

## IMPLICATIONS OF THE COVID 19 IN THE CARIBBEAN AREA

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent in Caribbean region Messrs. Caribbean Marine, as usual, are very kind to provide new comprehensive update on current situation and on prevention and control measures implemented by local administrations in response to the latest outbreak of coronavirus (COVID-19) in region.

### BAHAMAS:

The government of the Bahamas maintains the protocol and requirements established for the entry of travelers to the country:

- Since end of December 2021, anyone with test results older than three days (72 hours) will not be allowed to enter the Bahamas.
- Fully vaccinated individuals traveling to the Bahamas from foreign countries and between islands will be required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test (either a rapid antigen test or an RT-PCR test, including PCR, NAA, NAAT, TMA or RNA), taken no more than three days (72 hours) before the date of arrival in the Bahamas or no more than three days (72 hours) before the date of travel, respectively.
- Effective December 27th, 2021, unvaccinated travelers, over the age of 12, entering the Bahamas must obtain a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test (including PCR, NAA, NAAT, TMA, or RNA ) taken no more than three days (72 hours) before the arrival date.
- Beginning December 27th, 2021, children between the ages of 2 and 11 must have a negative COVID-19 test (either a rapid antigen test or an RT-PCR test), performed no more than three days (72 hours) before the date. arrival in The Bahamas.
- Please note: The Bahamas has suspended the mandatory COVID-19 RT-PCR testing requirement for vaccinated travelers, which was expected to go into effect on January 7th, 2022. Also applicable, for children ages 2-11. Rapid antigen tests will continue to be accepted for people with all immunizations, including the 2-11 age group.
- Children under the age of 2 are exempt from any testing requirements.
- Effective since December 27th, 2021, unvaccinated individuals traveling inter-island within the Bahamas from New Providence (Nassau), Paradise Island, Grand Bahama Island (Freeport), Eleuthera, or Inagua must obtain an RT-PCR test COVID-19 negative. taken no more than three days (72 hours) before the date of travel, and presented to the operator of the airline or vessel in which they travel.
- All persons traveling to the Bahamas must apply for a Bahamas Travel Health Visa at [travel.gov.bs](https://travel.gov.bs). A travel health visa will no longer be required for inter-island travel within the Bahamas. In addition,

payment of the Travel Health Visa fee is no longer required for Bahamian citizens and residents returning to the Bahamas.

- The travel health visa requirement for citizens and residents has been suspended. Instead, Bahamian citizens and residents must present a negative COVID-19 test upon registration before departing for the Bahamas.

- Fully vaccinated travelers must upload negative test results in addition to valid proof of vaccination confirming they have exceeded the two-week immunity period (such as CDC or government issued immunization record card). At this time, the Bahamian government will only accept vaccines from AstraZeneca (Vaxzevria/Covishield), Janseen (Johnson & Johnson), Pfizer-BioNTech (Comirnaty), Moderna (Spikevax), Sinopharm, Covaxin or Sinovac.

- All unvaccinated individuals must upload negative COVID-19 PCR test results. The tests must be carried out up to three days (72 hours) before the arrival date. As part of the Bahamas Travel Health Visa application, travelers will need to opt for COVID-19 health insurance that covers them during their stay in the Bahamas. The cost of insurance is included in the Bahamas Health Travel Visa application fee. The Government of The Bahamas announced that, because of the identification of a new variant of COVID-19 - Omicron (B1.1.529), it has imposed travel restrictions on travellers, vaccinated or unvaccinated, from the following countries: Botswana; Eswatini (formerly Swaziland) Lesotho; Malawi; Mozambique; Namibia; Zimbabwe; and South Africa.

- Individuals not ordinarily resident in The Bahamas who have travelled to, though, or from these countries within the last fourteen (14) days will not be allowed to entry into The Bahamas at this time.

Individuals who are ordinarily resident may be permitted to enter The Bahamas, but will be subject to mandatory quarantine for fourteen (14) days at their own expense and will undergo screening as mandated by the Ministry of Health.

The following local restrictions are maintained:

- Curfew in effect: Partial (only on some islands at different times).

- Events: Partially allowed with restrictions.

- Transport: Operational with restrictions

- Shopping: Open.

