

Jamaica



Source: Ministry of Tourism Jamaica Tourist Board (JTB)

19.03.2021

Information provided here applies to the period of November 17, 2020 to April 15, 2021

<https://www.visitjamaica.com/>

Pre-Departure & Arrival

All travelers ages 12 and up regardless of nationality, are required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 PCR or Antigen test performed by an accredited lab for which the sample was collected within 3 days of the travel date, along with an approved Travel Authorization form prior to boarding a flight to Jamaica. Know that we are well-equipped to accommodate on-island testing prior to your return flight, as well.

NOTE: Between March 1, 2021 and March 22, 2021, a person who is not a citizen of Jamaica, and has been in the United Kingdom within 14 days of their intended date of entry, will not be approved for travel.

Travel Authorization applications must be submitted within seven (7) days of the intended travel date.

Learn more about [Travel Authorizations](#) and the [Covid-19 test requirements](#).

All travelers to Jamaica are reminded that the Government of Jamaica [Controlled Entry Programme protocols](#) must be observed at all times.

Health & Safety Protocols

Jamaica has carefully developed an extensive suite of measures to ensure the highest levels of health safety for visitors, tourism workers and local communities. Led by the formation of tourism "[Resilient Corridors](#)" that are governed by a strictly enforced set of [protocols and standards for the tourism sector](#), along with other risk management initiatives, visitors can relax and enjoy the many treats that the island has to offer.

All travelers to Jamaica are reminded that the Government of Jamaica [Controlled Entry Programme protocols](#) must be observed at all times.

In-Island Travel

Central to the risk management efforts are the Controlled Entry Programme initiatives. These include the [categorization and assignment](#) of all arriving travelers based on their purpose of visit and intended accommodation type of the [Travel Authorization](#) application. Visitors staying at approved accommodation within the resilient corridor can freely enjoy the many comforts of their stay, and to visit approved Covid-19 protocol compliant attractions within the "corridor".

See also, the types of movement [control measures](#) introduced to ensure your safety.

All travelers to Jamaica are reminded that the Government of Jamaica [Controlled Entry Programme protocols](#) must be observed at all times.

Remarks from the International Road Transport Union

Forthcoming

Departing Jamaica

For travellers departing the island, many countries and airlines require the presentation of a recent negative Covid-19 test result to board a flight. Jamaica has adequate [testing locations](#) and capacity available to meet the demand. In addition, many of the [resorts and hotels](#) offer approved testing services on property.

See a list of [frequently asked questions](#) regarding outbound travel.

All travelers to Jamaica are reminded that the Government of Jamaica [Controlled Entry Programme protocols](#) must be observed at all times.

04.09.2021



JAMAICA - FAQs-...September-4.pdf

14.03.2020



Jamaica Rules-s...19-MARCH-14.pdf



Source: WCO/Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA)

18.06.2020

Measures to Mitigate the Impact of COVID-19 pandemic

The Jamaica Customs Agency has a comprehensive Emergency Preparedness & Response System which is guided by established procedures that sets out steps to respond to both natural and manmade events. These procedures were formulated within a regional, national and local context looking at hazards/risk within the region, within Jamaica and within the Agency's operations. Emergencies can happen at any time. Whilst emergency preparedness & response is everybody's business, emergency preparedness is coordinated through the Agency's Occupational Health & Safety Branch of the Human Resource Management & Development Division. By having it as a central function of a Unit, ensures that appropriate coordination between both internal and external stakeholders are formulated and maintained and that the Agency is able to respond to an event and is able to mitigate the disruption caused and ensures business continuity. The Emergency Preparedness & Response Plan covers events such as fires, hurricanes, earthquakes. A subset of this plan is the Disaster Recovery Plan for the automated system ASYCUDA World. The plan includes employee training, conduct of simulation exercises, procurement of emergency supplies etc.

The Emergency Preparedness & Response system involves the establishment of an Emergency Management Team which is activated during an emergency situation. The main role of this team is to review an event and ensure appropriate response measures are implemented to mitigate the impacts of the event.

One of the events included in the procedure document is Preparedness and Response to Public Health Emergencies of International Concerns. The response to COVID-19 was a true test of our procedures, as we have been in constant review and revision of this procedure as the information changes. As a people, as a nation, as an organization, we have never experienced a Pandemic in our lifetime, and so the Agency has been learning and maneuvering the new space we have found ourselves.

The Agency's response to the pandemic started about a month before the disease was detected 'in country' on March 10, 2020. Preparedness activities involved intense sensitization of employees, starting with frontline officers as they were deemed to be more at risk due to their exposure to international travellers. Sensitization sessions were conducted by internal and external personnel (external being the Ministry of Health & Wellness). Sensitization at the inception was based on available information about the virus at the time, its mode of transmission and prevention guidelines as issued by the World Health Organization, the Centre for Disease Control and our local health authority. As one would appreciate, being a new virus there has been much new information since it was declared a public health emergency. Updated information is disseminated to employees via email and posted on the Agency's intranet site.

At a time when economies of countries are coming to a halt, the ability for the Agency to stand and function in such a time as this is critical to the survival of the nation. Jamaica depends on imports as inputs to the local manufacturing industry and in general for local businesses. The Emergency Management Team met at an early stage and reviewed the risks associated with the disease. Risks as it relates to employees, Agency operations, trade, border security. The Agency had to take a look at its' processes to see where adjustments could be made to reduce

employee exposure whilst maintaining business operations. In order to fulfill our mandate ensuring business continuity in this time is critical.

Mitigating measures were then identified to be implemented.

