

# Procedures to be adopted in the Azores Autonomous Region (RAA) for receiving Tourists

20-04-2021



## INTRODUCTORY NOTE

During the last months, the Regional Directorate for Tourism, in partnership with the Regional Directorate for Health and the Commission for Monitoring the Fight Against the Pandemic has been developing a series of measures to be implemented in the RAA after the end of the State of Emergency.

These measures aim at attracting national and international tourist flows to the RAA, as well as at encouraging the inter-islands tourism, in order to provide a safe tourist operation for all of those travelling to the Azores, with the safeguard and respect for the RAA Public Health.

The national and the international tourist demand have given preference to non-massified destinations, to nature and more sustainable destinations, where an immersive contact is promoted, in harmony with the local communities.

The Azores position themselves in the frontline as an exuberant and exclusive Nature Destination that provides a wide range of unique outdoor activities, on land and at sea, which enables our visitors to enjoy the most genuine experiences.

The Azores are the only archipelago in the world certified as Sustainable Tourism Destination, with the silver *Earthcheck* certification, according to the GSTC criteria.

This Tourism relaunch will be guided by a strategy that unites Safety with Sustainability, orientating the management models to a provision of services that values quality and the tourist's safety.

# 1. Travelling by air



GOVERNO  
DOS AÇORES

# Testing procedures for passengers from outside the RAA

## 1.1. Travelling by air





# Passenger travelling from the Portuguese Mainland or Madeira

## 1.1. Travelling by air



## TRIP WITH NEGATIVE TEST

- Passenger carries out RT-PCR test for SARS-Cov-2 infection in one of RAA's partner labs;
- The test is free;
- The sample collection for lab testing must be done up to 72 hours before the trip and the passenger can only travel with NEGATIV result;
- It is granted an incentive in the amount 35€ to the passengers that make the test in the origin country and it can be spent in the RAA's partner companies;
- The passenger arrives in the RAA and begins the holidays in safety.

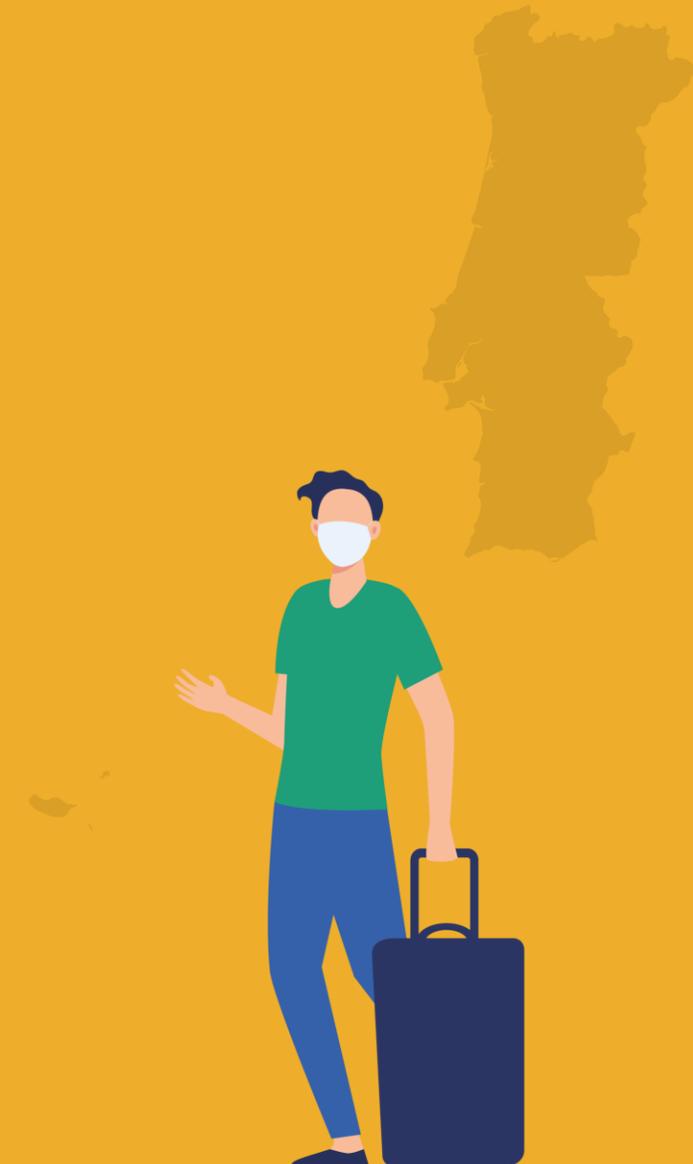


# Passenger travelling from the Portuguese Mainland or Madeira

## TRIP WITHOUT NEGATIVE TEST



- Passenger chooses to travel to the Azores without the RT-PCR;
- Upon arrival in the RAA, carries out sample collection for lab testing with RT-PCR method;
- The test is free;
- Remains in prophylactic isolation, in the accommodation booked by him/herself, until the test result is known and it will be communicated within a maximum of 24 hours;
- Passenger can only leave the accommodation and enjoy the trip after communication of NEGATIV result.



