



**MALDIVES CIVIL AVIATION AUTHORITY**  
**Republic of Maldives**

**AIR TRANSPORT CIRCULAR**  
**AT 14/2020 - Issue 18**

**PRECAUTIONARY MEASURES AGAINST NOVEL CORONAVIRUS**  
**(COVID-19)**

07<sup>th</sup> July 2021

**1.0 Introduction**

As part of the planned activities outlined by the Government of the Maldives to ease the travel restrictions, all international airports in the Maldives were opened for international travel from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2020 with precautionary measures against the spread of COVID-19, which are being reviewed from time to time.

**2.0 Purpose**

2.1 The purpose of this Circular is to advise the airlines, aircraft operators and the relevant airport authorities on the latest health measures taken by the Government of the Maldives relating to the entry of passengers and crew.

**3.0 Requirements**

**3.1.0 Inflight**

3.1.1 The following announcement should be made inflight:-

The following are the health measures requested by the Health Protection Agency of Maldives:

“Please wear your mask during the flight and inside the terminal at your destination.

If you have developed any of the following symptoms;

- Fever,
- Cough,
- Sore throat,
- Runny nose,
- Breathing difficulty,

please stay in your seat and inform the cabin crew.

If you develop any of the symptoms upon arrival, please inform the Immigration desk or the Border Health desk.

3.1.2 Airlines must ensure that the following measures are taken on-board an aircraft by passengers during a flight into Maldives:

(a) Every passenger on board wears a mask, unless he or she:

- (i) is less than 6 (six) years old,
- (ii) is having a medical reason for not wearing facemasks,
- (iii) is eating, drinking or taking oral medication,
- (iv) is removing the mask under a crew member's direction

(b) Passengers must be advised to replace face masks when it becomes wet or soiled



### 3.2.0 On Arrival

3.2.1 Tourists travelling to the Maldives will be provided visa on arrival. Tourists must have a hotel reservation confirmation for the entire stay in a registered tourist facility.

Issuance of Tourist Visa for Tourists travelling from South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka) will resume with effect from 15<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

However, Tourists travelling from South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka) will not be permitted to check-in or stay at tourist facilities in inhabited islands until 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

3.2.2 Expatriates travelling to the Maldives shall hold a valid visa issued by Maldives Immigration.

3.2.3 The following categories of passengers, including those who have completed the prescribed dose(s) of COVID-19 Vaccines, must hold a negative result for a nucleic acid test (PCR test) for COVID-19 prior to entry into the Maldives:

- (a) All Tourist
- (b) Special Visa holders
- (c) Business Visa holders
- (d) Foreign diplomats and their accompanying family members
- (e) Airline/aircraft crew whose transit stay in the Maldives
  - is arranged in an accommodation other than a designated transit facility and/or;
  - duration of stay will exceed seven days
- (f) Crew of ships who arrive by air to sign onto a ship
- (g) Maldivian Nationals and Work Visa Holders

In addition to the above, passengers arriving from South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka) are required to take a PCR test between 48 (forty eight) hours and 72 (seventy two) hours of their arrival to the Maldives.

3.2.4 Children below one year old are exempt from the requirement of a PCR test.

3.2.5 The sample for the PCR test must be taken at most 96 (ninety six) hours before departure from the first embarkation point.

If the passenger makes a transit during the journey, the initial PCR test will be valid if the transit does not exceed 24 hours.

If the passenger makes a transit exceeding 24 (twenty four) hours, the passenger must take a repeat PCR test within 96 (ninety six) hours prior to embarkation at the point of transit.

3.2.6 The PCR Test document containing the test result should state:

- (a) Name of the passenger (name as in passport)
- (b) Name and address of the testing laboratory
- (c) Type of test stated as PCR test
- (d) Date of sampling
- (e) Result

3.2.7 The PCR test result may be presented in paper or electronic form during airline check-in and if required at arrival

3.2.8 All arriving passengers and airline crew should complete and submit the online Traveller Health Declaration form available from Maldives Immigration website portal <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/> prior 24 hours to their departure from the Maldives. Passengers are required to present PCR Test results on arrival and should attach the applicable documents when completing the online Traveller Health Declaration form.

3.2.9 All arriving passengers and airline crew should report to the Immigration counter if they have fever, runny nose, cough, sore throat or breathing difficulties or report directly to the International Border Health counter.