- Restaurants and Bars: Open with restrictions.

- The mask and sanitization requirements remain in place for everyone.

Cruise ships have been received in Bahamas.

The restrictions and protocols related with the prevention of the spread the COVID 19 announced by the authorities at all Ports remain applicable and compulsory.

Crew changes is allowed.

In case that a crew member presents a Non-COVID 19 injury or illness, health authorities has to be informed and they will be the one who authorized the disembark to shore medical assistance in the public or private hospital system.

## COLOMBIA:

The Colombian government maintains the protocol and requirements Updated since February 1st, 2022 for the entry of travelers to the country:

- International travelers entering Colombia must not present a negative PCR test to enter the country. They should only register Check-Mig 24 hours before their flight at the following link: [migracioncolombia.gov.co](https://migracioncolombia.gov.co).
- If you travel within the country, you do not need to present your negative PCR test. Nor will it be a requirement to have the information downloaded and filled out in the CoronApp mobile application.
- There are mobility restrictions in some destinations in the country according to the level of contagion and occupation of the Intensive Care Units.
- Currently, Colombia has 20 airlines in operation connecting 8 destinations at a national level with 22 countries in the world.
- Still applicable to comply with the following measures provided for in Resolution No. 2052 of 2021 of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection:
  - Present the vaccination card or card with the complete schedule, at least 14 days before the trip. The required vaccines will be those authorized by the World Health Organization. The definition of the complete scheme will be in accordance with the technical recommendation of the producer of each biological.
  - Foreigners not residing in Colombia who do not have a complete vaccination schedule or who do not comply 14 days before the trip, may enter the country by presenting a PCR test with a negative result, issued no more than 72 hours before the initially scheduled shipment. Date and Time. In the exclusive case of Colombians and foreigners with permanent residence, who do not have a vaccination card or those who have an incomplete vaccination schedule, must present a PCR test with a negative result, issued no more than 72 hours before the initially scheduled date and time of shipment.
  - The Certificate or vaccination card may be presented physically or digitally, which can be obtained at <https://mivacuna.sispro.gov.co/MiVacuna/Accountioqin> or in the digital MinSalud application.
  - All international travellers, whether nationals or not, must register through the Check-Mig application of the Special Unit for Migration Colombia.
  - All international travellers, whether nationals or not, must respond to the tracking and follow-up telephone calls made by the National Tracking Contact Center (CCNR from line 1900), their insurer or the health secretary of the jurisdiction where they will stay. during your stay or where you usually reside. Likewise, they must comply with the use of biosafety measures that the Colombian state has.

The health emergency due to COVID 19 in the country has been extended until further notice according to Resolution 1913 of 2021 of the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.

- Starting on February 1, those who want to enter the country by sea must present their vaccination card with at least one anticovid dose, added to a negative PCR test issued 72 hours in advance or an antigen test 48 hours in advance. This was exposed in Resolution The Ministry of Health and Social Protection, has issued a resolution No. 0111.
- Additionally, the new resolution includes a chapter for crewmembers of cargo flights, who may be exceptionally exempt from the vaccination card requirement, subject to being isolated in a hotel during the loading and unloading period, minimizing their social interaction. in addition to the presentation of a negative PCR or antigen test.
- Resolution 0111 applies to airport operators, airlines and aircraft operators, passenger airlines and cargo airlines, customs agencies, departments and port operators, cruise lines, the Special Migration Unit Colombia , to the Special Administrative Unit of Civil Aeronautics, to the entities responsible for insurance, to the municipal, district and departmental health secretariats, to the crew members and passengers of passenger airlines, crew members of international cargo airlines and to the crew members and passengers of the international shipping.
- The other measures for international travelers, in force since Resolution 2383 of 2021, remain the same, including those related to the vaccination card, but in those cases in which the test requirements for COVID-19 apply, the antigen test will also be accepted.

Crew changes are allowed with restrictions.

In case that a crew member presents a Non-COVID 19 injury or illness, health authorities has to be informed and they will be the one who authorized the disembark to shore medical assistance in the public or private hospital system.

#### **CUBA:**

Sanitary control measures for visitors starting on February 16, announced by the ministry of public health.

