



NOTICE TO AIRLINES OPERATING IN JAMAICA

Controlled Entry of Jamaican Nationals and Non-Nationals March 4 – April 15, 2021

1. The controlled entry of persons during the period March 4 – April 15, 2021 will continue to be facilitated by registration and approval as follows:
 - Residents of Jamaica – register on <https://jamcovid19.moh.gov.jm/immigration.html>
 - Non-Residents of Jamaica – register on <https://www.visitjamaica.com/>

A Travel Authorisation evidencing registration and approval will be required for passengers to check in for/board flights. In addition, **effective March 4, 2021, all travellers from all countries will be required to present their COVID-19 negative test certificate to check in for their flight.** Prior to March 4, 2021, only non-residents travelling from high-risk locations were required to present a COVID-19 negative test certificate.

2. The Government of Jamaica has modified its testing requirements for arriving passengers for the period March 4 – April 15, 2021. Upon arrival in Jamaica, all persons will be subject to health screening and risk assessment by the Jamaican health authorities. The detailed protocols are set out in the attached Appendix.

We continue to place the highest priority on the safety and well-being of all who reside here and all who are visiting. In order to ensure a seamless and convenient experience for all, we look forward to working with you our valued partner to welcome persons to Jamaica.

Audley Deidrick (Mr.)
PRESIDENT

PROTOCOLS EFFECTIVE MARCH 4 – APRIL 15, 2021

All persons travelling to Jamaica – both Jamaicans and non-nationals - must obtain a Travel Authorisation document issued by the Government of Jamaica to check in for/board flights.

Jamaican nationals and non-nationals who are residents of Jamaica should apply to obtain a Travel Authorisation on <https://jamcovid19.moh.gov.jm/immigration.html> and non-residents should apply on <https://www.visitjamaica.com/>.

All persons arriving in Jamaica will be subject to a health screening and risk assessment by the health authorities. The health screening may include temperature checks, observation for COVID-19 related symptoms as well as a short interview with a Health Officer.

Airline crew who enter Jamaica but are not landed in Jamaica will be exempt from this requirement. Airline crew who are landed in Jamaica are subject to health screening but will be exempt from any pre-testing or testing on arrival requirements described below if they are staying in Jamaica only until the next return flight. They are required to remain at their hotel for the duration of their stay in Jamaica. For clarity, “airline crew” includes the on-board flight crew including any flight engineers, aircraft mechanics and maintenance crew on a repair job assignment, but does not include any airline ground staff.

Please note that nightly curfews are in effect and may include varying hours for certain areas. As a result, flights should not normally be scheduled to arrive later than 8:00 p.m. and depart earlier than 8:00 a.m. each day.

The risk-based testing and quarantine protocols differ among the following four (4) categories of passengers:

1. Residents - Jamaican nationals and non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica by virtue of work permit, marriage, being a dependent of a national, etc.
2. Non-residents visiting Jamaica for tourism purposes staying within the “resilient corridor”
3. Non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes
4. Non-residents visiting Jamaica for other purposes including tourists not staying within the “resilient corridor”

Pre-testing Requirement for All Travellers Aged 12 and over effective March 4, 2021

Please note that effective March 4, 2021, the requirement for pre-testing will be applicable to all travellers aged 12 and over from all countries.

Effective March 4, 2021, all persons aged 12 and over travelling to Jamaica will be required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test as follows:

- For travel up to March 10, 2021, the test must be conducted within ten (10) days prior to the date of travel.
- For travel on or after March 11, 2021, the test must be conducted within three (3) days prior to the date of travel.

Please note that the date of the test (i.e., sample collection) and not the date of the result is what will be assessed against the 10-day or 3-day time frame. Please note also that for travellers with connecting flights to Jamaica, the test must be conducted within 10 days or 3 days, as applicable, prior to departure from their point of origin. For example, for a traveller departing from Zurich on March 14, 2021 for Kingston, via New York, the traveller must conduct their test no earlier than March 11, 2021.

Only PCR or Antigen tests that have been authorized by the United States Food and Drug Administration (FDA) under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or meet the standards of the World Health Organisation (WHO) will be accepted. The test should be performed at a medical laboratory that is accredited by the relevant national health authorities. For example, for the United States of America, the medical laboratory should be certified under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments (CLIA).

Travellers are required to present their COVID-19 negative test certificate (either hard copy or electronic) at the airport in addition to their travel authorisation in order to check in for/board their flight to Jamaica.

Note the following requirements in relation to the test certificate:

- It must indicate the name and address of the laboratory at which the test was conducted
- The name and date of birth of the individual on the test certificate must match those on the passport
- The test must be either a PCR test or Antigen test that has been authorized by the United States FDA under an Emergency Use Authorization (EUA) or meets the standards of the WHO. PCR or Antigen tests which have not approved by those organisations or other tests such as antibody tests will not be accepted.

Existing Pre-testing Requirements applicable until March 3, 2021

The new pre-testing requirements will become effective on March 4, 2021.

The existing pre-testing requirements described below remain in effect until March 3, 2021.

Therefore, up to March 3, 2021:

- Residents of Jamaica are not required to present a COVID-19 negative test.
- For non-residents of Jamaica, the pre-testing requirement is based on the place of residence of the traveller and relates only to travellers from locations that had been designated as high-risk by the Jamaican health authorities, viz. the United States of America (all States), Brazil, Dominican Republic, Mexico and Panama. The travel authorisation for each traveller will indicate whether or not the traveller is required to present a test certificate.
- The requirement is for the COVID-19 test to be conducted within 10 days prior to the travel date. Effective March 11, 2021, this will be reduced to 3 days.

