

Including updates on the new quarantine system for unvaccinated incoming passengers, launching on 4th October 2021

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS (FAQS)

COVID-19 INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL PROCEDURES TO/FROM SIERRA LEONE UPDATED 29TH SEPTEMBER, 2021

NOTE: This document may be updated as the situation changes. Please check you are referring to the latest version.

Contents

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & HIGH-RISK COUNTRIES	1
TRAVELLING OUT OF SIERRA LEONE BY LAND	2
TRAVELLING OUT OF SIERRA LEONE BY AIR	2
COVID-19 DEPARTURE PROTOCOLS FOR ALL OUTBOUND PASSENGERS	2
TRAVELLING INTO SIERRA LEONE BY LAND	5
TRAVELLING INTO SIERRA LEONE BY AIR	5
COVID-19 ARRIVAL PROTOCOLS FOR ALL INBOUND PASSENGERS	5
MORE INFORMATION ON THE NEW QUARANTINE SYSTEM FOR UNVACCINATED INCOMING PASSENGERS, LAUNCHING ON MONDAY 4^{TH} OCTOBER, 2021	6
FURTHER INFORMATION	10

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL & HIGH-RISK COUNTRIES

1. Can international travellers still travel from/to Sierra Leone?

Yes, Sierra Leone's land borders and Lungi International Airport are open for international travel; there are no travel bans in place at this time. However, all international travellers, whether Sierra Leonean or foreign nationals, must comply with the strict COVID-19 departure and arrival protocols (see Questions 4, 5, 22, 23) put in place to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and protect Sierra Leone from increased COVID-19 cases and new COVID-19 variants which could be more transmissible and difficult to control.

2. Does NaCOVERC still categorise some countries as being 'high-risk'?

NaCOVERC no longer categorises some countries as 'high-risk' and no longer has additional COVID-19 arrival protocols for people who have been in countries considered to be high-risk. All inbound passengers must follow the steps outlined in Questions 22 and 23 to be compliant, regardless of where they are coming from. The global situation is being closely monitored and NaCOVERC may reinstate high-risk categorisations and additional protocols in the future if necessary.

3. I have to travel, how can I stay safe?

- Get fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before traveling
- Follow all universal prevention precautions for COVID-19, including:
 - Wearing a mask over nose and mouth at all times when in public
 - Avoiding crowds and staying at least 1 meter from others
 - Washing hands frequently or using hand sanitizer (with at least 60% alcohol)
 - o Seeking immediate help on if you have COVID-19 symptoms or contact with a COVID-19 case.

TRAVELLING OUT OF SIERRA LEONE BY LAND

4. I plan to travel out of Sierra Leone by land, what should I expect at the land border?

You can travel to the border as normal but when you reach the border you should expect to go through a health screening process (including temperature check and health questionnaire) before you can pass into Guinea or Liberia. To complete the health questionnaire, you must be able to give your phone number, the address for where you are going, and the phone number of someone who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

TRAVELLING OUT OF SIERRA LEONE BY AIR

COVID-19 DEPARTURE PROTOCOLS FOR ALL OUTBOUND PASSENGERS

5. I plan to travel out of Sierra Leone by air, what are the steps I must take due to be fully compliant with Sierra Leone's COVID-19 departure protocols?

Once you have purchased your air ticket(s) you must:

- 1. register on the online travel portal at www.travel.gov.sl to receive a unique SO (Sierra Leone Outbound) number
- 2. as instructed by the travel portal, make a payment via mobile money for your COVID-19 test to be conducted in Sierra Leone
- 3. have a PCR test for COVID-19 at an approved location *no more than* 72 hours before the departure time of your flight from Sierra Leone (See Questions 8, 9, 10)
- 4. download your negative COVID-19 test certificate from the travel portal (See Questions 14 and 15).

These steps must be followed by all outbound passengers over the age of 5 years old. (For more information see Questions 6 and 7).

