



Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
Ministry of Health

# Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Ministry of Health

## Quarantine Protocols for Passengers Entering into Trinidad and Tobago

Effective July 17, 2021



Updated as at 15th July, 2021

# Contents

Contents	2
Acknowledgements	3
1. Background	4
2. Objectives of the Protocols	5
3. Legal and Policy Framework	5
4. The Protocols for the Quarantine and Care of Individuals from All Territories	5
5. Implementation of the Protocols	8
6. Monitoring and Evaluation	8
7. Reference	8
8. Appendices	9
8.1.1 <i>Legal Notice No. 34 (Corrigendum)</i>	9
8.1.2 <i>Legal Notice No. 34</i>	10
8.1.3 <i>Legal Notice No. 35</i>	12
8.1.4 <i>Quarantine Act Chap. 28:05 7 (1) to (3)</i>	13



# Acknowledgements

The Ministry of Health would like to acknowledge the contributions of the following officers for the information and research compiled for these Protocols:

- **Dr. Roshan Parasram**, Chief Medical Officer;
- **Dr. Maryam Abdool-Richards**,  
Principal Medical Officer (Institutions);
- **Dr. Osafo Fraser**, County Medical Officer of Health, St. George East;
- **Dr. Tiffany Hoyte**, County Medical Officer of Health, Tobago;
- **Dr. Antony Parkinson**, Director of Health,  
North West Regional Health Authority;
- **Ms. Anesa Doodnath-Siboo**, Principal Pharmacist,  
Drug Inspectorate;
- **Mr. Lawrence Jaisingh**, Director, Health Policy,  
Research and Planning; and
- **Ms. Cindi Siewdass**, Research Officer II,  
Directorate, Health Policy, Research and Planning.



# 1. Background



Pandemic outbreaks such as COVID-19 have the potential to destabilize and disrupt health systems and may have a profound effect on all aspects of a country's economy and the mental and physical health of the population.

On March 11th, 2020, the World Health Organisation (WHO) declared the COVID-19 to be a pandemic and as of June 28th, 2021, there were 181,176,715 confirmed cases with 3,930,496 deaths across 216 countries (WHO Situational Report)<sup>1</sup>.

In Trinidad and Tobago, as at June 29th, 2021, there were thirty-two thousand, five hundred and twenty-eight (32,528) positive cases with effect from 12th March, 2020 and eight hundred and thirty-three (833) deaths with over 226,082 unique patient tests conducted. The key objectives of these protocols are to educate, engage and empower people to change their behaviour to ensure the transmission of COVID-19 is adequately controlled - the communities would be educated, engaged and empowered to adjust to the "new normal" utilizing the following protocols:

- Wear masks when you go out in public (masks are mandatory in public spaces);
- Keep your distance from others (6ft);
- Stay home if you are ill;
- Wash your hands often with soap and water or use an alcohol based sanitizer;
- Cough into a tissue or into the crook of your elbow;
- Avoid touching your face; and
- Clean then sanitize surfaces (e.g. table tops, door knobs and cell phones).

The Guidelines for Returning Nationals were sourced from World Health Organization (WHO), and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) for COVID-19. The key source document was derived from the following link: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>.

<sup>1</sup><https://covid19.who.int/table>

## 2. Objectives of the Protocols

To provide protocols on the quarantine and care of passengers via Ports of Entry from 'ALL' countries into Trinidad and Tobago, to minimize the risk of entry of COVID-19 Variants of Concern (VOC's) and Variants of Interest (VOI's) to our shores.

## 3. Legal and Policy Framework

On January 31st 2020, the proclamation of COVID-19 as a dangerous infectious disease under the Public Health Ordinance, Chap. 12 No. 4, in order to trigger the special provisions under the Ordinance and the Quarantine Act Chapter 28:05 that are pertinent to the curtailment and management of infectious diseases such as notification, special inspections and offences (Legal Notices Nos. 34 and 35 and excerpt from the Quarantine Act 7(1) appended). Also, the adherence to the 2004 Occupational Safety and Health Act, Chap. 88:88.

## 4. Quarantine Protocols for Passengers Entering into Trinidad and Tobago

Given the current epidemiological state of the COVID-19 with community spread, there is a need to mitigate and minimize the risk of spread of VOI's and VOC's from persons entering from other countries, which may potentially affect the existing residential population.

In this regard, individuals will be required to be assessed by Port Health officials, after which they would be categorized to determine disposition.

