

PROCEDURES TO PREPARE AND RESPOND TO THE NEW CORONAVIRUS COVID-19		
MINISTRY OF PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL ASSISTANCE		
COMPONENT:	National guideline for the prevention of COVID-19 for international flights to and from Guatemala	Annex # 3.9
Date of Creation:	September 15, 2020	
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Elaborated by:	General Directorate of the Comprehensive Health Care System -DGSIAS- Department of Epidemiology, Unit of Risk Management, COPRECOVID.	
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I. PRECEDENTS

Since the beginning of the global Pandemic COVID-19, and the first case reported in Guatemala on March 13, 2020, the contagious risk that travelers who enter the territory of Guatemala represent by land, sea, or air was demonstrated.

International airports and the borders of Guatemala have been closed since March 2020 as a preventive measure to avoid infected people entering the national territory with the virus SARS-CoV-2. The risk of infected people is directly related to the possibility of travelers who come from areas with high transmission of the epidemic of COVID-19.

II. Objective

Establish the biosecurity guidelines for the entry points by air, sea, and land in the entire territory to reduce the risks of transmission of the disease of COVID-19 in the country.

III. Guidelines

A. Observance and compliance of guidelines

It is mandatory for airport, port, and borderline authorities, as well as local municipalities, and all operators related to the entrance and exit of all the people to or from the national territory to comply with those guidelines, and also the laws, regulations, and legal provisions given by the Government of Guatemala through the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance.

The districts and health areas where the entrance/exit points allow access to the national territory will be in charge of supervising the compliance of these protocols and guidelines.

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B. Sanitary guideline for the prevention of COVID-19 for travelers that enter through international airports (Guatemala International Airport La Aurora - AILA- y Mayan World -MM-)

B.1 Previous to the trip, entering Guatemala

1.1. Responsible: Passenger

- a. Take the Test: PCR/Antigen, in a certificated laboratory in the respective country, no earlier than 72 hours previous to boarding towards the Guatemalan territory (It applies only to people 10 years and older).
- b. Fill out the Health Pass for Guatemala, available online in the electronic office: <https://sre.gt/>.
- c. People two years old and older must wear a mask. Passengers with certified medical conditions for the use of masks are exempted from the use of masks.
- d. Do not travel if you have respiratory sickness symptoms.

1.1 Responsible: Air Operators

- a. Inform passengers regarding the guidelines to enter the country
- b. Verify the PCR/Antigen negative test result.
- c. Verify the use of masks for people two years old and older which is mandatory. Airlines must provide a mask for people who are not wearing one or wearing one that is not appropriate (For example masks with valves, holes or dirty ones).
- d. Verify that passengers have filled out the Health Pass for Guatemala.

B.2 Checking in AILA (International Airport La Aurora) or MM (Mayan World Airport)

2.1. Responsible: Airport Authorities and Airline Operators

- a. Establish measures to create a quick process, without crowding, and with a minimum distance of 6 feet meters between each person.
- b. Install screens on the counters of airlines.
- c. Airport signaling in the airports regarding the preventive measures (distancing, capacities, hand hygiene and the use of masks).
- d. Provide alcohol with gel the same or more than 70% accessible areas.

3.1 Embarking and Disembarking

3.2 Responsible: Air Operators

- a. Create a quick and organized process, with distance of at least 6 feet between people, respecting the capacities of the bordering areas, reinforcing the proper and

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constant use of masks.

B.4. On the flight, suspicious cases

4.1 Responsible the Crew

- a. Take the temperature and screen the passengers and crew.
 - 1) Identify suspicious case (temperature the same or higher than 38°C o respiratory symptoms)
 - 2) Inform the airline base of any suspicious case and its contacts on the flight according to the procedure given by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)

B.5 On arrival, inside the Airport

5.1 Responsible: Unit of Epidemiological Monitoring Unit¹ y Emergency Operations Center (COE)

- a. Verify the PCR negative test result which has to be taken no more prior than 72 hours prior boarding to the country using electronic verification machines with the QR code or with manual inspection.
- b. Receive public health information from the electronic form online that has to be provided by the health personnel through the General Directorate of Civil Aeronautics of Guatemala, before each flight enters.
- c. Guatemalan passengers or residents identified as suspicious cases that do not present the PCR/Antigen negative test must be transferred with the assistance of the Emergency Operations Center (COE) of an Isolation Center to carry out a clinical evaluation and public health actions.
- d. Foreign passengers that present the symptoms upon their arrival or do not present the Antigen or PCR negative test will not be allowed to enter the country.
- e. The corresponding protocol must be applied for migrants that return (deported)
- f. Promote prevention measures of COVID

¹ Personnel of UVE, uses personal protection equipment, according to the level of risk.