### 1.1. Travelling by air

# Passenger travelling from abroad

## TRIP WITH NEGATIVE TEST

- Passenger carries out test for SARS-Cov-2 infection with RT-PCR method in origin country's labs;
- The test is self-paid;
- The sample collection for lab testing must be done up to 72 hours before the trip and the passenger can only travel with NEGATIV result;
- It is granted an incentive in the amount 50€ to the passengers that carry out the test in the origin country, and it can be spent in the RAA's partner companies;
- Passenger arrives in the RAA and begins holidays in safety.

### 1.1. Travelling by air



# Passenger travelling from abroad

## TRIP WITHOUT NEGATIVE TEST



- Passenger chooses to travel to the Azores without RT-PCR;
- Upon arrival in the RAA, carries out sample collection for lab testing with RT-PCR method;
- The test is free;
- Remains in prophylactic isolation, in the accommodation booked by him/herself, until the test result is known and will be communicated within a maximum of 24 hours;
- Passenger can only leave the accommodation and enjoy the trip after communication of NEGATIV result.



### 1.1. Travelling by air

# 1.2. Travelling by sea



# Procedures for testing passengers from outside the RAA

Recreational crafts/yachts



## 1.2. Travelling by sea



V

Passenger with negative PCR test carried out in the Portuguese Mainland or Madeira (up to 72h before arrival)

V

Passenger with negative self-paid PCR test carried out abroad (up to 72 hours before arrival)

V

Passenger without negative PCR test carried out in the origin country – trip with the duration of 12 or + days without stops

V

1<sup>st</sup> test paid by RAA in partner labs

V

Gift voucher in the amount of 50€ upon arrival paid by RAA

V

Complies with equivalent period for prophylactic isolation. Does not need to carry out test upon arrival.

**6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> day tests paid by RAA**

# Passenger travels to RAA and tests positive upon arrival or is a high-risk close contact

## 1.1. Travelling by air

- The passenger that tests positive upon arrival will have to comply with mandatory confinement for a period of 10 days;
- Travel companions referred as high-risk close contacts will have to comply with prophylactic isolation for a period of 14 days;
- Mandatory confinement and prophylactic isolation take place in the accommodation initially booked by the passenger;
- In case the declared situation lasts for a period longer than that initially booked by the passengers, the RAA assumes the expenses with accommodation and meals, in a hotel designated for that purpose;
- In case the accommodation booked by the passenger does not guaranty conditions for the declared situation, the passenger will be transferred to a hotel designated by the RAA. The RAA assumes the related expenses.



# Passenger travels from abroad with negative RT-PCR test – exception

- Passenger with a departure abroad, in a situation of flight cancellation or whose transit or delayed flight exceeds the 72 hours of the test validity, carried out in the origin country, is obliged to be tested for SARS-CoV-2, with the RT-PCR method upon arrival in the Azores, as well as comply with prophylactic isolation until the NEGATIVE result is communicated within a maximum of 24 hours.

## 1.1. Travelling by air



## 2. Exceptions to the obligation of testing for SARS-CoV-2 upon arrival in the RAA



- Passengers up to the age of 12;
- Passengers with declaration of discharge from clinical surveillance and from isolation measures issued by the public health service regarding SARS-CoV-2, with a validity of 90 days;
- Flight crews that do not circulate between the airside to the landside areas, as well as those crews travelling on duty outside the Autonomous Region of the Azores and returning without having left the aircraft;
- Healthcare providers on duty for transfer or evacuation of patients with updated regular professional screenings, according to the health standard of the Regional Health Authority, in force, as long as the period outside the Autonomous Region of the Azores is up to 72 hours.

## 2. Exceptions to the obligation of testing for SARS-CoV-2 upon arrival in the RAA



# 3. Mandatory information and documentation

Passenger that carried  
out the negative RT-PCR  
test in the origin country

The report of the test carried out up to 72 hours before the flight departure must contain the following information in Portuguese or English:

- Identification of the passenger;
- Name of the lab , where the test was carried out, referring its certification;
- Reference to the use of the RT-PCR method;
- Date when the test was carried out;
- Negative test result;
- The passenger must present the test result at check-in and upon arrival in digital or printed format, excluding the SMS format.



# 4. Trips longer than 6 days

- If the stay in the Archipelago is extended for seven or more days, or for thirteen or more days, the passenger must on the 6<sup>th</sup> and on the 12<sup>th</sup> day, counting respectively from the date the test for SARS-CoV-2 was carried out, contact the health authority of the municipality, where lives or is staying, so that another test can be carried out by the local health authority, whose result will be communicated by e-mail and SMS.



# Trips longer than 6 days

- The period of 6 or 12 days counts from the day, in which the first test was carried out;
- The test appointment can be made in advance by the local Travel Agent;
- In case of individual trips, the health authority contacts for scheduling the appointment.