In the first instance, the vessel Captain should report to the Port Health Authorities on the status of all passengers prior to disembarkation. This includes the thorough review of all related documentation. The County Medical Officer of Health (CMOH) should provide direct oversight of this process to ensure compliance.

Additionally, passengers will be subject to health screening by the Port Health Division of the Ministry of Health, including the observation of the passenger for any noticeable signs or symptoms, thermal scanning and review of the health declaration form for each passenger.



The above preliminary assessment will enable the Port Health Officer to conduct a risk assessment in order to classify the passengers for disembarkation by the degree of illness for the appropriate medical attention.

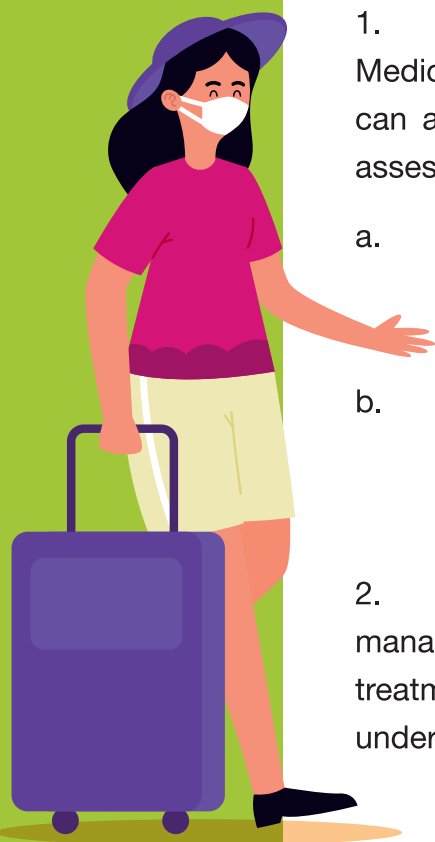
Four (4) categories of passengers have been identified as detailed below:

**Category One – Passengers (not requiring immediate medical attention) and are Unvaccinated (ALL individuals require 72 hours pre boarding PCR).**

1. Passengers are immediately taken to a designated State Supervised Quarantine Facility for fourteen (14) days;
2. Each passenger undergoes a medical assessment within 24hrs of arrival, which includes a medical history and PCR test for COVID-19 (swab) on the 7th day;
3. Daily temperature monitoring and symptom checks are done by the designated medical team;
4. Passengers who test negative for COVID-19 and complete their remaining quarantine period and are asymptomatic are allowed home, final decision to be made by the CMOH.
5. Passengers who test positive for COVID-19 (during the quarantine period) are immediately transferred to a hospital in the parallel health care system for clinical assessment and assignment, samples should also be sent for gene sequencing via the established pathway.

**Category Two – Returning Passengers (requiring immediate medical attention)**

1. Severe/Critically Ill passengers are quarantined at hospital (as per Global Medical Response of Trinidad and Tobago protocols for ambulance patients), which can accommodate their level of care with the following options based on clinic assessment:
  - a. if patients require less than 14 days for stabilization/recovery, they should be transferred to a quarantine facility to complete the 14-day period and treated under the same protocols as described in Category One; and
  - b. If patients require more than 14 days for stabilization/recovery, they should be tested (swabbed) in hospital in this first instance, and if negative be transferred to the hospital where non-COVID-19 protocols are observed.
2. Passengers who are ill but stable and in need of outpatient medical management (e.g. clinic visits for cancer treatment and Non-Communicable Disease treatment) should be transferred to a designated quarantine facility and treated under the same protocols as described in Category One. These passengers will be





transported to and from hospital for treatment for their illness via ambulance when necessary; and

3. Passengers who test positive for COVID-19 (either upon arrival in Trinidad and Tobago or during the quarantine period) are immediately transferred to a hospital in the parallel health care system for treatment.

### **Category Three – Fully Vaccinated Individuals**

1. PCR Test 72 hours prior to arrival;
2. Proof of vaccination (WHO approved);
3. No quarantine required.

A fully vaccinated individual is defined as a person who has received the required number of doses of a WHO approved vaccine and has been two weeks post the final recommended vaccine dose(s).

### **Category Four – Children**

A child is defined in Trinidad and Tobago as a person under the age of 18 years of age. It must be noted at this time WHO has not approved the use of vaccines in this category (with the exception of the Pfizer Biontech vaccine (Cominarty); which is authorized for ages 12 years and above, however, at this time, remains largely unavailable to the people of Trinidad and Tobago.

