Colombia

Significant Changes in Health Measures and Restrictions

Measures and restrictions against COVID-19 in Colombia

- The use of face masks is no longer mandatory in open spaces and later in closed spaces, this, for municipalities that have completed 70% of complete vaccination schedules and 40% of booster doses. Its use will continue to be mandatory in health centers (hospitals, clinics, laboratories, among others), in nursing homes and on public transport. As of May 15, the use of masks will no longer be required in schools.
- The vaccination card will no longer be mandatory to enter massive and closed events, restaurants, bars, museums, cinemas, sporting events, among others.
- Travelers may enter with a negative PCR or antigen test, without the need to have the complete vaccination schedule. The test will have to be carried out in the 72 hours prior to arrival in Colombia –48 hours if it is an antigen test–. In addition, the option of presenting the complete vaccination schedule will be maintained, without requiring additional proof.

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

17.06.2020

Following the expansion of the national quarantine measures until 1 July, on 17 June the Colombian Transport Authority updated guidelines for transport operations.

Intercity transport services are only used for the provision of health services and for people in need. Public transport (BRT) operations are only allowed a maximum occupancy rate of 35% per vehicle. Taxi operations are allowed without restrictions. Transport of tourists and students is not allowed. Coaches and school buses are being used to support the BRT operations.

Until 1 July, long haul passenger transport operations are only allowed in exceptional cases. From that date, long and medium haul bus operations will be allowed to operate in coordination with the municipalities of the place of departure and destination respectively.

Source: Consejo Superior del Transporte

06.05.2020

On 6 May, the Colombian Government extended the national quarantine until 25 May.

The government has set up a Logistics and Transportation Centre to manage the transport of cargo and passengers by air, land, river, maritime and rail.

Intercity transport is only used for access to or provision of health services and for people who require mobilisation and are authorised under the terms of Decree 457 of 22 March 2020.

Urban transport operations (BRT) are allowed, but with an occupation rate of 35% per vehicle, to be used by people who can benefit from exemptions. Individual passenger transport (taxi) only works by telephone or through apps. Tourist transport and school transport services are suspended.

Goods transport operations guarantee the services necessary to mitigate the spread of Covid-19 as well as the support to other industries that are allowed to operate by Decree 457 of 22 March 2020.

Source: CST

23.03.2020

International air transport flights for passengers are suspended from 23 March to 23 April. This suspension includes both arrivals and any connecting flights. National air transport flights will be suspended with effect from 24 March.

The transportation of passengers by road will be suspended with effect from 24 March, with the exception of passengers providing services related to the production of food, public services or the health service.

Urban transport is continuing to operate, although in lower volumes and with strict sanitation standards regarding vehicle washing and the state of health of drivers.

Taxi services are continuing to operate, but only those requested through mobile applications or by telephone.

Source: CST

Before traveling

Visas

Citizens of certain countries need to present a tourist visa to gain entry. These can be processed at the Colombian embassies and consulates abroad. You can check if you need a visa or not in the link below.

Check countries requiring visas at https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/en/procedures_services/visa/requirements.


Other types of visas

Remember, other types of visas may be required for persons traveling to Colombia for reasons other than tourism. If this is your case, you can check the requirements for study visas at https://www.cancilleria.gov.co/tramites_servicios/visa/m estudiantes.
Entering Colombia

Entry

For entry into Colombia, you should bear certain important recommendations in mind. In this section, you’ll find information on bringing in luggage, regulations regarding entry with foreign currency and short-term imports. During your stay in our country, you should also keep on hand the numbers to call for emergency services and for our security and healthcare entities. We will provide you with all of these details right here on this page.

Source: https://colombia.travel/en/covid-19-information
Border to Ecuador open for essential cargo movements, but transporters must be quarantined for 14 days upon return.

Border with Venezuela remains closed for cargo movement.

Certain medical goods are exempted from VAT.

Temporary elimination of import tariffs on certain accumulators (separadores acumuladores eléctricos) and on medical, hygiene and disinfectant products

Exports of medical products and PPE are banned. Internal cargo transport is still working, though subject to biosecurity protocols of Transport Ministry.

Source: IMPACCT/UN OCHA

18.09.2020

Bulletin on Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Procedures.
Nr 1 (18 September 2020) SPA

Extract:

Source: Presidency

Decree 482, March 26, 2020: Creates the Logistics and Transportation Center. attached to the Viceministerio de Transporte, with its own technical capacity, but without legal personality, patrimony, administrative and financial autonomy, in order to advise and make decisions on matters that correspond to guarantee the provision of the public transport service for the duration of the economic, social and ecological emergency.

