

## Alert level 4

### Permitted overseas travel for South Africans

Approved essential travel for South Africans who want to return to countries where they are based. ([Statement by Department of Home Affairs](#))

South Africans who wish to leave the Republic are permitted to depart only for the following reasons:

1. Work
2. Study
3. Family reunion
4. Take up permanent residency
5. Receive medical attention

South Africans wishing to return to the countries where they reside should have the following:

(a) A copy of their valid South African passport

(b) A letter confirming their admissibility under the current circumstances from the embassy or other diplomatic/consular representative of the country they want to travel to. If returning by road or connecting via flights, the proof submitted needs to include permission from each transiting country.

(c) Proof of means of travel such as air or bus tickets and the intended date of departure.

South Africans who fall in these categories and satisfy the criteria can send an email to [Covid19travel@dha.gov.za](mailto:Covid19travel@dha.gov.za).

An email will be sent to travellers who meet the criteria to enable them to proceed with their travel arrangements.

People applying as a group can send one email with the supporting documents for each member of the group.

PUBLIC ENQUIRIES: 0800 60 11 90

### **Amended directions on the once-off movement of persons and transportation of goods (Gazette 43320 of 14 May 2020)**

3. (a) A person who needs to travel to his or her new place of residence or business and to transport goods which are limited to household or office furniture and effects. as required by the circumstances in paragraph 2 of these Directions. is permitted to do so during Alert level 4.

(b) A person referred to in subparagraph (a) must -

(i) obtain a permit to travel across provincial, metropolitan or district boundaries from the head of court or a person designated by him or her, or the station commander of a police station or a person designated by him or her. The permit must correspond with Form 1 to these Directions;

(ii) indicate the persons who are part of the household who will be required to move; and

(iii) have in his or her possession the relevant lease agreements indicating the date of expiry of the old lease or the date of commencement of the new lease, or the proof of purchase of residence and occupation date. or the transfer documents attesting to the change of ownership of property, or a domestic violence order, or proof of change or new occupation of business premises.

### **Directions to permit travel of final year medical students (Gazette 43319 of 13 May 2020)**

Allow for the once off travel of final year medical students studying at public higher education institutions to travel from their homes to the university campus where they are registered for study during the period 8 -31 May 2020.

### **Amended directions on movements of persons and goods (Gazette 43293 of 7 May 2020)**

2 (a) The movement of persons and goods, where -

(i) new lease agreements were entered into before or during the lockdown period: or

(ii) the transfer of immovable property occurred before the lockdown period, requires a change in place of residence. including the transport of goods to a new place of residence, within the Republic.

(b) The circumstances in subparagraph (a) require the once-off movement of persons who are relocating to their new place of residence, as permitted in terms of regulation 16(5): and

(c) The transport of goods within the Republic is permitted in terms of regulation 22(1)(f).

### **Maritime**

In respect of maritime transport, there will be no changes to the Directions regulating the movement of ships. The ban on passenger vessels and cruise liners remains in place, and only vessels bringing in cargo are allowed to call on our ports.

However, we will allow the movement of cargo from our sea-ports to either warehouses or final destinations as provided for in the current rules.

## **Aviation**

The ban on both domestic and international passenger flights remains in place. However, as is already the case, we will continue to allow repatriation flights either bringing back South Africans stranded in foreign countries or transporting foreign nationals to their home countries. The current approval procedures to permit departure or landing of such flights remains unchanged.

The easing of the lockdown to Level 4 means increased economic activity in sectors that are permitted to resume operations.

Due consideration will be given to the mining and agricultural sector to allow limited movement of aircrafts, either to transport essential workers by chartered aircrafts or to spray pesticides on crops. All these movements will be subject to approval and permits will be issued on a case by case basis.

No scheduled domestic flights will be permitted in Level 4. This is determined by the Risk Adjusted Strategy, which guides the easing of restrictions. Once the alert level moves to Level 3, limited movement of scheduled domestic flights will be allowed. It is only when the country's alert level reaches Level 2, that we will fully open our airspace and allow movement of both domestic and international flights.

## **Rail**

With the gradual resumption of economic activity in certain sectors and permitted movement of freight, we will allow the full resumption of freight rail.

Commuter rail will resume operations gradually on an incremental basis, based on the detailed plans submitted by the passenger rail operators. Limited services with strict measures to ensure social distancing and other mitigation measures, will be introduced.

## **Gautrain**

Gautrain operations will be gradually re-introduced in all rail-based services, covering 8 of their 9 stations. There will be no airport service.

An appropriate load factor will be applied by all operators based on their seating and standing arrangements according to 50% standard coach occupancy.

Gautrain will mark out areas of the station to demarcate where to stand and queue appropriately, based on one passenger per square metre.

The Gautrain seating arrangement will consist alternate seats to allow regulated spacing and control based on average one passenger per square metre.

Operating staff in completion of service, will operate from 5h00 to 12h00 and 15h00 with an appropriate peak hour service. The last trains will depart at 18h00 to clear the system by 19h00.

To allow for travelling of operating staff and completion of service, the Gautrain will operate from 05h00 to 12h00 and 15h00 to 20h00 with an appropriate peak hour service.

Maintenance staff will be permitted to move in and around the system during curfew-hours (22h00pm – 04h00). Maintenance vehicles will only be permitted to move around the system in these hours only.

## **PRASA**

PRASA will similarly adopt a gradual re-introduction of its services based on its capacity to manage crowds, implement effective social distancing and implement other mitigation measures that include cleaning and disinfection of surfaces, trains and stations.