What have we been doing as an Agency to mitigate the impacts of the Pandemic?

1. Employee sensitization and awareness. This is done via face to face, emails, posting on the intranet, placing of signage in strategic
2. Instituting telework/telecommuting arrangements (new to the Agency's operations). This was important to reduce the exposure levels to the entire staff population and also to maintain the social distancing guidelines being promoted. This was then gazetted by the Prime Minister under the Disaster Management
3. Employees involved in telework/telecommute measures, who are unable to perform core functions from home participate in online training provided through the World Customs Organization CLiKC
4. Issuing of guidelines to employees regarding cough and sneeze etiquette, social distancing, staying home if exhibiting flu like
5. Meetings are held virtually via our Microsoft Teams
6. Increasing the sanitization processes throughout the office spaces. This involved increasing the janitorial staff complement to effect new cleaning regime. This new cleaning regime involved hourly sanitization of contact surfaces such as counter tops, door knobs etc
7. Meeting with our janitorial company to highlight the new measures and to discuss expectations as it relates to ill employees, cleaning procedures etc
8. Communication with Port & Warehouse Operators regarding their response plan and the Agency's expectations as it relates to safeguarding employees conducting duties in their space. Port and Warehouse operators instituted various measures to combat the spread of the Pandemic. This included telework/telecommute measures, establishment of hand sanitizing stations, temperature checks before entering the space, online applications for goods clearance, limiting the number of persons permitted to enter the space etc
9. Increasing inventory levels of personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies. This however became very challenging as the Pandemic
10. Development of an Infection Prevention & Control Protocol – to guide enhanced cleaning and sanitization processes
11. The Agency has a number of infrastructure development projects being implemented. It therefore became important to develop Contractor Protocols to guide contractors working on behalf of the Agency during this
12. Majority of the processes of the Agency are automated through the ASYCUDA Customers were encouraged to do online transactions. Automation of processes that were manual were expedited. For visits to the Office, clients had to make online appointments.
13. Advertisements were placed in the media encouraging customers to practice prevention measures and to encourage them to utilize the online

14. Everyone is affected by the Pandemic. Whether emotionally, financially. The Agency was not blinded to the fact, that the new regimes and the regimes of social distancing can impact the mental health of individuals. The Agency still offers its Employee Assistance Programme that offers confidential counselling to employees and their immediate family needing this type of intervention. Through this programme, a mental health e-forum was held, which focused on coping mechanisms during this time. The title of the seminar was "JCA-Coping in COVID-19: Preserving My Mental Health". More of these sessions will be held in the future.
15. Moving our "#customsmoves" activity online to Microsoft Teams so staff can continue to participate
16. Other measures included creating a special email where employees could submit their questions, suggestions, concerns, etc regarding the Pandemic (jacacares@jca.gov.jm)
17. Monitoring of employees who would have been deemed high risk based on guidelines given and of employees who are in quarantine.
18. Temperature scans for new recruits and persons entering the office spaces The response the Pandemic has not been without

As new information on this virus emerged, the Agency has had to ensure that the measures being employed were able to mitigate the spread of the virus.

One mentioned earlier was the accessibility of personal protective equipment and sanitation supplies. Procurement process now involves constant phone calls to suppliers to secure items needed for use.

Lessons learned and practices that can be retained:

1. Working from home for specified categories of staff;
2. The continued use of automation in service delivery and meetings;
3. Review of HRM & D Strategy to create a better and healthier work environment;
4. The use of automation has resulted in a reduction of operating costs and increased efficiency.



Source: Office of the Prime Minister Communication

April 23, 2020: Disaster Risk Management (Enforcement Measures) (No. 3) Order, 2020.: For the period from April 8, 2020, to April 21, 2020, no person shall be permitted to enter Jamaica. Sub-paragraph (1) shall not apply to any person, or category of persons, authorised by the Minister responsible for immigration, subject to the prior approval of the Cabinet. This not apply to services connected with oil-refining and with the loading, distribution, transportation or retail of petroleum fuel, liquefied natural gas or any renewable energy source; or services connected with the loading and unloading of ships and with the storage and delivery of goods at, or from, docks, wharves and warehouses operated in connection with docks or wharves; the provision of public transportation by bus (including buses operated by the Jamaica Urban Transit Company or the Montego Bay Metro Company Limited), limited to seated passengers only.

31 March 2020, "Prime Minister Andrew Holness has announced nightly islandwide curfews for a period of seven (7) days with effect from 8:00pm on April 1, 2020 to 6:00 am on April 8, 2020. This is the latest in a series of measures announced by the Government to contain the novel coronavirus, COVID19, in Jamaica. [...]".

March 27, 2020: The borders are closed to passengers. Cargo vessels are exempted from the ban.

More information:

<https://opm.gov.jm/author/jamaicahouse/>



Source: Jamaica National Customs

March 27, 2020: Clearance of Goods by Persons in Quarantine Will Not Be Facilitated – Jamaica Customs: "In keeping with public health measures to combat the coronavirus, COVID-19, the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) is advising passengers, who entered Jamaica on or after March 18, and are in quarantine, to refrain from proceeding to any port to effect the clearance of goods, as this will not be facilitated until their quarantine period has ended. [...]"

March 15, 2020: "Jamaica Customs Continues Full Operations at Air and Sea Ports Arising from queries from the media and members of the public, the Jamaica Customs Agency (JCA) is advising that it remains fully operational at the country's air and sea ports, and assures its customers that there are no restrictions or ban on the importation of goods from countries impacted by the COVID-19 virus."

More information:

<https://www.jacustoms.gov.jm/>