



**24-26 GRENADA CRESENT, KINGSTON 5, JAMAICA
EMERGENCY, DISASTER MANAGEMENT AND SPECIAL SERVICES BRANCH**

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INTERIM GUIDANCE ABOUT NOVEL CORONAVIRUS FOR TRAVELERS

This document provides information on Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) prevention and preparedness for travelers coming to the Jamaica, travelers going to an nCoV affected country and travelers returning to the Jamaica from an nCoV affected country. This information is based on currently available scientific evidence and expert opinion, and is subject to change as any new information becomes available. This document has been adapted for the Jamaican situation from the ***Caribbean Public Health Agency (CARPHA) Interim Guidance about Novel Coronavirus for Travelers.***

Section I. Guidance for Travelers coming to Jamaica

To date, there have been NO reported cases of nCoV in the Caribbean region, including Jamaica. However, as WHO has now indicated that there has been human to human transmission in four (4) countries outside of China, including the USA, emphasizing the potential for international dissemination of virus via commercial air travel. Travelers must therefore take all necessary precautions when travelling. Since there have been no cases of 2019-nCoV in the Jamaica, there are no special precautions travelers need to take when travelling to the Jamaica.

Travelers are advised to:

- Stay informed about the 2019-nCoV situation in any countries they are travelling to.
- Practice general infection control measures, such as frequent hand washing with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer.

Travelers coming to the Jamaica from a 2019-nCoV affected country will undergo entrance screening if travelling from affected countries (see Section II below).



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Section II. Guidance for Travelers arriving or returning to Jamaica from a Novel Coronavirus affected country

Travelers arriving or returning to Jamaica from a 2019-nCoV affected country may face special screening measures. Travelers are advised to:

- Seek information about the current 2019-nCoV situation and remain aware of up-to-date information from the WHO or the Ministry of Health and Wellness.
- When leaving the affected area, you may be screened by airport officials and again at airports in connecting countries. They may take your temperature and ask about your activities to assess the likelihood of you acquiring the infection.
- Jamaica will be screening passengers from affected areas. This includes taking your temperature and asking about your activities to assess the likelihood of you acquiring the infection.

When travelling from a country with reported cases of 2019-nCoV travelers should:

- a) Seek medical care if you develop symptoms of 2019-nCoV during travel and mention your travel history.
- b) If you have symptoms during travel or upon arrival into Jamaica, tell a flight attendant immediately, OR a port health officer or immigration officers when you arrive. They will determine whether you need further medical assessment.
- c) Monitor your health upon your return or entry into Jamaica from a country affected by the Novel Coronavirus.
- d) Seek medical attention if you notice any of the symptoms within 14 days from the date of departure from the affected country:
 - fever, headache, fatigue, severe and non-productive cough, difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhea or any other severe symptoms.
- e) Be sure to tell your healthcare provider that you have travelled to a region where Novel coronavirus was present. Make sure to tell them about the activities or work you participated in and whether there was contact with a person known or suspected to have been infected by the 2019-nCoV.

[Note: See Appendix A for a useful infographic]



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Section III. Guidance for Travelers Going to a 2019 Novel Coronavirus Affected

Jamaica advises anyone travelling to an area affected by novel coronavirus should pay attention to health alerts and take necessary precautions. Non-essential travel to China should be avoided.

Area

If you are traveling to an area affected by Novel Coronavirus, the following preventive measures will help to reduce your risk of getting infected (see Appendix A for a useful infographic). Before you travel:

- Seek information about the current 2019-nCoV situation and remain aware of up-to-date information. Some cities may be closed to travelers.
- Assemble a travel health kit including a thermometer and know where you can seek medical care in case you start to feel ill.

While you are in an area with reported cases of 2019-nCoV:

1. Avoid areas with outbreaks. Follow directives issued by the local Ministry of Health and/or World Health Organization.
2. The virus can spread through person to person contact
 - a. Avoid direct contact with people that are visibly sick.
 - b. Avoid contact with blood and other bodily fluids especially of a person you think is sick.
3. Avoid close contact with or handling of animals.
 - a. Avoid live or dead animals, as both may spread the virus. Avoid animal or fresh meat markets.
 - b. Avoid handling or eating raw or undercooked meat.
4. Practice strict and frequent hand cleaning routines with alcohol-based hand sanitizer or soap and water.
5. Know the symptoms of Novel Coronavirus and seek medical care if you develop flu like symptoms: fever, headache, fatigue, severe and non-productive cough, difficulty breathing, vomiting, diarrhoea, or any other severe symptoms.



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6. Symptoms may start up to two (2) weeks after exposure to the virus. Monitor your health and that of your traveling partners. If you need to seek medical care, let your healthcare provider know that you traveled to an area affected by the Novel Coronavirus.
7. When leaving the affected area, you may be screened by airport officials. They may take your temperature and ask about your activities to assess the likelihood of you acquiring the infection.



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Appendix A The following infographic from WHO illustrates, in summary form, the key points to keep safe when traveling to an area where the 2019- Novel Coronavirus is present.



**REDUCE YOUR RISK OF
CORONAVIRUS
INFECTION**

Clean hands with soap and water or alcohol-based hand rub

Cover nose and mouth when coughing with tissue or flexed elbow

Avoid close contact with anyone with cold or flu-like symptoms

Thoroughly cook meat and eggs

Avoid contact with wild or live farm animals

Adapted from the World Health Organization

#ProtectYourselfFromCoronavirus
#StayCoronavirusFree #KeepHealthy

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