6. Do all outbound passengers have to be tested for COVID-19 before travelling out of Sierra Leone?

According to Sierra Leone's COVID-19 departure protocols, the only groups who do not have to be tested for COVID-19 before travelling out of Sierra Leone are:

- travellers who are under 5 years old
- travellers who flew into the country less than five days before their departure date.

However, while these groups are exempt from needing negative COVID-19 certificates in order to leave Sierra Leone, they may still need negative COVID-19 certificates in order to enter another country. It is up to individual outbound passengers to look up the COVID-19 entry requirements for the country they are travelling to and ensure they meet these requirements (for example, some countries require negative COVID-19 certificates for all travellers over 2 years old). Failure to do so may result in passengers being allowed to leave Sierra Leone, but stopped from boarding their flight to another country, by airline officials.

7. I have received a COVID-19 vaccine, do I still need to be tested before travelling out of Sierra Leone?

Yes, all outbound passengers (unless exempt – see Question 6) must take the required COVID-19 tests for departure from Sierra Leone, regardless of their vaccine status. It is still possible that a vaccinated person can carry and spread the COVID-19 virus, even if they themselves are less likely to get seriously sick from it.

8. When should I go for my COVID-19 test before travelling out of Sierra Leone?

Tests must be conducted <u>no more than 72 hours</u> before your flight departure time. It is advisable to go for your test <u>approximately 48 hours</u> before your flight departure time as most countries require negative COVID-19 certificates from tests conducted within 72 hours or even less, of *arrival time* (see Important note below). Test results take 24-48 hours. It is your responsibility to go for your COVID-19 test with enough time before your flight so that your results (and certificate, if negative) will be ready before you fly. It is also your responsibility to check the requirements for the country you are travelling to (see Important note below).

You will not be allowed to leave Sierra Leone without a negative COVID-19 certificate. The table below shows when certificates will be available and when they will expire according to when test was conducted.

TEST CONDUCTED	CERTIFICATE AVAILABLE	CERTIFICATE VALID UNTIL
Monday (by 1pm)	Earliest: Tuesday	Thursday (same time as time swab taken)
	Latest: Wednesday	
Tuesday (by 1pm)	Earliest: Wednesday	Friday (same time as time swab taken)
	Latest: Thursday	
Wednesday (by 1pm)	Earliest: Thursday	Saturday (same time as time swab taken)
	Latest: Friday	
Thursday (by 1pm)	Earliest: Friday	Sunday (same time as time swab taken)
	Latest: Saturday	
Friday (by 1pm)	Earliest: Saturday	Monday (same time as time swab taken)
	Latest: Sunday	
Saturday (by 1pm)	Earliest: Sunday	Tuesday (same time as time swab taken)
	Latest: Monday	
Sunday (by 1pm)	Earliest: Monday	Wednesday (same time as time swab taken)
	Latest: Tuesday	

IMPORTANT NOTE: Remember, no more than 72 hours before the flight departure time is Sierra Leone's COVID-19 departure protocol, the country you are travelling to may have its own entry requirements regarding when your COVID-19 test should have been done in relation to when you arrive. For example, some countries require negative COVID-19 certificates from tests conducted no more than 72 hours, or even 48 hours, <u>before you arrive</u>. It is up to you to look these requirements up and factor them in when deciding when to go for your test (If the country you are going to requires negative COVID-19 certificates from tests conducted very close to the flight arrival time, see Question 9).

9. The country I am travelling to requires me to have a negative COVID-19 test certificate from a test conducted very close to the flight arrival time, or for passengers who are under 5 years old, what do I do?

If the country you are travelling to requires you to have a negative COVID-19 test certificate from a test conducted very close to the flight arrival time (i.e. within 48 or 24 hours of the flight landing), or for passengers who are under 5 years old, you can call 117 or send an email to support@travel.gov.sl to make inquiries/request a special service.

