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GOVERNMENT NOTICES • GOEWERMENTSKENNISGEWINGS

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

NO. 1278

03 DECEMBER 2020

AMENDMENT OF DIRECTIONS ISSUED IN TERMS OF REGULATION 4(1)(a) OF THE REGULATIONS MADE UNDER SECTION 27(2) OF THE DISASTER MANAGEMENT ACT, 2002 (ACT No. 57 OF 2002): MEASURES TO ADDRESS, PREVENT AND COMBAT THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

I, Dr Zwelini Lawrence Mkhize, the Minister of Health hereby, in terms of regulation 4(10) of the Regulations made in terms section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act No. 57 of 2002), published in *Government Gazette* No. 43258, Government Notice No. R.480 of 29 April 2020, issue the directions set out in the Schedule, to address, prevent and combat the spread of COVID-19 in South Africa.



DR ZWELINI LAWRENCE MKHIZE, MP
MINISTER OF HEALTH

DATE: 23/11/2020

Schedule

Definitions

1. In these Directions a word or expression bears the meaning assigned to it in the Regulations made under section 27(2) of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 and unless the context indicates otherwise-

“crew” means persons on board a conveyance who are not passengers;

“Directions” means Directions published in Government Notice No. 796 of 17 July 2020 as amended by Government Notice No. R. 868 of 7 August 2020;

“frequent traveller” means a person who travels through the borders of the Republic on more than one occasion within a fourteen-day period excluding airline crew and cross border freight operators; and

“negative COVID-19 test result” means a Polymerase Chain Reaction test result stating the particular names of the traveller corresponding to the passport and issued by a laboratory with its name indicated on the test result.

Amendment of paragraph 10 of the Directions

2. Paragraph 10 of the Directions is hereby amended by the insertion after subparagraph (6) of the following subparagraph:

“(7) A specimen must be taken from a person who died outside of a health facility, excluding death as a result of trauma, by a—

- (a) medical practitioner when certifying a death at home;
- (b) medical practitioner at a funeral parlour when certifying a death; or
- (c) mortician or professional nurse at a funeral parlour.”.

Amendment of paragraph 11 of the Directions

3. Paragraph 11 of the Directions is hereby amended by the deletion of subparagraph (1).

Substitution of paragraph 16 of the Directions

4. The Directions are hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph 16 of the following paragraph:

"Persons exiting the Republic

16. (1) A person exiting the Republic through a point of entry must be subjected to screening, including the completion of a traveller health questionnaire.

(2) A person who during screening, is found to have had exposure to COVID-19 or is presenting with any signs and symptoms of COVID-19 must be subjected to a medical examination which may include testing.

(3) Based on the outcome of the medical examination referred to in subparagraph (2), the Director-General: Health or any delegated person may make a decision on whether or not the person is allowed to exit the Republic.

(4) Persons found to have contracted COVID-19 pursuant to testing in terms of subparagraph (2) must be placed under mandatory isolation or hospitalisation.

(5) Persons placed under isolation as provided for in subparagraph (4) may be permitted to self-isolate at their own private residence if they comply with the criteria set-out in paragraph 19.

Substitution of paragraph 17 of the Directions

5. The Directions are hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph 17 of the following paragraph:

"Persons entering the Republic

17. (1) A person entering the Republic must be subjected to screening on arrival at the point of entry, including the completion of a traveller health questionnaire.

(2) A person who, during screening, is found to have had exposure to COVID-19 or is presenting with any signs and symptoms of COVID-19, must be subjected to a medical examination which may include testing and isolation.

(3) A person entering the Republic must on arrival at the point of entry, provide to the port health official the following:

- (a) A completed Traveller Health Questionnaire; and
- (b) a valid negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result, not older than 72 hours from the date of departure from the country of origin.

(4) A person who is not in possession of a valid negative COVID-19 Polymerase Chain Reaction test result will be subjected to antigen testing at the point of entry and may be subjected to quarantine at an approved facility at his or her own cost.

(5) A person referred to in subparagraph (4) and who is subjected to quarantine-

- (a) must, on arrival at the point of entry, complete and sign a written declaration committing to adhere to quarantine requirements;
- (b) will be liable for all costs related to testing, quarantine and transportation.

(6) A Person entering the Republic are encouraged to install the COVID Alert SA mobile application on their mobile phones.

(7) A person who experiences any signs and symptoms consistent with COVID-19 whilst in the Republic, must seek medical attention and inform the medical practitioner of his or her travel history.

(8) The following category of persons are exempted from provisions of subparagraph (3)(b) but must comply with applicable entry requirements set out by the Department of Home Affairs;

- (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 who upon arrival in the Republic do not disembark and;
- (e) Medical evacuation crew undertaking medical evacuations subject to having medical surveillance plans stipulating routine screening and testing of crew.