Cuban borders will remain open and the country's airports are operational since November 15, 2021.

#### **Measures for international sanitary control:**

For travellers, whether or not they are residents in Cuba, it will be mandatory:

- Present a complete vaccination schedule at the point of entry.
- Show the negative result of a PCR-RT, carried out a maximum of 72 hours before the trip.
- Random surveillance will be increased, beginning with RT-PCR at the border for travelers from high-risk countries.
- In addition to the above measures, Cubans residing in the country who do not have a vaccination scheme, to enter the national territory, will be required to:

- Collect a sample for SARS-CoV-2 PCR-RT at the point of entry.
- Comply with a mandatory quarantine, for eight days, in a hotel designated for this purpose, with the traveler assuming the costs of accommodation and transportation.
- On the seventh day, a new sample will be taken that, if negative, will allow discharge from quarantine on the eighth day.
- All crewmembers and passengers of merchant ships that intend to enter Cuba, and come from foreign ports, must present a complete vaccination schedule and, in addition, a PCR study will be carried out at the point of entry.
- The crews of airplanes and cruise ships that will remain less than 48 hours in the national territory will be exempt from these measures. In both cases they will have to present their complete vaccination schedule.
- Cruise and pleasure boat passengers will have to present an international certificate of vaccination against COVID-19 to enter the country.
- Travelers who arrive in Cuba and are part of the enrollment of international schools, scholarships in Cuban institutions, foreign technicians and collaborators who are staying, will carry out an eight-day quarantine in their respective centers, and will undergo a PCR-RT on the seventh day of arrival.
- Mandatory quarantine for travelers from South Africa, Lesotho, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Namibia, Malawi and Eswatini is no longer required.

Do not require complete vaccination schedule:

- Children up to 12 years old, of any nationality or origin.
- Adults who, due to medical reasons, and duly certified, cannot be vaccinated with any of the vaccines approved to date by the corresponding regulatory agencies.

Crew changes restrictions continues.

In the event that any crew member presents a Non-COVID 19 injury or illness, the health authorities must be informed and authorize the disembarkation for medical assistance on the ground in the hospital system.

#### CURACAO:

The country risk classification list was updated, according to Government Statement No. 472:

All countries are classified as high-risk countries.

According to Government Communications No. 499, 506 and 504 respectively.

- A maximum of two (2) boats moored next to each other at sea or next to a dock.
- The Coast Guard will verify the necessary valid documents on board each vessel, also check safety measures on ships.

- All quarantined individuals who have not developed any symptoms related to COVID-19 after six (6) days, may contact their primary care physician to schedule a PCR test on day 7 at a laboratory.
- All people who completed their ten (10) days of isolation will receive a digital proof of recovery in their email registered in the database of the Department of Epidemiology and Research (EPI) of the Ministry of Health.
- All travelers must present proof of a negative PCR test, performed within 48 hours prior to departure, upon arrival.

Government Communications No. 511, 548,543,545,546,547 and 504.

Changes in the Quarantine policy:

- The option of leaving quarantine on day 7 with a negative PCR result was withdrawn.
- The official quarantine period is still 10 days.

The Curacao authorities recommend in the flexibility of COVID-19 measures:

- Maintain a safety distance of 2 meters between people and use the mask where it is not possible to maintain said physical distance.
- Periodically ventilate closed spaces.
- Constant hand washing.
- As far as possible keep employees from home.

Starting on March 7, 2022:

- The state of Emergency is extended, taking into consideration that COVID-19 is still considered a pandemic, for another 90 days.
- As of February 18, the obligation to wear a suitable facemask will now only apply in closed spaces and indoor places.
- All charter and pleasure boats can use 100% of their registered occupancy capacity.
- The current ban on more than 4 people per gathering will be lifted. All establishments may open according to the schedule determined in their economic license. The curfew is without effect.

All crew changes are subject to approval by the COVID Crisis team and they will arrange all transportation. The following documents must be presented at least 5 days before the crew change: copy of passport, navigation book, medical certificate, ship's maritime health status and any other information.

The restrictions and protocols related to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 established by the authorities in all ports remain mandatory.

