



PANAMA MARITIME AUTHORITY
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF PORTS AND MARITIME
ANCILLARY INDUSTRIES

CIRCULAR
DGPIMA/026/CCP/2021

FOR: Shipping Agencies

FROM: 
Flor Pitty
General Director



MATTER: Change of Crew Members

DATE: September 1st, 2021

We hereby inform that all changes of crew members shall be subject to Executive Decree No. 833, dated August 30th, 2021 which reads as follows:

Section 1: Every traveller who enters the national territory by airway, landway or waterway, using commercial or private means of transportation, will be exonerated from having a COVID-19 test made at point of entry and from being in preventive quarantine of 72 hours, provided that he or she has registered a complete vaccination scheme card in digital form or has presented same physically (after a period of 14 days of having received the last dosage), approved by WHO, the FDA, or EMA.

Section 2: Every traveller coming from countries with low COVID-19 epidemiologic risk, as so determined by the Health Authority, and who does not have a complete vaccination scheme, shall present negative COVID-19 test results (PCR or antigen) which is current for a period of up to 72 hours, or have it made at the air, maritime, or land point of entry, at his or her own cost.



In the event that the results are negative, he or she will be exonerated from being in preventive quarantine of 72 hours.

Section 3: Every traveller coming from a country with high COVID-19 epidemiologic risk and who does not have a complete vaccination scheme, must comply with the following:

1. Present a negative Covid-19 test (PCR or antigen) result, current for a period of up to 72 hours, or have it made at the port of entry, at his or her own cost.
2. Comply with preventive quarantine of 72 hours at his or her place of resident, whether a citizen or a resident alien, or at an authorized hotel at his or her own cost, if he or she is a foreigner under no immigration process. After that time, he or she should have a COVID-19 test (PCR or antigen) made, and if a negative result is obtained, the quarantine shall terminate.

In the event of crew members who come from high risk countries and do not have a complete vaccination scheme (after a period of 14 days of having received the last dosage), if the test results are negative, he or she may go directly to his or her vessel.

Finally, we attach hereto Executive Decree No. 833, dated August 30th, 2021 for your reference.


AM/MB/sm


REPUBLIC OF PANAMA
MINISTRY OF HEALTH
Executive Decree No. 833
Dated August 30th, 2021

Seal
Office of the President
Republic of Panama
Ministry of the Presidency
Registered

Same which repeals Executive Decree No. 804, dated July 22nd, 2021, and which enacts other provisions

THE PRESIDENT OF THE REPUBLIC
In exercise of the powers granted upon him under the Constitution and under the Law,

WHEREAS:

That Section 17 of the Political Constitution states that the powers of the Republic are created to protect the life, honor, and property of citizens wherever they may be, and of foreigners who are subject to its jurisdiction, to assure the effectiveness of individual and social rights and duties and responsibilities, and to comply with and to enforce compliance of the Constitution and the Law;

That Section 109 of the above mentioned Constitution, decrees that an essential function of the State is to safeguard the health of the entire population, and that the individual, as a member of the community, has the right to the promotion, protection, conservation, restitution, and rehabilitation of the health and the obligation to preserve it;

That Section 137 of the Health Code, establishes that the sick, as carriers and contacts of transmissible diseases, may be subject to isolation, quarantine, observation, or watchfulness for the time and in the manner so determined by the health authority. Same which may also proceed, as the case may be, to take a measure which may include, among others, to concurrent or terminal disinfection of premises or objects which may be related to the sick;

And, similarly, Section 138 of said legal text, establishes that in the event of an epidemic or a threat thereof, the Executive Branch shall determine, among others, to take extraordinary measures which authorize to extinguish or to avoid the spreading of danger;

That as stated under Section 140 of the Health Code, the health authority may order, when it so deems it convenient, routine health tests made to the community, through radiological, lab, immunity reactions, and other tests, as well as the implementation of individual tests, including clinical analysis, biopsies, autopsies, and viscerotomies;