10. Where can I go for a COVID-19 test before travelling out of Sierra Leone?

If you have applied online and selected the regular service, you can go for testing at one of the following approved locations on Monday – Saturday between the hours of 10am and 2pm:

- Western Area:
 - Special Court (Western Area Urban)
 - ADRA at Waterloo (Western Area Rural)
 - o District Health Management Team Cline Town, close to old Fourah Bay College (Eastern Area Urban)
- Other Districts:
 - District Government Hospital

If you have paid for the premium service (<u>only available to those in Western Area</u>), you can choose where to be tested, but you must call 117 to book an appointment time and specify your preferred location. The healthcare worker will come to meet you at that time and place to do the test.

11. What do I need to have with me at the time of testing?

When you go for your test, you must have with you your unique I.D. number to show you have applied online at www.travel.gov.sl and proof of payment to show that you have already paid for your test via mobile money. The healthcare worker will check these before conducing your test.

12. What kind of test will be conducted?

The test that will be performed is a PCR test (diagnostic test) to screen for active COVID-19 infection. It is done by taking a nasal swab. The swab will be sent to the reference laboratory and analysed.

13. Is testing (for those travelling out of Sierra Leone by air) free?

No, testing for those travelling out of Sierra Leone by air is not free. One test costs SLL500,000. For those in Western Area who choose the premium service (which allows you to choose the location for your test), the cost is SLL700,000. Payment can be made via mobile money (Orange or Africell) and must be made *before* the test is conducted.

14. How will I get my test result?

Test results will be ready approximately 24-48 hours from the time when the swab was taken. If your test result is negative, your negative COVID-19 certificate will be uploaded to the travel portal so you can download it from there before you travel (see Question 15). If you test positive you will be visited by a healthcare worker who will give further guidance and instruction.

15. How do I download my negative COVID-19 certificate before I travel?

To download your negative COVID-19 certificate before you travel you must:

- 1. Go to www.travel.go.sl
- 2. Click on the blue button that says 'Track Progress'
- 3. Enter your 5-digit SO number given to you when you registered. Make sure you type 'SO' before the number itself and without a space between the letters and the number.
- 4. Your name and details will come up, scroll down to 'Travel Information', if the certificate is available you will see a blue button that says 'Certificate'. Click on this to download your certificate.
- 5. Save or print your certificate.

You do not need to go to the Emergency Operations Centre before you travel.

16. Do I have to print my negative COVID-19 certificate before I travel?

You will need to show your negative COVID-19 certificate at Lungi International Airport. You can print your certificate and show the hardcopy at the airport, or, if you have a smart phone, you can show the downloaded certificate to the airport officials on your smart phone screen. However, if there is a chance your smart phone battery will not last for the entire journey, or the country you are travelling to requires hard-copy certificates on arrival, then you should print your certificate before travelling.

17. What will happen if I test positive?

If you test positive you will not be allowed to travel and will have to home-isolate or quarantine for two weeks and those you have been in contact with will be contacted. If you test positive and are sick or high-risk, a healthcare worker will discuss the best treatment options with you.

18. I was tested but did not receive my result, what do I do?

If more than 48 hours have passed and your negative COVID-19 certificate is not available on the travel portal, and you have not been visited by a healthcare worker, call 117 to enquire.

19. What will happen if I fail to comply with COVID-19 departure protocols?

If you do not have a unique SO number from the travel portal and a valid COVID-19 test certificate you will not be allowed to leave the country.

20. What should I do if I have technical difficulties registering on the online travel portal or downloading and/or printing my COVID-19 certificate?

Call 117 or email support@travel.gov.sl

21. If I follow the above steps am I guaranteed entry to the country I am travelling to?

No, these are the steps you must take to be fully compliant with Sierra Leone's COVID-19 departure protocol, the country you are travelling to may have additional COVID-19 arrival protocol that you must satisfy and/or some travel bans in place. For example, some countries require negative COVID-19 test certificates for passengers over the age of 2 years old, negative COVID-19 test certificates from tests conducted within 48 or 24 hours of the flight

landing, pre-booked mandatory quarantine or self-isolation on arrival, or have banned entry to passengers coming from specific countries. It is your responsibility to look up and ensure compliance with the arrival protocols for the country you are visiting.

