

**OBJECTIVE**

This document provides a situational update on airport status and Customs entry points during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES AT THE GHRP'S DATE****9****NUMBER OF COVID-19 CASES ON 1 JULY 2020****889**

Latest update highlighted in **yellow color**.

**COUNTRY BRIEF**

On 22 March, the first case of COVID-19 in Uganda was confirmed. The following measures have been adopted to prevent the spread of the pandemic:

- Suspension of all social, cultural and political public gatherings and conferences;
- Restrictions to travel to the following border districts: Rakai, Kyotera, Amuru, Buikwe, Gulu, Arua, Adjumani, Moyo, Nebi, Zombo, Adjumani, Busia and Bulisa.
- Adjustment of the countrywide curfew: from 7 p.m. to 8 a.m.

**Relaxation measures:**

- Reopening of the public passenger transport and private cars in some of the 33 border districts that do not have registered COVID-19 cases. These are: Amudat, Bududa, Bukwo, Bundibugyo, Buvuma, Hoima, Isingiro, Kaabong, Kabale, Kalangala, Kanungu, Kasese, Kikuube, Kisoro, Kitgum, Koboko, Kween, Lamwo, Maracha, Mayuge, Moroto, Moyo, Namayingo, Namisindwa, Ntoroko, Ntungamo, Pakwach, Rubanda, Rubirizi, Rukiga, Rukungiri, Sironko, and Yumbe.

(Information dated 22 June: Government of Uganda)

**AIRPORT STATUS****1. Airport / Flight restrictions**

Flights to Uganda are suspended. This does not apply to:

- Operations related to humanitarian flights;
- Medical evacuation flights;
- Repatriation flights.

(Information dated 26 June: IATA)

Cargo flights are allowed. There are no restrictions in place.

(Information dated 28 May: IATA TACT)

WFP has established a Global Pax Service to support a wide range of organizations, including NGOs, UN agencies, WB and Diplomatic community, by providing air transport services for passengers within a network of strategically located hubs. More information on conditions, schedules and destinations on the [Humanitarian Booking Hub](#).

**Useful link:**

[International Civil Aviation Organization \(ICAO\), COVID-19 airport status](#)



## **2. Passengers / Quarantine**

Passengers are subject to medical screening and quarantine. Airline crew are subject to quarantine for 14 days.

(Information dated 26 June: IATA)

All international passenger flights to and from Uganda are suspended until further notice.

Foreign nationals who may require to be evacuated from Uganda to their home countries may be flown out provided that the evacuating flight has no disembarking passengers and they are cleared by:

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs: protocoluganda (at) gmail.com
- Ministry of Health: ps (at) health.go.ug

(Information dated 22 May: ICAO)

## **3. Airlines cargo operations status**

Uganda National Airlines Company:

- Several international destinations suspended until further notice (07 May 20)
- Some of the countries on Uganda Airlines network that have issued travel restrictions include Uganda, Kenya, Tanzania, Somalia, South Sudan, and Bujumbura (17 Mar 20)

(Information dated 7 May: IATA TACT)

Useful link:

[\*International Air Transport Association \(IATA\) and TACT, Air Cargo Operations Status, COVID-19\*](#)

## **IMPORTATION AND CUSTOMS**

### **3. Customs, land, sea**

Road transports

Borders are open for cargo movement.

Sea freight (through Kenya)

The Mombasa Port is operational but with reduced staff capacity. Mandatory requirement for valid COVID-19 certificate before entering any port facility (Mombasa, Nairobi, Naivasha).



(Information updated 29 June: Bolloré Logistics)

#### Land border status with neighboring countries

- Kenya (Malaba, Busia, Lwakhakha, Suam): Temporary spike in transport requirements leading to a strained supply of trucks. Negative COVID 19 Test Certificate required for all drivers. Only drivers, turn-men and the clearing agent are allowed across the border. Requirement for all returning cargo crew to self-isolate for a period of 14 days.
- Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (Vurra, Paidha, Busunga, Mpondwe, Ntoroko, Ishasha, Bunagana): Land borders are open but there are Customs delay at the eastern border (3 to 6 days).
- Rwanda (Cyanika, Katuna, Mirama hills, Kamwezi): All commercial borders are still open to cargo movements but operating at minimal capacity.
- South Sudan (Elegu, Madi-Opei, Oraba): Closure of all borders with exemption granted for cargo and fuel tanks. Mandatory COVID-19 Test for Uganda Entry Access.
- Tanzania (Bugango, Mutukula): Cargo movement is allowed.

(Information updated 29 June: Bolloré Logistics and UNECE)

#### **4. Customs, importation procedure**

All the Customs borders remain open to facilitate movement of cargo subject to the Customs laws and guidelines.