3.2.10 The following categories of passengers are required to undergo mandatory home quarantine for 14 (fourteen) days in their place of residency or work. Such passengers must obtain a COVID-19 negative PCR Test result before they are released from home quarantine;

- (a) Special Visa Holders whose duration of stay in the Maldives will be more than 7 (seven) days
- (b) Business Visa Holders whose duration of stay in the Maldives will be more than 7 (seven) days
- (c) Foreign diplomats and their accompanying family members
- (d) Maldivian citizens and Work Visa (Employment Visa) holders

However, Work Visa holders and their Dependents travelling to Maldives from South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka), will be required to undergo mandatory quarantine for 14 (fourteen) days in a facility designated by the Health Protection Agency (HPA). Such passengers must do a PCR Test between 48 (forty eight) hours and 72 (seventy two) hours of their arrival to the Maldives, and obtain a COVID-19 negative PCR Test result before they are released from quarantine.

Work Visa holders must obtain confirmation of reservation at a designated quarantine facility prior to their travel to Maldives.

Details regarding the designated quarantine facilities and quarantine guidelines applicable to such passengers will be announced by HPA and may be amended by time to time.

3.2.11 Visa Holders (excluding Work Visa Holders) and Maldivian citizens travelling to Maldives from South Asian countries (Afghanistan, Pakistan, India, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh, and Sri Lanka) are required to undergo mandatory home quarantine for 14 (fourteen) days in their place of residency or work. Such passengers must do a PCR Test between 48 (forty eight) hours and 72 (seventy two) hours of their arrival to the Maldives, and obtain a COVID-19 negative PCR Test result before they are released from home quarantine.

3.2.12 Notwithstanding paragraphs 3.2.10 and 3.2.11 above, the quarantine period will be reduced to 7 (seven) days for passengers who have completed the recommended dose(s) of a COVID-19 Vaccine (approved by the World Health Organisation Emergency Use Listing (EUL) or the Maldives Food and Drug Authority or any other competent authority of the respective State) and at least 14 (fourteen) days have passed after the recommended doses(s). Such passengers must obtain a COVID-19 negative PCR Test result before they are released from quarantine.

3.2.13 Airline crew, ship crew and children specified in paragraph 3.2.3 (e) and (f), 3.2.4 and Tourists staying at an approved tourist facility are exempt from the home quarantine requirement.

3.2.14 The operating airline shall assist and cooperate with the International Border Health Officials in carrying out contact tracing and aircraft disinfection when required, in accordance with the applicable HPA's regulations and guidelines.

3.2.15 It is the responsibility of the Operating Airline to ensure that their passengers are following the entry requirements prior to boarding. The operating airline shall also ensure that those passengers presenting their PCR Test results complies with the requirements stated in this Circular.

Operating Airlines may verify passengers Visas and/or their reservations at designated facilities, prior to boarding by email; [arrivals.heoc@health.gov.mv](mailto:arrivals.heoc@health.gov.mv) and [airport@immigration.gov.mv](mailto:airport@immigration.gov.mv)

3.2.16 HPA will hold the operating airline and passengers liable for violations of its guidelines, and may take appropriate legal and administrative actions corresponding to the extent of such violations.

### 3.3.0 On Departure

3.3.1 Tourists who arrived from India and/or returning to India after their stay in the Maldives, must obtain a departure PCR test taken at most 72 (seventy two) hours before departure from the Maldives.

3.3.2 It is the responsibility of the passenger and airline crew to attain the health requirements for the country of departure. If it is a requirement of the country of departure, then passengers and crew must carry COVID-19 negative PCR Test results or Covid-19 Vaccination Certificate with them when arriving at the airport check-in counter.

- 3.3.3 All departing passengers and airline crew must report to the COVID-19 hotline number 1676 if they develop any of the following symptoms, within 24 (twenty four) hours of their departure time;
- Fever, sore throat, runny nose, cough, or breathing difficulties
  - They must verify with the COVID-19 hotline if they need to cancel their current booking
- 3.3.4 All departing passengers and airline crew must complete the online Traveller Health Declaration form for departure. The Health Declaration form for departure must be submitted before the time of departure but not exceed 24 (twenty four) hours before the time of departure. The online Traveller Health Declaration form is available from Maldives Immigration website portal <https://imuga.immigration.gov.mv/>
- 4.0 **Applicability**
- 4.1 The requirements in this Circular applies to all international airlines, aircraft operators operating to and from the Maldives, passengers arriving to and departing from Maldives by air and to the relevant airport authorities in the Maldives.
- 5.0 **Effectivity**
- 5.1 This Circular will come into effect from 08<sup>th</sup> July 2021, and will supersede Circular AT 14/2020 – Issue 17 dated 04<sup>th</sup> July 2021.