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B.6 Inside the Airport Facilities

6.1 Responsible: Stores, restaurants, VIP rooms

- a. Place signs and maintain the recommended capacity
- b. Mandatory use of masks and plastic shields for all personnel
- c. Install plastic screens on counters
- d. Visual examination of documents only

6.2 Responsible: Employees and landlords

- a. Inform employees about signs and symptoms of suspicious cases of COVID 19 and the importance of reporting the presence of suspicious cases.
- b. Inform the Epidemiological Monitoring Unit (UVE) of the presence of suspicious cases.

C. Sanitary guidelines for the prevention of COVID-19 for the travelers that enter the national territory by land

c.1 Before the trip, for the entrance to Guatemala

1.1 Responsible: Traveler

- a. Take the test: PCR /Antigen, in the authorized laboratory in the respective country, with no more than 72 hours previous to the arrival to the territory of Guatemala, (this applies to people 10 years and older) it does not apply to frequent travelers² nor pilots of heavy transports.
- b. Mandatory use of masks for people 2 years and older.
- c. Do not travel if you have respiratory sickness symptoms.

1.2 Responsible: Guatemalan Migration Institute

Inform travelers of the requirements to enter the country by land:

- 1) The PCR/Antigen negative test with a maximum of 72 hours previous to the entrance to the Guatemalan territory
- 2) Mandatory use of masks for people **2 years old and above.**
- 3) Temperature monitoring when they enter the country through

²Person that enters and exits the country in a maximum of 72 hours: traders, tourists, students, cross border employees, truck drivers y heavy transportation assistants, and the crew of touristic transportation.

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Epidemiological Monitoring Unit entrance point.

- 4) Registration of personal information for follow-up and monitoring

c.2 Inside the facilities of the entrance point

2.1 At the Entrance

Responsible: Epidemiological Monitoring Unit (UVE), authorities of the entrance point³

- a. Establish the measures to carry out a smooth process, without crowds and with distance of 6 feet between each person.
- b. Measure the temperature of each person
- c. Check the PCR/Antigen negative test result with a maximum of 72 previous to the entrance to the Guatemalan territory (Frequent travelers are excepted)
- d. Request minimum health information to all the people who enter the entrance point and register it on an official format given by the General Directorate of Comprehensive Health Care System SIAS.
- e. Guatemalans, residents, and accredited diplomats identified as suspicious cases or that do not present a PCR/Antigen negative test, according to the level of seriousness, must be isolated temporarily in health facilities for a medical evaluation and public health actions.
- f. Foreigners that do not present a PCR/Antigen negative test result (except frequent travelers) with 72 hours or less previous to the entrance to the country or identified suspicious cases will not be allowed to enter.
- g. The corresponding protocol must be applied for migrants that return (deported).

Responsible: Migration Authorities

- a. Install plastic screens on counters of migration.
- b. Place signs in the facilities of the border with preventive measures.

³ Personnel of the Epidemiological Monitoring Unit UVE, uses personal protection equipment, according to the level of exposure to risks.

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- (physical distancing, capacity, hand hygiene and the use of masks)
- c. Provide alcohol gel at a percentage of 70% or higher in all the areas accessible.
- d. Examination of documents

The corresponding protocol must be applied for migrants that return (deported)

D. Sanitary guideline for the prevention of COVID-19 for travelers who enter by sea to the national territory⁴

D.1 Procedure for embarking and disembarking crews and passengers from cargo ships

It will be carried out according to administrative procedures regulated in the Protocol Section V

D.2 Procedure for the arrival of the cargo ships²:

D.2.1 Responsible: Local Maritime Authorities (General Command and Port Captaincy):

- a. Request the Shipping agent, representative of the ship on port, the Maritime Declaration of Health which must be surrendered with 48 hours of anticipation to be analyzed.
- b. Request the Capitan of the Ship, with anticipation, its protocol for preventive measures, to inform if there are crew members with symptoms in the 15 previous days and before the Official Visit to carry out Body Temperature monitoring to each member of the crew.
- c. The information must be transferred afterwards to the health delegate for the corresponding evaluation. In case item a) and b) are not complied with, the ship will be anchored, until the information is sent.
- d. If it is determined that the crew or its passengers represent risk of infection, then the General Management of the Port will be informed (the legal representative or an equivalent representative), the ship or vessel will be anchored to determine the sanitary procedure to follow by the authorities of public health.