TRAVELLING INTO SIERRALFONE BY LAND

22. I plan to travel into Sierra Leone by land, what should I expect at the land border?

When you cross into Sierra Leone you should expect to go through a health screening process (including temperature check and health questionnaire). To complete the health questionnaire, you must be able to give your phone number, the address for where you are going, and the phone number of someone who can be contacted in case of an emergency.

TRAVELLING INTO SIERRA LEONE BY AIR

COVID-19 ARRIVAL PROTOCOLS FOR ALL INBOUND PASSENGERS

23. I plan to travel into Sierra Leone by air, what are the steps I must take to be fully compliant with COVID-19 arrival protocols?

Once you have purchased your air ticket(s) you must:

- register on the online travel portal at www.travel.gov.sl to receive a unique I.D. number
- as instructed by the travel portal, make an online payment for your airport COVID-19 tests (an RDT test (rapid diagnostic test) and a PCR test (diagnostic test) which will be conducted on arrival in Sierra Leone
- have a PCR test for COVID-19 at a certified laboratory no more than 72 hours before the departure time of your flight to Sierra Leone
- upload a negative PCR test certificate which contains all required information in English to the travel portal
- If you are over 18 and <u>not</u> fully-vaccinated (and not a diplomatic passport-holder):
 - Select and book to stay in a NaCOVERC-approved hotel where you will quarantine on arrival to Sierra Leone while you wait for the results of your airport PCR test (See Questions 31-41)

These steps must be followed by all inbound passengers over the age of 5 years old.

24. I have received a COVID-19 vaccine, do I still need to be tested before travelling into Sierra Leone and on arrival? Yes, all inbound passengers 5 years old and above must take the required COVID-19 tests for entry into Sierra Leone, regardless of their vaccine status. It is still possible that a vaccinated person can carry and spread the COVID-19 virus, even if they themselves are less likely to get seriously sick from it.

25. What information must be included in the negative PCR test certificate I upload to the travel portal?

- The date and time the swab was taken.
- The name of the certified laboratory where the swab was analysed.
- A QR code linked to the original laboratory report.

26. What should I expect on arrival to Lungi International Airport?

On arrival all passengers (except diplomatic passport-holders) will go through a COVID-19 screening process. Passenger temperatures will be taken and basic health and travel history questions asked; an airport official will check that all passengers over the age of 5 years old have registered and paid on the travel portal; and all passengers over the age of 5 years old will be tested for COVID-19 via two methods (an RDT test and a PCR test).

27. What happens if I receive a positive RDT test result at the airport?

If your RDT test is positive, and regardless of whether you are fully-vaccinated or not, you will be asked to quarantine at a NaCOVERC-approved hotel in Lungi at your own expense and until your airport PCR test result is available. You will be accompanied to a NaCOVERC-approved hotel. You will receive your airport PCR test result from a healthcare worker within 24-72 hours.

If you are travelling with your children and a child or caregiver in your group tests positive, a healthcare worker will talk to you to make suitable arrangements for your family. Children will not be quarantined unless parental consent is given.

28. What happens if I receive a negative RDT test result at the airport?

If you are fully-vaccinated and your RDT test result is negative, you are free to leave the airport but should isolate at home until you receive your airport PCR test result. Avoid family and social gatherings and do not go out in public. You will receive your airport PCR test result by text message, phone call, email or visit from a COVID-19 response worker within 24-72 hours.

If you are <u>not</u> fully-vaccinated and your airport RDT test result is negative, you will be accompanied to your preselected/booked NaCOVERC-approved hotel where you will quarantine while you wait for the results of your airport PCR test. You will receive your airport PCR test result by text message, phone call, email or visit from a COVID-19 response worker within 24-48hours.

29. What happens if my airport PCR test result is positive?

If your airport PCR test result is positive, you will be visited by a healthcare worker at your location who will give further guidance and instruction. You will have to home isolate or quarantine, and may need to go to a treatment centre if you are experiencing symptoms or are a high-risk patient – a healthcare worker will discuss the best options with you.

