

COVID-19

External flight connections and between islands in the Autonomous Region of the Azores

Information for passengers

This document was issued by the Regional Government of the Azores and aims to inform you of the existing measures in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, within the scope of the Covid-19 pandemic. These measures concern the passengers landing in Azores' airports from flights coming from regions considered by the World Health Organization (WHO) as being active community transmission zones of SARS-CoV-2 or that are known to have active transmission chains of this virus. It is also aimed to those passengers that intend to travel within the Azores Islands.

For further information please check:

Web sites of the Regional Government of the Azores: www.azores.gov.pt and covid19.azores.gov.pt

Web site of the World Health Organization: www.who.int

Web site of the General Health Directorate of Portugal: www.dgs.pt

EXTERIOR CONNECTIONS TO THE AUTONOMOUS REGION OF THE AZORES

Why is there a need to have specific measures for the passengers landing in the Azores?

First of all for protection of your own health, of all those you may be in contact with while in the Azores, including your family, and of all the Azorean people.

Please keep in mind that the SARS-CoV-2 virus is highly contagious and may ultimately cause death.

It may happen that someone is infected without knowing it. This happens because, according to the present scientific knowledge, 25% to 30% of those infected are asymptomatic. This means they don't show any symptoms like fever, cough, or difficulty breathing. In these cases, being infected and asymptomatic, you may be contaminating other people without being aware of that.

On the other hand, even in the cases where people are infected and end up showing symptoms, the period of contamination starts a few days before the symptoms appear.

Finally Portugal's mainland is considered by the WHO an active community transmission zone. This meaning that the SARS-CoV-2 virus circulates in the community without the possibility of determining the focus of the infection.

Until now in the the Azores the transmission chains of the virus are, from June 12th 2020, extinct, without any active registered cases of infection by the novel coronavirus.

Thus, also to maintain favourable the pandemic situation, the Regional Government of the Azores established several measures for the passengers, coming from the exterior, landing in the airports of the islands of Santa Maria, Terceira, Pico and Faial.

Which are those measures and what do I have to do?

From the 15th of June 2020 on, when you land you will be given a form that you have to fill in and sign.

On that form you can choose one of several options:

The **first** is you have already been tested for SARS-CoV-2 virus on the 72 hours preceding your flight to the Azores and the result was negative.

In this case you will have to show the physical document issued by a lab that proves that the test for SARS-CoV-2 has been performed within the 72 hours before your departure from the origin airport. That document should contain your identification, the lab where the test was performed, the date of the test, the signature of the people who performed the test, and the NEGATIVE result.

If the stay will be longer than seven days, the passenger should, on the 6th day from the date SARS-CoV-2 test was performed, contact the health services of the county where you are staying so that another test can be performed by the Health Authorities that will inform you of the result.

Alternatively, you can choose the **second option**:

This option consists of starting the procedures to perform the SARS-CoV-2 test as soon as you land.

For that, the professionals of the Health Authorities at the airport will need to collect biological samples so that they may perform the SARS-CoV-2 test.

After the test has been performed, you must stay in prophylactic isolation at your home or place where you are staying until you get the results of the test.

In this case and if the stay will be longer than seven days, the passenger should, on the 6th day from the date SARS-CoV-2 test was performed, contact the health services of the district where you are staying so that another test can be performed by the Health Authorities that will inform you of the result.

You also have a **third option**: go back to the place where you boarded or travel to any airport outside of the Autonomous Region of the Azores, being until the time of departure, in prophylactic isolation in a hotel indicated for this purpose.

VERY IMPORTANT

You must oblige to the rules of wearing a mask, social distancing, and breathing etiquette defined by the Regional Health Authorities.

In case the passenger refuses to oblige to all the previewed procedures, the Local Health Authority can, within the framework of its powers, to enforce the compulsory quarantine for the time needed to get the results of the SARS-CoV-2 test, or if the passenger does not allow the test to be performed, during fourteen days counting from the time of arrival to the Region in a hotel indicated for this purpose, being the costs supported by the passenger.

The non-compliance of the passenger with the prophylactic isolation under the above mentioned terms and period, as well as the non-compliance with the compulsory quarantine, in the cases it has been determined, implies the immediate file of a criminal claim of contempt by the Health Authority of the county where you are staying.