#### **Unvaccinated Children**

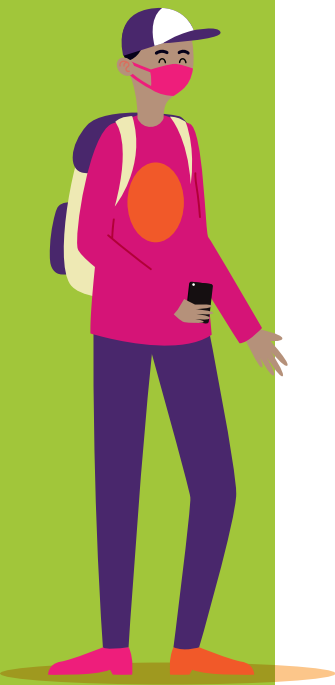
The following conditions will be applied:

1. PCR Test 72 hours prior to arrival
2. Repeat of a PCR test between days 3 to 5
3. All test results, both positive and negative to be reported to the CMOH and/or CMO. Those who are positive will be required to isolate immediately at the discretion of the CMOH and an additional quarantine order will be applied.

*Note: Families in which all adults are unvaccinated and thus require State Supervised Quarantine, the unvaccinated children will also accompany the parent(s)/guardian(s) into State Supervised Quarantine.*

#### **Fully Vaccinated Children**

The same conditions for fully vaccinated adults will be applied to fully vaccinated children ( under 18 years old), as indicated in Category Three.



## 5. Implementation of the Protocols

The County Medical Officers of Health (CMOHs) will officially communicate the protocols for passengers to Port Health Officers, and ensure compliance as it relates to the documentation and the treatment and care for passengers. Thereafter, continuous assessment and reporting on the adherence of these protocols should be implemented to ensure full compliance.

## 6. Monitoring and Evaluation

The CMOHs will provide continuous assessment and reporting to the Chief Medical Officer on the implementation of these protocols through continuous site visits and inspection of the Ports of Entry. This is to ensure the strict adherence to the protocols for the entry of passengers as they may pose a higher risk of spread of COVID-19.

## 7. Reference

- i. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, August 25th, 2020, 'After You Travel'.

*<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/after-travel-precautions.html>*



## 8. Appendices

### 8.1.1 Legal Notice No. 34 (Corrigendum)

*Legal Supplement Part B—Vol. 59, No. 53—22nd April, 2020*

435

LEGAL NOTICE No. 79

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDINANCE, CH. 12 No. 4

CORRIGENDUM

*(In respect of Legal Notice No. 34 of 2020)*

PROCLAMATION DECLARING THE 2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS  
(2019-nCoV) TO BE A DANGEROUS INFECTIOUS DISEASE

IN Legal Notice No. 34 of 2020 published on 31st January, 2020, delete the word “100” and substitute the word “103”.

## 8.1.2 Legal Notice No. 34

*Legal Supplement Part B—Vol. 59, No. 11—31st January, 2020*

63

LEGAL NOTICE NO. 34

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

No. 17 of 2020.

By Her Excellency **PAULA-MAE WEEKES**, O.R.T.T.,  
President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago  
and Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces.

[L.S.]

PAULA-MAE WEEKES  
*President*

### A PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS it is provided by section 100 of the Public Health Ordinance, Ch. 12 No. 4, that the Governor may, by proclamation, declare any disease to be an infectious disease or a dangerous infectious disease:

And whereas it is provided by section 3(1) of the Existing Laws (Amendment) Order, No. 8 of 1962, that any reference in any existing law to the Governor shall be read and construed as a reference to the Governor-General:

And whereas it is also provided by section 5(5)(b) of the Constitution of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago Act, Chap. 1:01, that any reference to the Governor-General shall be read and construed as if it were a reference to the President:

And whereas Trinidad and Tobago has been advised recently by the World Health Organization of the existence of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV), a highly infectious and dangerous disease which is currently occurring in various locations around the world:

And whereas the Minister of Health believes that due to the speed and ease of international travel, Trinidad and Tobago can ultimately expect the arrival of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) and the devastating effect on its public health:

Now, therefore, I, **PAULA-MAE WEEKES**, President as aforesaid, do hereby declare the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) to be a dangerous infectious disease.

Given under my Hand and the Seal of the President of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, at the Office of the President, St. Ann's, this 31st day of January, 2020.

