



COVID-19 CIRCULAR NO 2 of 2021

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa presents its compliments to Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa and has the honour to refer to the address by His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, on 11 January 2021, regarding additional measures that are being undertaken to curb the further spread of the Coronavirus under the National State of Disaster Act.

The Department wishes to inform Missions of the following:

Due to the increased spread of the Coronavirus and the continued challenges encountered along the borderline, movement of travelers seeking to enter South Africa will be restricted with immediate effect until 15 February 2021.

The Government of the Republic of South Africa (RSA) has decided to impose the following restrictions on traveler movement into and out of South Africa through land borders:

Travel across land Ports of Entry will be permitted for the following:

- All the 33 land Ports of Entry that were closed remain closed.
- The remaining 20 land ports to provide limited services as listed below for a period of 30 days, until 15 February 2021.

LIMITED SERVICES AT LAND PORTS (Exceptions)

Entry into the Republic through the identified land ports of entry to be permitted for the following services:

1. Cargo and commercial.
2. Emergency medical treatment with proof of treatment.
3. Travel for funeral purposes of family members in the first step of kinship.
4. Diplomats.
5. Emergency travel not covered in the above categories may be permitted through approval on application to the Minister of Home Affairs. (covid19exceptions@dha.gov.za)
6. Deportations.
7. Entry = South African citizens.
8. Entry = Permanent residents or holders of long-term temporary residence visas (work and business), spouses and children holding visas.
9. Departure = Foreign nationals (in RSA) returning to their homes / resident countries.

10. Departure = South African citizens (in RSA) with foreign residency / holding dual citizenship, returning to their homes / resident countries.
11. Daily Commuters = confined to learners, students and educators only.
12. Transit movement - No transit will be allowed through land.

Transit will be confined to only air transport (i.e. any person who is to fly through the Republic must enter the Republic by air (at O R Tambo International Airport, King Shaka International Airport or Cape Town International Airport).

DIRECTIONS (to be issued by the Minister of Home Affairs)

- The modalities regarding the above proposals will further be outlined in the Directions to be issued by the Minister of Home Affairs.
- The Directions will further deal with related issues pertaining to—
 - Refusal of entry.
 - Applications for exceptions.
 - Visa concessions (i.e. foreign nationals whose visas were extended automatically to 31 January 2021 and those who entered the Republic during Alert Level 1 will have their visas automatically extended to 31 March 2021).
 - Travel restrictions.
 - List of land ports to be closed and operational for limited services.

For ease of reference, further information on the South African Government's response to COVID-19 can be obtained at <https://sacoronavirus.co.za/> and <https://www.gov.za/Coronavirus> while Regulations and Directions issued as a consequence of the National State of Disaster relating to COVID-19 can be obtained at <https://www.gov.za/covid-19/resources/regulations-and-guidelines-coronavirus-covid-19>.

The Department of International Relations and Cooperation of the Republic of South Africa avails itself of this opportunity to renew to Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa the assurances of its highest consideration.



PRETORIA
14 January 2021

Heads of Diplomatic Missions and International Organisations accredited to the Republic of South Africa

PRETORIA