(9) Cross border freight operators referred to in subparagraph (8) must on entry into the country, be subjected to antigen testing at the cost of the employer and such test result shall remain valid for 30 days subject to the employer having medical surveillance plans stipulating routine screening and testing of freight crew.

(10) Frequent travellers must comply with subparagraph (3), but the initial test result presented on entry for subsequent travel remains valid for 14 days.

(11) A person referred to in subparagraphs (8) must adhere to COVID-19 health protocols and must—

- (a) be subjected to screening protocols on arrival at the point of entry;
- (b) complete the Traveller Health Questionnaire; and
- (c) be subjected to a medical examination which may include testing, where necessary.

(12) Airline crew must comply with subparagraph (3), but the initial results presented on entry for subsequent travel, remain valid for 30 days subject to the employer having surveillance plans stipulating routine screening and testing of crew.

(13) (a) Airline crew permitted to layover by the Department of Transport may do so at a facility identified by the employer and must inform port health of such facility.

(b) Monitoring of crew in the layover facility is the responsibility of the employer.”

Substitution of paragraph 18 of the Directions

6. The Directions are hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph 18 of the following paragraph:

“Cost of Quarantine for Persons Entering the Republic

18. (1) A traveller entering the Republic or his or her employer must bear the cost of quarantine and isolation.

(2) The employer must bear the costs of the quarantine and isolation of airline crew and cross border freight operators.

(3) Employers who wish to have their employees in quarantine or isolation facilities of the employers' choice must pay all costs incurred.

(4) Monitoring and testing of travellers in quarantine or isolation facilities remain the responsibility of the traveller or employer.”.

Amendment of paragraph 19 of the Directions

7. Paragraph 19 of the Directions is amended by—

(a) the substitution for the heading of the following heading:

“Criteria for self-quarantine and self-isolation for persons inside the Republic”;
and

(b) the substitution for subparagraph (2) of the following subparagraph:

“(2) The 10-day period of quarantine and isolation applies to persons—

- (a) entering the Republic without a valid test certificate who are subjected to quarantine;
- (b) who upon entry, have been screened and found to be COVID-19 positive or suspected of having contracted COVID-19 ; and
- (c) who are inside the Republic and have to be quarantined (either because they are suspected of having contracted COVID-19 or of having been in contact with a person who is a carrier of COVID-19) or isolated (because they are confirmed as clinical or laboratory cases having contracted COVID -19).”

Deletion of paragraph 20 of the Directions

8. The Directions are hereby amended by the deletion of paragraph 20.

Amendment of paragraph 21 of the Directions

9. Paragraph 21 of the Directions is hereby amended by the insertion of subparagraph (2) after subparagraph (1):

“(2) Quarantine or isolation facilities must adhere to the criteria stipulated in the approved guidelines for quarantine and isolation.”.

Amendment of paragraph 21A of the Directions

10. Paragraph 21A is hereby amended by the insertion of the following subparagraphs after subparagraph (3):

“(4) Contact tracing must be conducted for close contacts (any individual within two metres of an infected person for at least 15 minutes) of laboratory-confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.

(5) Remote communications for the purposes of case investigation and contact tracing must be utilised and in-person communication may be used after remote options have been exhausted.

(6) Testing is recommended for all symptomatic close contacts of confirmed or probable COVID-19 patients.”.

Substitution of paragraph 21B of the Directions

11. The Directions are hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph 21B of the following paragraph:

“An asymptomatic person

21B. (1) An asymptomatic person who tests positive for COVID-19 must be isolated for 10 days from the day of his or her positive test.

(2) Asymptomatic close contacts must self-quarantine and be monitored for 10 days after their last exposure, with linkage to clinical care for those who develop symptoms.”.

Substitution of paragraph 21C of the Directions

12. The Directions are hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph 21C of the following paragraph:

“Repeat testing

21C. (1) Repeat testing is not required in order for a person to de-isolate.

(2) A close contact who tests positive (symptomatic or asymptomatic) must be managed as a confirmed COVID-19 case.

(3) If testing cannot be conducted, a symptomatic close contact must self-isolate and be managed as a probable COVID-19 case.”.

Substitution of paragraph 23 of the Directions

13. The Directions are hereby amended by the substitution for paragraph 23 of the following paragraph:

“Cargo and Crew vessels

23. (1) Ship crew who intend disembarking in the Republic, must produce a valid negative COVID-19 test result not older than 72 hours from the date of signing onto the vessel.

(2) A crew member who is not in possession of a valid negative COVID-19 test result will be subjected to testing for COVID-19 on arrival and may be subjected to quarantine at an approved facility at the employers cost.”.

Deletion of paragraph 24 of the Directions

14. The Directions are hereby amended by the deletion of paragraph 24.

Commencement

15. These Directions come into operation on the date of publication in the *Government Gazette*.

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