That under Executive Decree No. 61, dated January 8th, 2021 the Executive established health measures for citizens, residents, or foreigners who enter into the Republic of Panama, while the National State of Emergency is maintained, for purposes of maximizing the health measures, in order to control and to mitigate the expansion of the COVID-19 contagious disease pandemic throughout the national territory;

That under Resolution No. 1390, dated December 21st, 2020 the Ministry of Health temporarily suspended the entry into the national territory, of individuals coming from or who would have transited through the United Kingdom and Republic of South Africa during a period of twenty days prior to entering the country, whether by airway, landway, or seaway, using commercial or private means, in order to avoid the spreading of the new strain of the SARS-CoV-2 virus;

That, on the other hand, the Executive Branch established through Executive Decree No. 260, dated March 29th, 2021 measures aimed at regulating the entry into the national territory, of individuals coming from South Africa, for purposes of avoiding the risk of spreading of variant P1 of the SARS-CoV-2 virus, or the Brazilian variant, whether they were transported by airway, landway, or seaway;

That under Executive Decree No. 804, dated July 22nd, 2021 the measures for the entry of citizens, residents, or foreigners into the national territory by airway, landway, or seaway, were established, while the State of Emergency is maintained;

That, taking into consideration the results of the vaccination strategy on a national and international level against COVID-19, it is deemed necessary to establish new regulations regarding citizens, residents, or foreigners who have their immune system complete, for purposes of achieving greater celerity in airports, seaports, land entries, or in any other point of entry into the country, avoiding agglomerations of people and possible infection spots at places of disembarkation;

DECREES:

Section 1. Every traveller who enters into the national territory by waterway, landway, or seaway using commercial or private means, shall be exonerated from having to take any type of Covid-19 test at point of entry and of having to comply with preventive quarantine of 72 hours, provided that he or she has registered the complete vaccination scheme card in digital form, or physically presents the complete scheme vaccination card (after 14 days of the last dosage), as approved by WHO, the FDA, or EMA.

Section 2. Every traveller who comes from low Covid-19 epidemiological risk countries, as stated by the Health Authority, and who does not have a complete vaccination scheme, shall have to present negative Covid-19 test results (PCR or antigen), current for a period of 72 hours, or he or she must have it made at the air, sea, or land point of entry at his or her own cost. If he or she has negative test results, he or she shall be exonerated from having to comply with preventive quarantine of 72 hours.

Section 3. Every traveller who comes from low Covid-19 epidemiological risk countries, and who does not have a complete vaccination scheme, shall comply with the following:

1. Present a negative result of Covid-19 test (PCR or antigen), current for a period of 72 hours, or he or she must have it made at the port of entry.
2. Comply with a preventive quarantine of 72 hours at his or her place of residence, if a citizen or resident, or at an authorized hotel and at his or her own cost, if a foreigner who has no immigration process. Thereafter, he or she shall have a Covid-19 (PCR or antigen) test taken, and a negative result shall terminate the quarantine.

Section 4. Passengers who are citizens, residents, or foreigners who are under 12 years of age, shall be exonerated from having to take any Covid-19 test, and of preventive quarantine of 72 hours, if their parents, guardians, or child care providers, comply with the established requirements, according to the epidemiological risk level of the country where they come from.

Section 5. This Executive Decree repeals Executive Decree No. 804, dated July 21st, 2021 as well as any other provisions which are contrary hereto.

Section 6. This Executive Decree shall be enter into force from the moment of is enactment.

LEGAL BASIS: Political Constitution of the Republic; Law No. 66, dated November 10th, 1947; and Cabinet Decree No. 1, dated January 15th, 1969.

LET IT BE COMMUNICATED AND BE COMPLIED WITH

Given in Panama City, on the days of the month of August, 2021

Signed, Illegible
LAURENTINO CORTIZO-COHEN
President of the Republic

Signed, Illegible
LUIS FRANCISCO SUCRE M.
Minister of Health

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