CONNECTIONS INTER-ISLANDS

If you intend to travel inter-islands, either by air or by sea, you do not need a previous authorisation from the Regional Health Authority, and you should act as follows:

- a) The passengers should communicate that intent, on arrival, to the health authority by filling in the proper form;
- b) The passengers that perform the SARS-CoV-2 test on arrival to the Region, in case they have another island as final destination, must remain in prophylactic isolation at the place they are lodged or in a hotel room designated for that purpose, until they are informed of the NEGATIVE result of the test. Only then may they proceed with their trip;
- c) The passengers that present a previous NEGATIVE SARS-CoV-2 test, in case they have another island as final destination, may go to that island;
- d) The above mentioned passengers, as soon as they arrive to the final destination island, must oblige to the procedures previewed in the part concerning the contact to the County Health Authority on the 6th day to perform the SARS-CoV-2 test.

Note: You may appeal or file a complaint, concerning the decisions of the Health Authority that affect you, at the Regional Health Authority, the Regional Secretary for Health of the Government of the Azores or a Judicial Court.

CONTACTS

County Health Authority

A. Santa Maria:

Vila do Porto: Dr. Carlos Pinto - sres-dsvp@azores.gov.pt - 296 820 100
Working days from 09h to 12h and from 14h to 16h

B. São Miguel:

Ponta Delgada: Dra. Larisa Shogenova - sres-dspd@azores.gov.pt - 296 249 250
Working days from 08:30h to 16:30h

Ribeira Grande: Dr. José Carvalho Santos - sres-dsrg@azores.gov.pt - 296 470 500
Working days from 08:30h to 13h and from 14h to 16:30h

Lagoa: Dr. João Sousa - sres-dsl@azores.gov.pt - 296 960 286
Working days from 08:30h to 15:30h

Vila Franca do Campo: Dr. João Martins de Sousa - sres-dsvfc@azores.gov.pt - 296 539 420
Working days from 08:30h to 15:30h

Povoação: Dr. Magno Silva - sres-dsp@azores.gov.pt - 296 550 150
Working days from 08:30h to 15:30h

Nordeste: Dr. Teves Carreiro - sres-dsn@azores.gov.pt - 296 480 090
Working days from 08:30h to 13:30h and from 14:30 to 16:30h

C. Terceira:

Angra do Heroísmo: Dr. Sérgio Melo - sres-dsah@azores.gov.pt - 295 402 900
Working days from 08:30h to 17:30h

Praia da Vitória: Dra. Helena Gonçalves - sres-dspv@azores.gov.pt - 295 545 000
Working days from 08:30h to 17:30h

D. Pico:

Lajes: Dra. Lisa Goulart - sres-dslp@azores.gov.pt - 292 679 400
Working days from 09h to 17h

São Roque: Dra. Liliana Dancov - sres-dsr0@azores.gov.pt - 292 648 083
Working days from 08:30h to 16:30h

Madalena: Dr. Augusto Chaleira - sres-dsm@azores.gov.pt - 292 240 570
Working days from 08h to 12h and from 13h to 16h

E. Faial:

Horta: Dra. Tatiana Amaro - sres-dsh@azores.gov.pt - 292 207 200
Working days from 09:30h to 17:30h

Regional Health Authority

Nurse Tiago Lopes - sres-drs@azores.gov.pt - 295 204 200

Regional Secretary for Health

Dr. Teresa Machado Luciano - sres@azores.gov.pt - 295 204 200

Judicial Courts

A. Santa Maria:

Vila do Porto - vporto.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 296 090 010

B. São Miguel:

Ponta Delgada - pdelgada.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 296 209 670

Ribeira Grande - ribgrande.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 296 470 700

Lagoa - pdelgada.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 296 209 670

Vila Franca do Campo - vfcampo.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 296 539 070

Povoação - povoacao@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 296 550 080

Nordeste - nordeste@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 296 090 020

C. Terceira:

Praia da Vitória - praiav.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 295 540 360

Angra do Heroísmo - angrah.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 295 204 600

D. Pico

São Roque do Pico - sroquepico.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 292 648 060

E. Faial

Horta - horta.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Phone: 292 208 320