#### Measures implemented by Uganda Revenue Authority (URA) to facilitate the cross-border movement of relief and essential supplies

#### Importation of medicines and medical equipment related to the COVID-19 pandemic response:

- The government has declared a [list of essential items](#) for the fight against COVID-19 that are tax-exempted. They are in line with the [WCO list of essential goods](#). This list has not been exempted from pre-clearance restrictions.
- No medicines or medical equipment are prohibited or restricted.
- There are no specific expedited processes for the clearance of medical equipment or medicines.
- All imports of medical equipment and medicines require the deliverance of a certificate from the National Drug Authority (NDA). There is a 24/7 NDA expert supervising the drugs being imported. The procedure is available [here](#).
- Medicines and medical equipment can be imported through air, land, or maritime borders. Nonetheless, Malaba, Busia, Elegu, and Mutukula entry



points do not provide adequate temperature regulated storage spaces. The two warehouses Roka and Enhas are equipped with cooling systems to manage any cargo that requires storage under special temperatures.

**National coordination:**

- The Manager Enforcement Ivan Kakaire is the focal point linking URA Customs to the National Task Force.
- One-stop-border-posts are established in Katuna, Mirama, Mutukula, Busia, Malaba, and Elegu.
- The list of authorized economic operators (AEOs) is available [here](#).
- URA Customs interact with the following actors in the end-to-end importation process:
  - o National Drug Authority (NDA),
  - o Uganda National Bureau of Standards (UNBS)
  - o Ministry of Agriculture, Animal husbandry and Fisheries
  - o Immigrations
  - o Uganda Police Force, Interpol
  - o Uganda Peoples Defense Forces (UPDF), External Security Organization (ESO), Internal Security Organization (ISO)
  - o Clearing and Forwarding Agencies.

**Measures implemented by the East African Community (EAC) to facilitate the cross-border movement of relief and essential supplies**

- Giving priority to essential goods and medical supplies during clearance.
- Designating [specific points](#) along the transit routes for recuperation by the drivers.
- Monitoring truck movements using the Regional Electronic tracking devices.
- Manufacturers and importers are being encouraged to take advantage of exemptions for relief items and medical supplies as provided for under the law.
- Relaxed measures on the enforcement of transit time limits.
- Shipping lines have also been encouraged to waive charges on container delays.

(Information dated 31 March and 30 April: URA)

**5. Annex J-5 of the Revised Kyoto Convention:** Accepted.

**6. Annex B.9 of the Istanbul Convention:** Not ratified.

**7. ASYCUDA user:** Yes.

**8. ASYREC user:** No.

**USEFUL LINKS / LIENS UTILES**

**CIQP Bulletins for other countries are available [here](#).**

**Country-specific:**

Government of Uganda, [Official website](#)

[National Drug Authority \(NDA\), Brief on importation and exportation of pharmaceuticals \(September 2018\)](#)

[President of the Republic of Uganda, Update on Matters Regarding COVID-19 and Lockdown Relaxation \(22 June 2020\)](#)

[The Uganda Gazette, Bills Supplement to exempt supplies of specified medical goods from tax \(4 June 2020\)](#)

[Uganda Revenue Authority \(URA\), List of AEO](#)

Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), [Official Website](#)

Uganda Revenue Authority (URA), [Guidance on the management of cargo trucks, goods and logistics providers \(7 May 2020\)](#)

**OTHER LINKS**

Bolloré Logistics, [COVID-19 Impact Update](#)

International Air Transport Association (IATA), [Government Measures Related to Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)

International Air Transport Association (IATA) and TACT, [Air Cargo Operations Status, COVID-19](#)

International Organization for Migration (IOM), [Points of entry status](#)

International SOS, [Travel Restrictions, Flight Operations and Screening](#)

Logistics Cluster, [COVID-19 cargo entry points updates](#)

United Nations, [Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19](#)

United Nations, [Global Humanitarian Response Plan: COVID-19, May Update](#)

United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), [Observatory on Border Crossings Status due to COVID-19](#)

Wilhemssen, [COVID-19 Global Port Restrictions Map](#)

World Customs Organization (WCO), [HS classification reference list for COVID-19 medical supplies \(3.0. edition\)](#)

World Customs Organization (WCO), [List of national legislation of countries that adopted temporary export restrictions on certain categories of critical medical supplies in response to COVID-19](#)

World Health Organization (WCO), [Coronavirus disease \(COVID-2019\) situation reports](#)

World Health Organization (WCO), [Handbook for public health capacity-building at ground crossings and cross-border collaboration](#)



**IMPACCT**

IMPortation And Customs Clearance Together !

# COVID-19 [Uganda]

**Bulletin n° 2 - CIQP : 02 July 2020**

(Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures)

[If you have any questions / comments / additions, please contact](#)

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