# 5. Procedures for testing passengers in the inter-island connections

Travelling by air and sea



Passenger with negative PCR test carried out in the origin country or upon arrival in the RAA



Passenger residing on island with community transmission must carry out PCR test to travel to an island with less risk of infection



It is not necessary to carry out tests for inter-island connections, only the 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> days tests, if applicable.



Free test – paid by the RAA – in the partner labs



# Inter-island connections for passengers from outside the RAA

- Passengers that arrive in the RAA with a negative test, can travel to other islands with low risk of infection without the obligation of carrying out a test;
- The proof of a negative test carried out in the origin country or upon arrival is valid to travel to other islands;
- The 6<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> day tests are mandatory during your trip, if applicable.

5. Procedures for testing passengers in the inter-island connections

Travelling by air and sea



# Inter-island connections for resident passengers

- Residents will have to carry out a PCR test in the partner labs, and present negative result, whenever travelling to an island with lower risk of infection;
- The test is free;
- The communication of the test result is made by SMS.

5. Procedures for testing passengers in the inter-island connections  
Travelling by air and sea



# 6.

## Exceptions to the obligation of carrying out the test for SARS-CoV-2 upon arrival in the RAA

### Green Lane EU – June 2021

- The implementation of the green lane is being prepared in compliance with the work that is being done at the EU level and also with compliance with the epidemiological evolution and vaccination in the RAA;
- One of the possibilities that is being studied, is the management of passengers already vaccinated, whose group immunity has already been achieved in the origin country before June 2021, and whose incidence rate of the virus is low, enabling these passengers to enter RAA without the obligation of carrying out a test;
- Any of the possibilities presented above might be subject to changes, depending on the epidemiological evolution.



# 7. Control at the airports of arrival in the RAA

## Registration in *Mysafeazores*

- Filling out the form *Mysafeazores* is mandatory for all passengers before the trip;
- The form must be made available in the Portuguese and English languages (coming soon in German, Spanish and French);
- The form is checked upon arrival, together with the test result and passenger identification;
- If the passenger chooses to carry out the test upon arrival, or is included in the exceptions already mentioned but which require a free test upon arrival in the RAA, he/she will be directed to an area prepared for the effect, where he/she must show the filled in form, the identification and the justification for the exception, if applicable.



# Control at the airports of arrival in the RAA

## Information

- The passengers will be lead differently, depending on, whether they bring or not the negative RT-PCR test;
- Groups travelling to the RAA with guide or tour leader (+10 pax) may be represented by the guide or tour leader at the documentation verification procedure, as long as he/she assembles all the needed printed documentation per passenger (identification, test result and *Mysafeazores* form) and shows it at the check-point;
- The remaining elements of the group must wait in an area prepared for the effect before passing the check-point;
- Note: This procedure will help non-English speaking or elderly passengers that might have some difficulty in interacting with the documentation check-points.



# Control at the airports of arrival in the RAA

## Organization

- To allow a quick and pleasant welcoming to the passengers at the airports, several measures are being created and reinforced, preventing this way crowding, queues and possible delays.



# 8. Group travelling to the RAA



- There is no seating restriction on buses, vans, or boats for tourists that travel in group, as long as the vehicles are used only for the group;
- In case one or more elements of the group test positive on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> day, they must remain in the accommodation reserved until check-out date or will be transferred to a hotel indicated by the RAA, in case the confinement lasts longer than the period, for which it was initially booked;
- Whenever the initial accommodation does not meet the required conditions for the determined confinement, the tourists will be transferred to a hotel indicated by the RAA;
- The expenses resulting from the mandatory confinement in a partner hotel are paid by the RAA (accommodation, meals and transfers).



# 9. Individual travelling to the RAA

- It is applied a reduction of 1/3 of the seats number in buses vans or boats for tourists that travel individually and that contact with tourists from different origins;
- In case one or more elements that participate in the same activity and test positive on the 6<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> day, they must remain in the accommodation reserved until the check-out date or will be transferred to a hotel indicated by the RAA, in case the confinement lasts longer than the period for which it was initially booked;
- Whenever the initial accommodation does not meet the required conditions for the determined confinement, the tourists will be transferred to a hotel indicated by the RAA;
- The expenses resulting from the mandatory confinement in a partner hotel are paid by the RAA (accommodation, meals and transfers);
- The mandatory confinement period is 10 days counting from the day in which the person tested positive;
- The prophylactic isolation period of the high-risk close contacts is 14 days.



## FINAL NOTE

- The *Clean & Safe Açores* seal will be renewed, allowing the Azores to maintain its positioning as a safe tourist destination, with a responsible attitude, in collaboration with all the professionals of the sector;
- Aware of the instability in the evolution of the epidemiologic situation, it is our intention to regularly provide all of you with updated information regarding eventual changes to the measures in force, so that you can communicate with the markets and with your clients.

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