CATEGORIES OF TRAVELLERS

Category 1 – Residents

Jamaican Nationals and Non-nationals Ordinarily Resident in Jamaica

Note that based on health screening and risk assessment on arrival, persons may still be required to be tested at the airport or designated facility, if, for example, they are exhibiting symptoms, belong to a high-risk group or other risk factors despite presenting a negative COVID-19 test certificate. High-risk groups include cruise ship workers, involuntarily returned migrants and health care workers. For persons required to be tested for COVID-19, the test will be a RT-PCR or Antigen test, and a sample will be taken by oropharyngeal and/or nasopharyngeal swabbing.

Whether or not persons are required to be tested, they will be under a Home Quarantine order for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. If persons are required to be tested and their test is negative, they will still be required to complete their quarantine at home for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. If the test is positive, they will be isolated either at home or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Category 2 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for Tourism Purposes and Staying within the “Resilient Corridor” (a defined geographical area designated for tourism purposes)

Note that based on health screening and risk assessment on arrival, persons may still be required to be tested at the airport or designated facility, if, for example, they are exhibiting symptoms or belong to a high-risk group despite presenting a negative COVID-19 test certificate. In this case, they would await their test result in their hotel room.

If the test is negative, they would be under a “Stay in Resilient Corridor” order as described on page 6. If the test is positive, they would be isolated either at the hotel/resort or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Persons not required to be tested on arrival will be allowed to go to their hotel/resort under the “Stay in Resilient Corridor” order as described on page 6.

Category 3 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for Business Purposes

All persons visiting Jamaica for business purposes are required to do a COVID-19 RT-PCR test with a sample taken by oropharyngeal and/or nasopharyngeal swabbing at the airport on arrival. Please note that this is in addition to the pre-test prior to departure. **Note that business purposes do not include funerals, memorial services, weddings or other personal activities.**

Up to March 3, 2021, the test on arrival will be conducted at no cost to the traveller. **Effective March 4, 2021, business visitors will be required to pay for the test.**

Business visitors are required to await their test results under quarantine at their hotel/intended address. If the test is negative, they would be released from quarantine and be allowed to conduct the business for which they came while adhering to all infection prevention and control guidelines including minimal interactions with the general public.

If the test is positive, they would be required to isolate either at their hotel/intended address or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Category 4 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for other Purposes including Tourists not Staying within the “Resilient Corridor”

Note that based on health screening and risk assessment on arrival, persons may still be required to be tested at the airport or designated facility, if, for example, they are exhibiting symptoms or belong to a high-risk group despite presenting a negative COVID-19 test certificate. In this case, they would await their test result at their intended address. For persons required to be tested for COVID-19, the test will be a RT-PCR or Antigen test and a sample will be taken by oropharyngeal and/or nasopharyngeal swabbing.

Whether or not persons are required to be tested, they will be required to remain under a Home Quarantine order for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. If persons are required to be tested and their test is negative, they will still be required to complete their quarantine at their intended address for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. If the test is positive, they will be isolated either at their intended address or in a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

TYPES OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES UNDER THE ORDER

There are various measures applicable under the Order issued under the Disaster Risk Management Act, as follows:

Home Quarantine – Under this measure, persons are required to remain at home/intended address for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. Persons under quarantine cannot leave their quarantine location, except with express permission from the health authorities.

Stay in Resilient Corridor – This measure applies only for tourist visitors who are staying in the “resilient corridor” designated for tourism purposes. Under this measure, persons are required to remain at their hotel/resort within the corridor for the duration of their stay. They may, however, leave the hotel/resort to visit any place that is certified by the Tourism Product Development Company Limited to be COVID-19 Resilient. The list of such attractions is available at <https://www.visitjamaica.com/travelauthorization/compliant-listings/>. Any travel to and from attractions must be on transportation licensed under the Tourist Board Act.

Quarantine for Business Traveller – Under this measure, business travellers are required to remain at their intended address, whether a hotel or private home, until they receive a negative COVID-19 test. They are then able to conduct their business as described in their travel application while observing all the infection prevention protocols applicable in Jamaica such as wearing a mask in public places and complying with the physical distancing rule. They must also minimize any interactions with the general public.

Quarantine vs isolation – Quarantine is intended to restrict movement and may be at home, hotel/resort or a government facility as determined by the health authorities. Persons under quarantine cannot leave their quarantine location, except with express permission from the health authorities. Isolation is intended to separate persons who have tested positive for COVID-19 or are suspected to be positive from other persons. This may be at home, hotel/resort or a government facility as determined by the health authorities.

Monitoring during Quarantine or Isolation - Persons who are quarantined or placed in isolation at their home, hotel or intended address will be monitored electronically and by the health authorities to ensure that they do not leave their designated quarantine or isolation location.

Note that persons permitted to enter Jamaica will be permitted to leave Jamaica while in quarantine or isolation in accordance with applicable protocols which would include appropriate arrangements for transportation. An “unfit to fly” notice will be issued to the airlines for persons with positive tests. Persons will be allowed to leave Jamaica using medical evacuation or private flights.