MEMORANDUM

From: Principal Secretary
Ministry of Health

To: Port Health Officers

Date: 16th February 2021

Our Ref: MH/1140

RE: COVID-19 OPERATIONAL GUIDANCE AT THE POINTS OF ENTRY IN THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

This memo serves to guide on operational issues following the opening of the borders on the 15th February 2021.

1. TRAVELLERS ENTERING THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

1.1 All travelers entering the Kingdom of Eswatini are required to have a PCR COVID-19 negative test result (hard copy) that is not older than 72 hours.

The Rapid Antigen Test Result in NOT used for ENTRY into the country.

1.2 All travelers entering the Kingdom of Eswatini will be screened at the Points of Entry (POE) for the following
   • COVID-19 negative certificate (Results not older than 72hrs)
   • Symptoms of COVID-19
   • Country of origin and transit

1.3 Travelers from the two neighboring countries (RSA residents and Mozambique residents) who do not present a valid negative PCR COVID-19 result will be required to go back to their home country to take the PCR COVID-19 test.

1.4 Travelers from beyond RSA and Mozambique who do not present a valid negative PCR COVID-19 result or is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms or both, will be required to do the COVID-19 test at the Point of Entry at their cost. (Where the COVID-19 Test is not available at the Point of entry, travelers will be followed by surveillance teams as their respective destinations)

1.5 Returning residents who do not present a valid negative PCR COVID-19 result or is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms or both will be required to do the COVID-19 test at the point of entry. (Where the COVID-19 Test is not available at the Point of entry, travelers will be followed by surveillance teams as their respective destinations)
1.6 Travelers may be required to undergo a quarantine not exceeding 14 days or isolation as advised by the port health officers.

2. TRAVELLERS EXITING THE KINGDOM OF ESWATINI

2.1 All travelers exiting the Kingdom of Eswatini are required to have a negative PCR COVID-19 result that is not older than 72 hours.

*The Rapid Antigen Test Result is NOT used for EXIT out of the country.*

2.2 All travelers exiting the Kingdom of Eswatini will be screened at the Points of Entry (POE) for the following
- COVID-19 negative PCR certificate (Results not older than 72hrs)
- Symptoms of COVID-19
- Country of destination

2.3 Travelers from Eswatini (i.e residents) who do not present a valid negative PCR COVID-19 result will be required to go back and take the PCR COVID-19 test in Eswatini.

2.4 Travelers who are transiting in RSA or Mozambique who do not present a valid negative PCR COVID-19 result or is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms or both, will be required to go back to do the COVID-19 test in Eswatini.

2.5 Residents returning to their home countries (RSA and Mozambique), who do not present a valid negative PCR COVID-19 result or is presenting with COVID-19 symptoms or both will be allowed to exit and will be catered for by their home country Port Health services and subjected to prevailing testing protocols in their respective countries.

3. VALIDITY OF A NEGATIVE COVID-19 TEST RESULT

3.1 The Ministry of Health has taken a decision to align with RSA and Mozambique on the period of time that a traveler can use a negative result for entry and exit between the countries. This is aimed at reducing confusion among the travelers between the neighboring countries. **Currently it is 3 days (72 hrs.)**

3.2 The same principle applies to the number of entries and exits one can do between the two countries using the same result **within the 3 day period.** Currently it is multiple entries on the land points of entry.

3.3 For the airport and Airlink it is single entry and exit and the COVID-19 result needs to be strictly not older than 72hr before boarding.

*However this can change now and again as it is informed by the COVID-19 situation in the countries and the level of restrictions applied.*
4. ESSENTIAL TRAVEL

The Ministry of Health has taken a decision to align with RSA and Mozambique on the guidelines pertaining to essential travel especially in relation to Commerce and Trade. This is aimed at reducing confusion among the key essential travel between the neighboring countries and maintaining the crucial Commerce and Trade activities in the region.

4.1 Truck drivers and daily commuters (teachers and scholars) - These are exempted from the COVID-19 negative PCR test requirement. They are however subject to COVID-19 screening by the Port Health Officers.

- Parents transporting scholars to the neighboring countries are required to have a COVID-19 negative PCR certificate (Results not older than 72hrs)

4.2 Frequent travelers such as Shuttles and Courier services – These are required to have a COVID-19 negative PCR certificate (Results not older than 72hrs). This result is valid for 14 days.

4.3 Travelers for medical care are required to have a COVID-19 negative PCR certificate (Results not older than 72hrs)

Other essential travelers especially under the Business Sector will be handled as guided by the Ministry of Commerce.

5. PROCESSING OF PASSPORTS

The processing of passports for entry into or exit out of the Republic of South Africa closes at 21.00hrs. This is due to the prevailing 21.00 hrs curfew in the RSA.

- This is also in line with the prevailing 20.00hrs curfew in Eswatini.

This is subject to changes in the COVID-19 regulations.

6. ACCREDITED COVID-19 PCR TESTING LABORATORIES ESWATINI.

To date these are National Public Health Laboratory at Mbabane Government Hospital, Ampathy and Lancet laboratories.

This will be updated as soon as new laboratories get accredited to conduct COVID-19 PCR tests.

The Government of the Kingdom of Eswatini would like to ensure that all travelers have a safe and COVID free stay while visiting the country. All travelers and residents are expected to adhere to all the COVID-19 prevention methods.

The Ministry remains committed to fighting against the spread of COVID-19 in Eswatini.