

JAMAICA'S CONTROLLED ENTRY PROGRAMME

SUMMARY OF PROTOCOLS

APPLICABLE FOR THE PERIOD AUGUST 1 – SEPTEMBER 30, 2020

TRAVEL AUTHORISATION

All persons travelling to Jamaica require a Travel Authorisation document. A Travel Authorisation is NOT required to book your flight. It is however a requirement for check-in and boarding and the airlines will not allow passengers to board without it. In order to obtain a Travel Authorisation document, persons ordinarily resident in Jamaica (nationals as well as non-nationals resident by virtue of marriage, work permit, etc.) should apply on jamcovid19.moh.gov.jm and non-residents on visitjamaica.com.

HEALTH SCREENING AND RISK ASSESSMENT

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

CATEGORIES OF TRAVELLERS

The risk-based testing and quarantine protocols differ among the following four 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 visitors from high risk locations

Non-residents visiting Jamaica (other than business travellers) aged 12 and over who are residents of locations designated as high-risk by the Jamaican health authorities will be required to obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR test within 10 days prior to their intended date of travel to Jamaica. This requirement became mandatory for persons arriving in Jamaica on or after July 15. All persons applying to enter on visitjamaica.com from the designated high-risk locations are required to upload their COVID-19 RT-PCR test certificate as part of the application process.

The locations currently designated as high-risk for this purpose by the Jamaican health authorities are the states of Arizona, Florida, New York and Texas in the United States of America. The test should be performed at a medical laboratory that is accredited by the College of American Pathologists (CAP).

Please note that this list of high-risk locations is subject to ongoing reassessment and could therefore change. The pre-testing requirement will not apply to visitors who are not residents of these high-risk locations.

Category 1 - Residents - Jamaican nationals and non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica

Jamaican nationals and non-nationals ordinarily resident in Jamaica may be subject to testing if assessed as high-risk as a result of exhibiting symptoms, exposure to persons who have tested positive, belonging to a high-risk group or other risk factors. 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 test and a sample will be taken by oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabbing.

Whether or not persons are required to be tested, they will be required to remain in quarantine at home for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. If persons are required to be tested and their test is negative, they will 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.

Persons assessed by the health authorities as presenting a very low risk of spread may be required to stay at home for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. These persons would be allowed to leave their home only once per day, to go to the closest practicable location for the purpose of obtaining food, medical supplies or medical services, conducting financial transactions, overseeing their place of business, attending a place of worship, and physical exercise. They would also be required to work from home.

Category 2 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for tourism purposes and staying within the “resilient corridor” (a defined geographical area designated for tourism purposes)

The pre-testing requirement described above is applicable to persons in this category if they are residents of locations designated as high risk by the Jamaican health authorities.

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 RT-PCR test certificate. In this case, they would await their test result in their hotel room.

If the test is negative, they would remain at their hotel/resort within the “resilient corridor” under the “stay in zone” measure. As of August 7, 2020, they will be allowed to leave the hotel/resort to visit attractions within the resilient corridor.

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 zone” measure.

Category 3 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes

All non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes will be required to be tested at the airport. The test will be a COVID-19 RT-PCR test and a sample will be taken by oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabbing. Business purposes do not include funerals and weddings or other personal activities.

They will await their test results under quarantine at their hotel/intended address.

If the test is negative, they would be released from quarantine and be under a “stay at intended address for business travellers” measure for a period of 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica or for the duration of their stay if shorter than 14 days.

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

Non-residents visiting Jamaica for business purposes for 14 days or more will be subject to the same testing and quarantine protocols as described above for category 1.

Category 4 - Non-residents visiting Jamaica for other purposes including tourists not staying within the “resilient corridor”

The pre-testing requirement described above is applicable to persons in this category if they are residents of locations designated as high risk by the Jamaican health authorities.

Persons who are not required to pre-test may be required to be tested at the airport or other designated facility, if assessed by the health authorities as high-risk based on health screening and risk assessment on arrival. For persons required to be tested for COVID-19, the test will be a RT-PCR test and a sample will be taken by oropharyngeal and nasopharyngeal swabbing. They will then await their test results under quarantine at their hotel/intended address.

Whether or not persons are required to be tested, they will be required to remain in quarantine at home for 14 days from their date of entry to Jamaica. If persons are required to be tested and their test is negative, they will be required to remain in 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.

TYPES OF RESTRICTIVE MEASURES UNDER THE ORDER

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

Quarantine at home – Under this measure persons are required to remain at home 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 zone – 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 until August 6, 2020. Effective August 7, 2020, tourists in the corridor can leave the hotel/resort to visit any amusement park, water park, or water attraction, certified by the Jamaica Tourist Board to be a COVID-19 resilient licensed attraction located within the corridor, while adhering to applicable protocols. Travel to and from the attraction must be on transportation licensed under the Tourist Board Act.

Stay at intended address for business travellers – Under this measure, business travellers are required to remain at their intended address, whether a hotel or private home, for 14 days or for the duration of their stay if shorter than 14 days and allowed to leave only once per day to obtain food and medical supplies and to conduct their business meetings and financial transactions following which they must return immediately. They are required to observe all the infection prevention protocols applicable in Jamaica such as wearing a mask in public places and complying with the physical distancing rule. They are NOT allowed to attend any meeting, event or gathering of more than 20 persons, meet with persons aged 75 and over, or take any form of transportation with any other passenger other than a person with whom they travelled to Jamaica.

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.