30. What happens if my airport PCR test result is negative?

If your airport PCR test result is negative, you can stop isolating at home/quarantining at NaCOVERC facility or NaCOVERC-approved hotel. Continue to observe all COVID-19 prevention measures to stay safe.

31. What should I do if I don't receive my airport PCR test result in 72 hours?

If more than 72 hours have passed and you have not received your result, call 117 quoting your name, date of arrival, airline, reference number or travel ID number, and local phone number that you can be contacted on.

32. What will happen if I fail to comply with COVID-19 arrival protocols?

If you do not have a unique I.D. number from the travel portal and a valid COVID-19 test certificate you will not be allowed to enter the country. If you fail to present vaccine documentation you will be considered unvaccinated, and if you fail to comply fully with guarantine or self-guarantine protocols, punitive action will be taken.

MORE INFORMATION ON THE NEW QUARANTINE SYSTEM FOR UNVACCINATED INCOMING PASSENGERS, LAUNCHING ON MONDAY 4^{TH} OCTOBER, 2021

As of Monday the 4th October, all incoming passengers over the age of 18 who are unvaccinated will have to quarantine at a NaCOVERC-approved hotel on arrival to Sierra Leone, while they wait for the results of their airport PCR test. Only diplomatic passport-holders are exempt from this rule. Fully-vaccinated incoming passengers will not have to quarantine at a NaCOVERC-approved hotel but can isolate at home until they receive their airport PCR test result. (See Question 33 and 34 for definitions of fully-vaccinated and unvaccinated.)

33. What does fully-vaccinated mean?

To be considered fully-vaccinated you must:

- have had both doses of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine and the second dose must have been received *at least* two weeks prior to arriving in Sierra Leone OR
- have had one-dose of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine *at least* two weeks prior to arriving in Sierra Leone.

34. What does unvaccinated mean?

The following categories of people will be considered unvaccinated. Any incoming passenger over the age of 18 who:

- has not had any COVID-19 vaccine doses
- has only had one dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine
- has received the second dose of a two-dose COVID-19 vaccine *less than* two weeks prior to arriving in Sierra Leone
- has received one-dose of the Johnson and Johnson COVID-19 vaccine *less than* two weeks prior to arriving in Sierra Leone

- does not have documentation to prove they are fully-vaccinated on their person.
- **35.** What documentation will I be expected to show at the airport to prove I am fully-vaccinated? You will be asked to show your vaccine card (paper version or digital version) and your I.D.
- **36.** I am unvaccinated and traveling with my children/minors in your care, do they have to quarantine with me? If you are unvaccinated and travelling with your children/minors in your care they should quarantine with you.
- **37.** What are the NaCOVERC-approved hotels for quarantine, and how can I make a booking?

 The NaCOVERC-approved hotels are listed below. You can make a booking by contacting them directly or having someone contact them on your behalf.

NaCOVERC-approved hotels in Lungi

Hotel Name	Address	Contact Person	Contact Number	Email	Website address	Comments
Mammah's Guest House		Ibrahim Kamara (Proprietor)	+232 78 343 105			
		(Manager)	+232 80 400 608			
			+232 79 521 473			
Millies Airport Hotel	Port Loko Road, Lungi	Desmond Lewis (Proprietor)	+232 75 749 363			
			+232 80 622622			
		Adama Kargbo (Manager)	+232 30 449 039			
Lucia Guest House		Thomas B. Humper (Manager)	+232 76 738 202			
Medsav Guest House		Mohamed Savo (Manager)	+232 79 601085			
Suffian Guest House		Suffian Sesay (Manager)	+232 76 550 322			
Tariq's Resort &		Hawa Dahniya	+232 78 764 847	hawa@tarigresort.com	www.tarigresort.com	Will start on
Restaurant						October 15 th
Lungi Gateway Hotel		(Manager)	+232 88 200 001		www.lungigatewayhot	
					<u>el.com</u>	