Decree 463 of March 22, 2020: Partially modifies the customs tariff for the importation of medicines, medical devices, chemical reagents, hygiene and hygiene articles, supplies, equipment and materials required for the water and basic sanitation sector.

Source: https://vosocc.unocha.org.....
Decree 462 of March 22, 2020: Prohibits the export and re-export of products necessary to face the health emergency caused by the coronavirus COVID-19, measures are passed on its distribution and sale in the domestic market, and Decree 410 of 2020.

Decree 439 of March 20, 2020: Art. 1: Suspension of entry into Colombian territory by air for thirty (30) calendar days from 00:00 hours on Monday 23 March 2020. The crew, technical and managerial personnel, and companions to the air cargo are excepted from the above, who must comply with the protocol established by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection and the Special Administrative Unit Civil Aviation.

Decree 420 of March 18, 2020, Article number 4, establishes that the public order measures issued by the mayors and governors that restrict the right of movement, in no case may impede the automotive land passenger road transport service (inter-municipal), cargo and special modality, nor establish traffic restrictions on national order routes, nor limit, restrict or impede the operation of critical and strategic infrastructure for the Nation, the departments, districts and municipalities.

Decree No 411, March 16, 2020: The norm establishes that the workers of free zones will be able to work outside the area of exclusivity, to prevent the propagation of the COVID-19.

Decree 410, March 16, 2020: Art. 1 and 4: A 0% tariff is established for products necessary to face the health emergency of COVID-19, for a period of 6 months. Art. 2: A 0% tariff for imports of certain products is established for air cargo or passenger transport companies, operating in and from Colombia.

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Decreto 482, 16 de marzo 2020: Crea el Centro de Logística y Transporte, adscrito al viceministerio de Transporte, con capacidad técnica propia, pero sin personería jurídica, patrimonio, autonomía administrativa y financiera, con el fin de asesorar y tomar decisiones en materias que correspondan para garantizar la prestación del servicio público de transporte durante el tiempo que dure la emergencia económica, social y ecológica.

Decreto 463 del 22 de marzo 2020: Modifica parcialmente el arancel de aduanas para la importación de medicamentos, dispositivos médicos, reactivos químicos, artículos de higiene y aseo, insumos, equipos y materiales requeridos para el sector agua y saneamiento básico.

Decreto 462 del 22 de marzo 2020: Prohíbe la exportación y la reexportación de productos necesarios para afrentar la emergencia sanitaria provocada por el coronavirus COVID-19, se dictan medidas sobre su distribución y venta en el mercado interno, y se adiciona el Decreto 410 de 2020.

Decreto 439 del 20 de marzo de 2020: Art. 1: Suspensión de la entrada al territorio colombiano por vía aérea durante treinta (30) días calendario a partir de las 00:00 horas del lunes 23 marzo de 2020. La tripulación, el personal técnico y administrativo y los acompañantes de la carga aérea están exceptuados de lo anterior, quienes deben cumplir con el protocolo establecido por el Ministerio de Salud y Protección Social y la Unidad Administrativa Especial de Aviación Civil.
Decreto 420 del 18 de marzo de 2020, en el artículo número 4, establece que las medidas de orden público proferidas por los alcaldes y gobernadores que restrinjan el derecho de circulación, en ningún caso podrán impedir el servicio de transporte terrestre automotor de pasajeros por carretera (intermunicipal), carga y modalidad especial, tampoco establecer restricciones de tránsito en las vías del orden nacional, ni limitar, restringir o impedir el funcionamiento de la infraestructura crítica y estratégica para la Nación, los departamentos, distritos y municipios.

Decreto 411, 16 de marzo 2020: Establece que los trabajadores de Zonas Francas podrán laborar fuera del área de exclusividad, para prevenir la propagación del COVID-19.

Decreto 410, 16 de marzo 2020: Se establece arancel de 0% para productos necesarios para afrontar la emergencia sanitaria del COVID-19, por el plazo de 6 meses. Art. 2: Se establece para las empresas de transporte aéreo de carga o de pasajeros, operando en y desde Colombia, un arancel de 0% para las importaciones de ciertos productos.

Contact information: