



REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA

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MINISTRY OF HEALTH

THE QUADRANGLE

BANJUL

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PRESS RELEASE

UPDATE ON THE QUARANTINE AND TESTING GUIDANCE FOR PEOPLE ENTERING THE COUNTRY

The Ministry of Health wishes to inform the general public that there is an update on the testing guidance for passengers coming into the country.

As we monitor the progress on the pandemic, there is a fast-spreading new strain of the coronavirus which has emerged in the UK and now in many other countries. It's potential implications for public health have begun to be examined, according to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO) and the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC).

Thus, all travelers coming from hotspot countries where the new strain of coronavirus has been identified will undergo sample taking and testing upon arrival in the country in addition to having a valid COVID-19 PCR test results of 72hrs. These travelers must undergo mandatory quarantine until they have a negative test at their own cost. Samples that are found positive upon their testing on arrival in The Gambia, will have the virus strain sequenced to confirm the genome.

All other travelers from countries not identified as hotspot for the new strain of COVID-19 must provide a valid negative PCR test to go on home isolation. The hotspot countries effective 9th January, 2021 that these restrictions will apply to are as follows (additional countries could be added at the discretion of the MOH):

1. United Kingdom
2. Belgium
3. Italy
4. USA
5. Nigeria
6. France
7. Japan
8. Singapore
9. Spain