⁴Created based on the Protocol for the entrance and exit of people by sea in the ports of the republic of Guatemala and other considerations of the Ministry of Communication National Port Commission and the Ministry of Defense

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- e. If there are no indications of public health risk to the country, the procedure to enter that has been established previously by the protocols for the sea.
- f. When the ship or vessel is anchored, a sanitary inspection will be carried out with the Technical and Professional Personnel of Health, from the local Epidemiological Monitoring Unit which have to use the appropriate personal protection equipment.
- g. The Capitan of the ship or vessel will indicate their crew if the crew or any passenger presents symptoms related to infection by coronavirus in the last 7 days of arrival.
- h. Notify the Capitan of the ship, crew and passengers, that they must comply with the sanitary regulations upon their arrival, exit, or permanence in the country.
- i. Inform the Capitan of the ship regarding the situation of infections in the surroundings area of the port based on the Sanitary Alert System (table of alerts) for disembarking passengers and crew.

D.2.3 Responsible: Physician of maritime health, Epidemiological Monitoring Unit (UVE), authorities of the entrance point

- a. The physician of maritime health checks the maritime health statement with the health status of passengers and crew and the registration of temperature carried out by the Capitan of the ship.
- b. Nationals and residents that are identified as suspicious cases.
 - 1) Crew and foreign passengers. They will be transferred to the proper health services according to the level of seriousness for a full medical evaluation, testing and the establishment of public health measures.
 - a. Inform the Capitan to carry out an evaluation to identify the contacts and proceed to start quarantine on board
 - b. Crew and National passengers identified as contacts, must stay in their home with a quarantine that must be registered with health authorities.
- c. Foreigners

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- 1) The cases identified as suspicious must be isolated inside the ship, unless the health condition requires medical treatment at a Health facility.
- 2) Depending on how long the vessel stays in the national territory, evaluate the need of testing (Antigen⁵/PCR⁶) to any suspicious case. If it is a serious case, the person will be transferred to the local port or other alternatives available nearby for public or private health assistance (for the cases that have insurance).

D.3 Inside the facilities of the entrance point of the Port

D3.1 Responsible: Officer of the Port Facilities Protection -OPIP-: inform the port agency with the necessary measures established related to the fight against COVID 19 and the requirements to carry out the changes of crew.

D3.2 Responsible: Port facilities:

- a. Designate a safe attention zone for the crew and passengers that embark or disembark to avoid the possibility of close contact and unnecessary exposure with people or the facilities of the port
- b. Designate a safe hall to transport the crew from the special area or zone of arrival up to ship to avoid any possibility of close contact or unnecessary interaction with other people or facilities of the port.

D.2.4 D3.3 Responsible: Doctor of Maritime health, Epidemiological Monitoring Unit (UVE), authorities of the entrance point.

- d. Establish measure to carry out a quick process without crowds and with the distance of 6 feet between people.
- e. Carry out the temperature and screening of symptoms of all the passengers and crew with the help of medical services of the Ministry of Health.
- f. Mandatory use of masks for people two years old and older.
- g. The procedure indicated in D2.3.b will be carried out for nationals and residents that their final destination point is Guatemala

⁵Antigen

⁶ Polymerase Chain Reaction PCR for its initials in English.

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and have been identified as a suspicious case.

- h. Nationals and residents whose final destination is Guatemala and do not present symptoms, request minimum health information of public health and register it in the format established.

D.3.4 Responsible: Migration

- b. Install screens on all the counters in migration facilities.
Place signs in the facilities with prevention measures (physical distancing, capacity, hand hygiene and the use of masks)
- e. Provide alcohol gel at a percentage of 70% or higher in all the areas accessible.

D.3.5 Responsible: Port Authorities

They must report to the National Port Commission and Maritime Local Authorities, general information regarding suspicious and confirmed cases in the crew and the actions that were taken.

D4. In the case of ships with passengers or cruise ships, the guideline will be detailed in the next update.

E) Departure of the country through any land borderline:

For passengers that exit the national territory, they must comply with the following requirements of the country of destination. <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php>

NOTE: This guide has been prepared using updated scientific evidence up to this date it was published. Depending on new evidence that is published, it may suffer significant reviews that will inform the recommendations of uses and limitations of these tests during the epidemic COVID-19.

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3. Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance. Epidemiological Monitoring of Acute Respiratory Infection of COVID-19 people who returned or were deported to Guatemala, updated on July 22, 2020.
4. Protocol of entrance and exit by sea to the ports of the Republic of Guatemala and other considerations. September 2020, National Port Commission, Ministry of Communication and Ministry of Defense.