In the event that any crewmember presents an injury or illness other than COVID-19, the health authorities must be informed and they will authorize the disembarkation to receive medical assistance in the hospital system.

#### DOMINICAN REPUBLIC:

All the restrictive measures imposed by COVID-19 are suspended, and it will be up to each individual to take their own measures to safeguard their health, responsibly, but without restrictions.

#### Current requirements to enter the Dominican Republic:

- Negative COVID-19 test presentation is not required. Random testing continues on arrival at airports and ports.
- Passengers under the age of seven are exempt from this procedure. Those passengers who present a vaccination card or a negative PCR or antigen test taken within 72 hours before their arrival in the Dominican Republic will be exempt from the random test.
- All passengers will also be required to undergo a temperature check.
- Measures such as the use of the mask, the presentation of the vaccination card to access places of public use or the restrictions in public spaces are the responsibility of each individual.
- The occupancy level in hotel establishments may be up to 100%.
- The occupancy level in excursions, maritime transport, ranch, horse and water park activities may be up to 85%.
- Quarantine is not required when entering the country.
- All foreign and Dominican passengers entering or leaving the Dominican Republic on commercial flights must complete the free entry and exit electronic form, which combines the International Boarding and Landing Card, Customs Declaration, and Health Affidavit forms. of the Traveler. The form can be accessed in English, Spanish, French, Italian, German, Portuguese and Russian through the following link: <https://eticket.migracion.gob.do>
- The national territory remains declared a pandemic and, consequently, there are preventive measures to continue taking effective action against the disease caused by COVID-19.

Further:

- The country restarted the tourist operation, with the opening of the country's air borders.

Measures include:

- Reactivation of commercial flights to and from the country's airports.
- Reopening of hotels, adhering to strict protocols to offer a safe environment, which includes all cleaning measures, as well as the use of contactless technologies.
- Ports, marinas and anchorages to receive yachts, ferries and cruise ships are open.
- The private collective transport of passengers and shopping centers operate normally.
- Public beaches open to the public.

The restrictions and protocols related to the prevention of the spread of COVID-19 announced by the authorities in all ports remain in effect.

Free pratique has always been granted once the ship has docked and has been authorized by the authorities. The following documents must be submitted to PFSO prior to the arrival of the ship: medical protocol, crew list, the last ten ports, the P&I certificate and the declaration of maritime health. Crew changes are allowed, however, authorization from the High Level Presidential Commission is required. Required documents: crew details, passport copy and preliminary flight details to request authorization.

There are precautionary tests, once the ship arrives, the Port Authorities Medical Commission takes the temperature of all crew members and checks them for other symptoms of COVID-19.

Health Personnel designated by the Ministry of Defense carry out a medical examination of the ship's crew at the berth, so all crew members must disembark from the ship when docking. Medical assistance is possible is subject to authorities authorization.

#### **VENEZUELA:**

Since February 8, 2022, the National Institute of Civil Aviation (INAC) announced that the restrictions on Commercial Aviation, General Aviation and Private Aviation operations to and from Venezuela continue. It also reported that, exceptionally, only commercial air operations are authorized for the transfer of passengers, cargo and mail, between Venezuela and Turkey, Mexico, Panama, the Dominican Republic, Bolivia, Russia, Cuba, Spain and Portugal in accordance with NOTAM No. C0139/22 and A0067/2022 dated February 08, 2022.

The country remains in the extended easing period, as announced by the authorities in January 2022, it was reaffirmed.

All travelers arriving in Venezuela must register online before departure at <http://pasedesalud.casalab.com.ve/>, this will generate a QR code that they must present upon arrival. Likewise, they must present a negative result of a PCR test for COVID-19, carried out in a period of 72 hours prior to their arrival in the country.

The restrictions and protocols related to the prevention of the spread of COVID 19 announced by the authorities in all ports remain in force.

In the event that any crewmember presents an injury or illness other than COVID 19, the health authorities must be informed and they will authorize the disembarkation of medical assistance on land in the public or private hospital system.

The issuance of safe-conducts to key workers in the sector (marine and personnel associated with the port-ship interface) continues to guarantee their movement on land, as indicated by the Maritime Authority in Circular No. 014 (Special Notice 011 COVID-19) 27 April 2020.