NaCOVERC-approved hotels in Freetown

Hotel Name	Address	Contact Person	Contact Number	Email	Website address	Comments
Sierra Palms Resort	75 Lumley Beach Road	Syed Ahmed Jawad (Manager)	+2328022222		https://sierrapalms.sl	
			+23234224222			
Sierra Bay Hotel	5 Man of War Bay	Fah Meeda (Manager)	+232 76 393 999	info@sierrabayhotel.co	www.sierrabayhotel.c	
(formerly			+232 77 393 999	<u>m</u>	<u>om</u>	
Lighthouse Hotel)			+232 76 939 273			
Homes Suites Hotel	78 Cape Road	Mr Allen	+23230222227	info@homesuiteshotelsl	www.homesuiteshotel	
	Bintumani Drive,		+23230222228	<u>.com</u>	<u>sl.com</u>	
	Aberdeen					
Radisson Blu	17 Lumley Beach Road,	Yusuf Sesay (Manager)	+23279253049	info.freetown@radisson	https://www.radisson	
Mammy Yoko Hotel	Aberdeen			<u>blu.com</u>	hotels.com/en-	
					us/hotels/radisson-	
					<u>blu-freetown</u>	
Family Kingdom		Mr S.A Jaward (Manager)	+23276 777949			
Hill Valley Hotel	Signal Hill Road	Mohamed Jalloh (Manager)	+232 30 005 454	hillvalleymgmt@gmail.c		
				<u>om</u>		
Golden Tulip	Off Cape Road	Rahul Chaturvedi	+232 79 139 336	info@goldentulipessent	https://essential-	
Kimbima			+232 79 582 465	<u>ialkimbimafreetown.co</u>	<u>kimbima-</u>	
				<u>m</u>	<u>freetown.goldentulip.c</u>	
					om/en-us/	
Atlantic Lumley	Lumley Beach Road	Abu Kamara (Manager)	+232 88 000 568		https://atlantic-	
Hotel			+232 80 212 121		<u>lumley-</u>	
			+232 80 313 131		<u>hotel.business.site</u>	
Hotel Barmoi	75C Cape Road,	Joseph Githu (Manager)	+232 33 358 669	enquiries@hotelbarmoi.	www.hotelbarmoi.co	
	Aberdeen		+232 76 918 771	<u>com</u>	<u>m</u>	
Mamba Point Hotel	Cape Road,	Roy Abdullah (Manager)	+232 88 333333			
	Aberdeen					
Sea Side Hotel	3, off Bintumani Drive,	Mrs Timbo	+232 31 200 300	hotel.seaside@yahoo.c	www.seasidehotelsl.c	
	Aberdeen		+232 76 224 459	<u>om</u>	<u>om</u>	

38. How do I travel from Lungi International Airport to my pre-booked/arranged NaCOVERC-approved hotel/self-quarantine location?

A plain-clothed security staff and a psychosocial support staff will accompany you (and any others you are travelling with) from the airport to your NaCOVERC-approved hotel or self-quarantine location, as necessary.

39. What are the rules during quarantine?

During quarantine you must stay in your own room/bathroom. If you do have to come close to others (for example, hotel staff or others bringing food, cleaners, or swabbers) you must stay at least 2 metres from them and both you and they should wear a mask properly at all times.

Security personnel will stay at the NaCOVERC-approved hotel for the duration of your quarantine to monitor compliance. Psychosocial support staff will conduct welfare checks by visiting or calling regularly.

40. What do I do if I become sick during quarantine?

Call 117 or call the psychosocial support staff linked to you.

41. How long will I have to quarantine?

You have to quarantine until you receive the results of your airport PCR test. You will receive your airport PCR test result by text message, phone call, email or visit from a COVID-19 response worker within 24-72 hours. (See Questions 29-31).

FURTHER INFORMATION

1. Where can I get more information?

For more information:

- Call 117 free from all networks;
- Visit the following social media pages:
 - Corona Fet Na We All Fet facebook page
 - o https://mic.gov.sl/ website
 - o https://dhse.gov.sl/ website
- Read the other FAQs in this series:
 - o FAQs COVID-19 Preventive Measures & Testing Services in Sierra Leone
 - o FAQs COVID-19 Vaccine Roll-Out in Sierra Leone