  
Hussain Jaleel  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE





MINISTRY OF TOURISM  
REPUBLIC OF MALDIVES

## C I R C U L A R

Ref Number: 88-PS/CIR/2021/60

Date: 07<sup>th</sup> July 2021

To: All Tourist Facilities

Subject: Update on Eases granted for Travel Restrictions

Dear Sir/Madam,

Reference is made to the **Announcement Number 2021/67** published on the Government of Maldives Gazette on **7<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, by Health Protection Agency (HPA).

Pursuant to this announcement, it has been decided to implement below eases in the Covid-19 mitigation measures set forth by HPA.

- 1) Tourists traveling from South Asia will be issued on-arrival tourist visa and allowed to stay in Tourist Resorts effective from **15<sup>th</sup> July 2021**.
- 2) Inbound tourists from South Asia may be accommodated in Guesthouses in Local Islands, effective from **30<sup>th</sup> July 2021**.
- 3) Effective **8<sup>th</sup> July 2021**, individuals who have completed two doses of a Covid-19 vaccine 2 weeks prior to travel date, may be exempted from the mandatory travel quarantine (within Maldives) given that a Negative PCR test (taken 72 hours prior to travel) is presented. However, approval should be obtained through “**HAALUBELUN PORTAL**” and it shall be ensured that none of the respective islands/tourist establishments are under monitoring status before travel.

Additionally, the following measures and procedures are to be set in place for Work-Permit holders inbound to the Maldives from abroad, effective 7<sup>th</sup> July 2021 pursuant to the **Announcement Number (IUL)452/452/2021/12 (7<sup>th</sup> July 2021)** by HPA.

### 1) Quarantine Period

**1.1** Mandatory quarantine period for Work Permit Holders shall be reduced to a period of 7 days, given that they present a Negative PCR test taken 96 hours prior to departure **AND** have completed 2 doses of a WHO recognized Covid-19 vaccine 2 weeks prior to the travel date. Individuals who do not fulfill this requirement shall complete 14 (fourteen) days of quarantine.

**1.2** Those undergoing the quarantine period shall only be released after completion of a PCR test followed by a confirmed Negative Result.

**1.3** In the case a group of individuals are quarantined together and one of them tests positive, the quarantine period for the remaining individuals shall also be extended. If the positive individual remains with the direct contacts, then the direct contacts shall complete their 14 days of quarantine from the date of recovery of the positive individual. If the positive individual is isolated, quarantine period for the direct contacts shall start from the date of isolation of the positive case.





## **2) Place of Quarantine**

**2.1** Designated facilities for quarantine of Work Permit holders by HPA.

**2.2** Quarantine facilities set up by Private employers, Resorts (re-opened under the new normal) and Government Entities in accordance with HPA guidelines, allocated for the quarantine of their respective staff members.

**2.3** The HPA shall be sharing an updated list of approved quarantine facilities in the below link;  
<https://covid19.health.gov.mv/guest-houses-allocated-as-quarantine-facilities-7-7-2021/?c=0>

## **3) Pre-requisites on arrival to the Maldives**

**3.1** A Negative PCR test, for which the sample was taken within a maximum of 96 hours prior to departure en route to the Maldives.

**3.2** Complete the IMUGA form prior to departure.

**3.3** E-mail a request to [arrivals.heoc@health.gov.mv](mailto:arrivals.heoc@health.gov.mv) 24 hours prior to travel, requesting for quarantine. This request may be sent by the employer or employee themselves.

**3.4** If vaccinated, official documents proving the vaccination completion shall be submitted along with the request mentioned in 3.3. Additionally, a detailed confirmation of where the individual will complete their quarantine period shall be submitted as well. It is advised that all these documents are kept on-hand as well during travel.

## **4) Post-Travel to the Maldives**

**4.1** All expenses relating to the quarantine facility (including transfers etc.) shall be borne by the Work-Permit holder OR their Employer.

**4.2** Individuals shall register on the Haalubelun Portal within 24 hours of travel to the Maldives.

**4.3** Individuals must undergo a PCR test within 48-72 hours of arrival to the Maldives, as well as a PCR test at the end of the quarantine period. All costs for testing shall be borne by the Work-permit holder or Employer.

**4.4** If an individual experiences any symptoms of Covid-19 during the quarantine period, this shall be reported immediately to the HPA hotline at 1676. A PCR test shall be conducted if symptomatic.

**4.5** All aforementioned procedures shall also be applicable to family members arriving with Work-permit holders.

We take this opportunity to thank all tourist facilities for the support & cooperation extended to us at all times. For further clarification, please contact our Situation Monitoring Unit (SMU) on (+960) 9423131 or email us at [smu@tourism.gov.mv](mailto:smu@tourism.gov.mv) .

Yours sincerely,



Ali Razzan

Senior Executive Director