## CHINA. NEW ANNOUNCEMENT ON EFFECTIVELY IMPLEMENTING REMOTE PREVENTION AND CONTROL MEASURES OF THE COVID-19 FOR VESSELS ENGAGED IN INTERNATIONAL VOYAGES

Ingosstrakh's P&I Correspondent in China Messrs. Huatai Insurance Agency & Consultant Service Ltd., has reported on announcement of the Ministry of Transport, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Customs on Effectively Implementing Remote Prevention and Control Measures of the COVID-19 for Vessels Engaged in International Voyages

As it stands, above named authorities have jointly published a document named The Announcement on Effectively Implementing Remote Prevention and Control Measures of the COVID-19 for Vessels Engaged in International Voyages (herein after referred to as 'the Announcement'), which came into force on February 15th, 2022. The announcement stipulates that vessels on international voyages scheduled to change crew at Chinese ports should carry out COVID-19 tests and implement prevention and control measures from 48 hours before their departure from the last overseas port to one day before their arrival at Chinese ports. Please find below the main content of the Announcement for Insured Owners reference:

### **Applicable Vessels**

The Announcement applies to vessels on international voyages that intend to enter China and plan to change their crew, including foreign crew at ports within the territory of the PR China. Vessels on international voyages scheduled to enter China and change crew, which depart the last overseas port after February 15th, 2022 shall comply with the requirements of the Announcement.

### **Applicable Parties**

The Announcement applies to shipping companies, crew service agencies, vessels and other relevant persons. In case of any violation to the Announcement or relevant laws, regulations of the PRC, punishments shall be imposed against the relevant parties.

### **Requirements**

The Announcement requires all onboard crewmembers take COVID-19 test at the prescribed time, properly record and submit the results to the maritime administrative authority, the Customs, etc. If any abnormalities were spotted, emergency response should be activated and the abnormal conditions should be reported to the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism.

### **Detailed requirements are as follows:**

#### **1. COVID-19 test shall be carried out within 48 Hours before leaving the port abroad**

48 hours before departing the last overseas port, all crewmembers onboard vessels to which the Announcement applies shall take COVID-19 test. Crew members who test positive should receive medical care timely at the nearest institutions. On the voyage after leaving the last port abroad, the requirements as stipulated in the latest version of Prevention and Control Plan of COVID-19, issued by the National Health Commission of the PRC shall be followed. And a scheme shall be maintained

to ensure that all crewmembers shall take COVID-19 test regularly. In order to avoid spreading of infection and protect the health of crewmembers, self-quarantine and medical treatment measures shall be implemented timely in the event of positive test result.

Nucleic test shall be the first choice for testing the COVID-19 virus. However, when nucleic test becomes unavailable, other rapid test measures, such as antigen tests, can be chosen as alternatives. And these chosen rapid test products shall be the ones approved by the medical products regulatory agencies in China or other countries and regions.

## **2. The Record and Submission of the Test Results**

All vessels to which the Announcement applies shall refer to the administrative requirements for entry personnel as stipulated in the latest version of Prevention and Control Plan of COVID-19 issued by the National Health Commission of the PRC, and organize all crewmembers to carry out COVID-19 test on the 1st, 4th, 7th and 14th day (if any) during the voyage and 1 day before arrival at port. These results shall be properly recorded and kept. After completing COVID-19 tests to all crewmembers on board the vessel one day before the port of call, these results shall be submitted, together with the testing information of crew members during the voyage to the local maritime administrative authority, the Customs and other departments located at the first port of call. The Guideline on Information to Submit Regarding Remote Prevention and Control Measures of the COVID-19 for Vessels Engaged in International Voyage (Chinese Version) is attached for reference.

On the voyage after leaving the last port abroad, if the health information or COVID-19 testing results are found abnormal, the Master shall promptly report the case of abnormal crew members to his shipping company or crew service agency, and take emergency response to ensure self-quarantine and medical treatment measures will be implemented. The maritime administrative authority that receives the seafarers' testing information and the vessel concerned shall timely submit the relevant information to the Joint Prevention and Control Mechanism (leading group or command headquarters) at the place of the first port of entry for disposal.