## 8.1.3 Legal Notice No. 35

LEGAL NOTICE No. 35

REPUBLIC OF TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

QUARANTINE ACT, CHAP. 28:05

ORDER

MADE BY THE CHIEF MEDICAL OFFICER UNDER SECTION 6(1) OF THE  
QUARANTINE ACT

THE QUARANTINE [2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (2019-nCoV)  
DISEASE] ORDER, 2020

1. This Order may be cited as the Quarantine [2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Disease] Order, 2020. Citation
2. In this Order, “Health Officer” has the same meaning assigned to it in regulation 2 of the Quarantine (Maritime) Regulations. Interpretation No. 19 of 1944
3. For the purpose of the prevention of the spread of the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (2019-nCoV) Disease (“NCV”), the Health Officer may take the following special measures: Special measure
  - (a) where an infection, which may be NCV, has occurred on board a ship during a period of six weeks immediately preceding its arrival at a port of Trinidad and Tobago, the surveillance of the crew and passengers who have been exposed to the infection, for a period of fourteen days from the last day of possible exposure to the infection; or
  - (b) where an infection, which may be NCV, has occurred on board an aircraft at any time immediately preceding its arrival at an aerodrome in Trinidad and Tobago, the surveillance of the crew and passengers who have been exposed to the infection, for a period of fourteen days from the last day of possible exposure to the infection.

Dated this 31st day of January, 2020.

R. PARASRAM  
*Chief Medical Officer*

## 8.1.4 Quarantine Act Chap. 28:05 7 (1) to (3)

Minister. In approving any rules, the Minister may make any amendments thereto which he thinks desirable.

6. (1) When in the opinion of the Quarantine Authority an emergency exists, the Quarantine Authority may by Order direct special measures to be taken during the continuance of that emergency for any of the purposes specified in sections 4 and 5, and any such Order shall have effect notwithstanding anything to the contrary in any regulations or rules in force by virtue of those sections.

Power to make Orders in emergency.

(2) An Order made under subsection (1) may be varied or rescinded by Order of the Minister.

7. (1) Any person who—

- (a) refuses to answer or knowingly gives an untrue answer to any inquiry made under the authority of this Act, or intentionally withholds any information reasonably required of him by an officer or other person acting under the authority of this Act, or knowingly furnishes to any such officer or other person any information which is false;
- (b) refuses or wilfully omits to do any act which he is required to do by this Act, or refuses or wilfully omits to carry out any lawful order, instruction or condition made, given or imposed by any officer or other person acting under the authority of this Act; or
- (c) assaults, resists, wilfully obstructs or intimidates any officer or other person acting under the authority of this Act, or offers or gives a bribe to any officer or person in connection with his powers or duties under this Act, or being such officer or person, demands, solicits or takes a bribe in connection with his powers or duties under this Act, or otherwise obstructs the execution of this Act,

Offences and penalties.

is liable on conviction to a fine of six thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

(2) Any person who is guilty of any other offence against this Act is liable on conviction to a fine of six thousand dollars and to imprisonment for six months.

Ch. 4:20.                      (3) All offences against this Act may be prosecuted summarily under the Summary Courts Act.

Rewards to informers.                      **8.** The Minister may direct that any part of any fine recovered in respect of any offence against this Act shall be paid to any person who has given information leading to the conviction of the offender.

Recovery of expenses and charges.                      **9.** (1) All expenses and charges payable to the Quarantine Authority under this Act may be sued for and recovered by him before any Court of competent jurisdiction, and a certificate purporting to be under the hand of the Quarantine Authority to the effect that the expenses or charges sued for are due and payable shall be received in evidence and shall be sufficient evidence of the facts therein stated unless the contrary be shown.

(2) Any sum received or recovered by the Quarantine Authority in payment of expenses or charges payable to him under this Act shall be paid into public funds.

Duty and power of the Police.                      **10.** (1) Every member of the Police Service shall enforce (using force if necessary) compliance with this Act and with any order, instruction or condition lawfully made, given or imposed by any officer or other person under the authority of this Act; and for such purpose any member of the Police Service may board any ship or aircraft and may enter any premises without a warrant.

(2) Any member of the Police Service may arrest without a warrant any person whom he has reasonable cause to believe to have committed any offence against this Act.

(3) In this section the expression "member of the Police Service" includes a member of any police organisation constituted by law who has the general powers of a member of the Police Service.