



TRAVEL SAFETY TIPS

As limited air travel takes to the skies, we welcome eBucks travellers who might be preparing for international. To avoid uncertainty, we've highlighted some important safety information that will help you along the way.



Covid-19 Test

What health travel documentation do I need to produce when I enter South Africa?

Travellers arriving into the country are required to produce a negative Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) test result taken not more than 72 hours before the date of travel and completed Traveller Health Questionnaire (THQ)

How long before travel can I complete the Traveller Health Questionnaire?

The health questionnaire can be completed up to 48 hours before travel or on arrival into the country.

I have recently recovered from COVID-19 and my PCR test result has come back as positive, does this mean I cannot travel to South Africa?

Persons who have recently contracted COVID-19 may continue to test positive for weeks on PCR after full recover. The majority of travellers who have recently recovered will not be able to produce a negative test as required by Regulations. If you are unable to produce a negative PCR test result due to having recently recovered from a COVID-19 infection and wish to travel to South Africa you must send a request to the Department for a letter of exemption. This is only applicable to travellers who have fully recovered and intend to travel within 90 days of the initial PCR test result that confirmed the infection. The letter from the medical practitioner must have your name and surname as reflected on your passport and a date, signature, physical address and contact details of the medical practitioner. It is advisable that the request be submitted well in advance of the intended travel to allow for sufficient time for processing.

What is deemed as a fully recovered traveller?

A person who was infected with Covid-19 has completed the required isolation and considered no longer infectious is deemed as having fully recovered.

Are there any categories of travel exempted from producing a negative PCR test result?

Yes, the following categories of persons are exempted from producing a negative PCR test result;

- a) Daily commuters from neighbouring countries who attend or teach at a school in the Republic;
- b) Children below the age of five years;
- c) Cross border freight operators;
- d) Airline crew on official duty and
- e) Medical evacuation crew conducting medical evacuations

Is the 72 hours from date of sample collection or from date when the test result was received?

The 72 hours is counted from the time of sample collection.

Can I use a negative antigen test result to enter South Africa?

No, only a negative PCR test result is accepted on entry

Can a test taken before leaving South Africa be used on return if the return date is within 72 hours?

If you depart and return to South Africa within 72 hours of the sample collection date then the test result can be used on return. If your return is delayed for longer than the 72 hours then that test result will no longer be valid and you will need to retest before arriving into South Africa.



Covid-19 Alert Mobile App

All arriving passengers will be asked to download the Covid Alert South Africa mobile App. Information about the App can be found at sacoronavirus.co.za/covidalert.



Covid-19 Vaccine

Are fully vaccinated persons allowed to enter South Africa without a negative PCR test result?

Fully vaccinated individuals are permitted to enter South Africa but they are still required to produce a negative PCR test result on entry.



Arriving at the airport

What screening measures are implemented on arrival into South Africa?

On arrival in the port of entry, port health officials will screen a traveller to determine if they are not experiencing any symptoms related to COVID-19. The screening will include having their temperatures taken, analyses of the THQ provided and testing where required.

What if during screening at the port of entry a traveller is found to have been exposed to COVID-19 or experiencing symptoms related to COVID-19?

If a traveller is found to have been exposed or is experiencing symptoms consistent with COVID-19 during the screening that is done at the port of entry, further assessments will be conducted which may include testing.

Can I complete my isolation at home if the test conducted during the assessment at the port of entry comes back as positive?

If the test result comes back as positive and the traveller is symptomatic, a decision will be made on whether the isolation can be completed at a travellers residence, or a health facility.

What if I am entering South Africa through a seaport?

If a passenger or crew is arriving in South Africa through a seaport, the negative PCR test result should have been taken not more than 72 hours on embarkation from the country they departed from.



Airport Lounges

We are pleased to announce that the Bidvest Premier Lounges as well as all SLOW Lounges located at OR Tambo, Lanseria, King Shaka and Cape Town International Airports are open to our valued customers once again.

For new Bidvest Premier Lounge operating times and to find out which Lounges are open, please visit bidvestlounge.co.za.



Covid-19 Restrictions

It is your responsibility to ensure that you meet all the travel requirements imposed by the South African government and all international destinations you book travel for.



In-flight safety precautions

All commercial aircrafts are fitted with high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filters. HEPA filters are manufactured to the same standard as those used in hospital operating theatres and industrial clean rooms, with the same efficacy of 99.97% in removing viruses.