be effectively implemented until the situation is put under control.

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