PRASA will undertake the compulsory testing of the rolling stock during the Level 4 period and only resume with a limited service once the National Coronavirus Command Council declares the risk-adjustment to Level 3, with the return of the Pienaarspoort line in Tshwane and the Southern line in Cape Town.

There will be no immediate resumption of Metrorail commuter services until we have satisfied ourselves that the risk of transmission is manageable on a corridor by corridor basis.

Long distance trains are still prohibited in Level 4.

## **Road-based transport**

### **Cross-Border Road Transport**

Cross-Border road passenger movement remains prohibited. Only essential cargo will be allowed to move across our land borders. The definition of essential cargo has been broadened in the Level 4 Regulations published on 29 April 2020. The SADC Protocol on COVID-19 is applicable. It also details the goods that should to be allowed by member states to move across land borders.

### **Public Transport** (see [Gazette 43348](#) for amendments)

As per [Gazette 43348 of 22 May](#)

- (a) Intra-provincial, metropolitan areas and districts public transport is permitted to operate.
- (b) The transportation of persons rendering essential or permitted services must be in line with the operating shifts or work time schedules as determined by the responsible head of operations, Manager or Head of Department of an institution or a person with responsible authority within such institution; and
- (c) The use of transport for food delivery services is permitted.'

With the country moving to Level 4 and more people returning to work, we have revised the operating hours for all road-based public transport modes.

All road-based public transport services are permitted to operate from 05h00 until 19h00, with a grace period of 1 hour in the afternoon to complete their trips and drop off passengers. This includes minibus-taxis, buses, metered taxis, e-hailing services, charter and shuttle services.

No public transport is allowed on the road between 20h00 and 05h00. Sanitisation principles currently applicable to public transport vehicles and facilities remain.

No person is allowed to use of public transport who is not wearing a face mask. We call on the public to ensure strict adherence to this requirement by obtaining their own face masks in line with the guidance given by Minister Dlamini-Zuma. While government may provide limited assistance in ensuring availability of masks, the onus rests on each individual to ensure that they do not leave home without a mask.

### **Minibus-Taxis**

Loading capacity for minibus-taxis remains at 70% of licensed passengers, with social distancing and other mitigating measures remaining in place.

### **eHailing and Metered Taxis**

Loading capacity for metered taxis and e-hailing services remains at 50%. A 5-seater vehicle is permitted to carry a maximum of 2 passengers and a driver.

### **Buses**

Buses will be allowed to transport 70% passengers of their licensed loading capacity, with requisite social distancing, wearing of masks by all passenger and other mitigating measures.

### **Shuttle and Chauffeur Services**

Shuttle and Chauffeur services will be subject to the same rules as other road-based public transport modes. Both the Shuttle and Chauffeur services will only be permitted for transportation of people undertaking essential work and those economic sectors allowed to return back to work under level 4. Loading capacity of 50% is equally applicable to these services.

### **Charter Services**

Charter services will be subject to the same rules as other road-based public transport modes. This service is only be permitted for transportation of people undertaking essential work. Loading capacity of 50% is equally applicable to these services.

A number of companies, particularly in the mining sector, work 3 shifts, resulting in employees finishing work outside the permitted public transport operating hours.

These companies may make use of charter services. Operators of vehicles undertaking this service must be identifiable as such for purposes of law enforcement.

### **Delivery Services**

Delivery Services such as Uber Eats, Mr Delivery and any other similar service are permitted to operate between 09h00 and 19h00 only for delivery of food.

### **Courier Services**

Courier Services are permitted to operate in the delivery of any goods permitted for sale in the Level 4 Regulations.

It should however be noted that the wholesale sector has been allowed to return back to service and amongst the sub-sectors allowed to trade is the e-Commerce that includes on-line shopping for items such as personal ICT equipment and other goods. This sector is reliant on the Courier services to deliver its goods to customers at their homes.

### **Travel Between Provinces, Metros and Districts**

Travel between Provinces, Metropolitan areas and Districts is prohibited, with concessions made for workers who have to commute to and from work on a daily basis, attendance of funerals and transportation of mortal remains.

The Minister of COGTA has published Regulations allowing a once-off special dispensation for persons who were not at their places of residence before the lockdown period and who could not travel between Provinces, Metropolitan and District areas during the lockdown, to return to their homes. Those people are now permitted to travel between 1 May 2020 and 7 May 2020 in line with the COGTA Regulations.

Long distance bus and taxi operators are allowed to undertake long distance travel during this window period. Full compliance with the 70% passenger capacity, wearing of masks by all passengers and sanitisation of vehicles at the completion of each journey is a

mandatory requirement.

### **Driving Schools**

Driving schools will be permitted to resume their activities subject to effective social distancing and sanitizing measures. Both the instructor and the learner must wear face masks at all times.

### **Vehicle Services**

Servicing of vehicles of personnel performing emergency services is permitted under Level 4. This also includes the importation of spares for service purposes and for manufacturing. Emergency spares are also allowed to be on sale.

Repairs and fitments to vehicles utilized for emergency and essential services is permitted.

### **Emergency Services & Roadside Assistance**

The Emergency services and roadside services for all is allowed. This also includes towing services and support with breakdown of vehicles.

### **Drivers' Licence Testing Centres and Vehicle Testing Centres**

Drivers' Licence Testing Centres and Vehicle Testing Centres will gradually re-open for essential service workers to renew their drivers' and vehicle licenses.

The opening of the Driver's Licence Testing Centres (DLTCs) will be staggered once inspection and verification of the state of readiness is done on all of them. The Metro based DLTCs will be opened first from 1 June 2020.

We will issue Directions to limit the daily numbers of people that can be attended to, while restricting bookings to online platforms.