

**HEALTH GUIDELINES FOR THE
MANAGEMENT OF TRAVELERS IN THE
CONTEXT OF CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
PANDEMIC IN BURKINA FASO.**

31/07/2020

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INTRODUCTION

Burkina Faso has registered 1149 confirmed cases of COVID-19 as of July 31, 2020. Since May 2020, there has been a downward trend in the number of infected persons, with an increase in the number of imported cases. While there has been a reduction in the number of COV-2 SARS infections in Burkina Faso since May 2020, there is a trend towards increased transmission in some countries of West African sub-region.

Since April 2020, the Government of Burkina Faso has implemented a systematic containment measure in hotels for incoming travelers to reduce the risk of importation of the virus. However, given the prospect of the opening of land, rail and air borders, the limited capacity of hotels, and above all, the additional cost to the budget of massive accommodation for travelers arriving from abroad, it is imperative that other alternatives to hotel containment be considered.

These directives, which are based on ECOWAS guidelines, describe the measures to be taken to enable any passenger entering Burkina Faso to be able to join the community with the least possible risk of transmission of COVID-19 disease.

BACKGROUND

The COVID-19 pandemic has not only strained the health systems of countries, but also had an impact on socio-economic activities. In the West African sub-region, this health crisis led to the implementation by the States of strategies to fight against the spread of the disease. These measures include the closure of borders.

In Burkina Faso, during the period of borders closure, only the repatriation of Burkinabe nationals and certain special convoys from outside the country were authorized. On arrival, all passengers were routinely confined to hotels or other lodging facilities and get tested on D0, D8, and D14. Those who tested positive for COV-2 SARS were referred to medical management teams, while those who tested positive for COV-2 SARS returned home after 14 days of follow-up.

After several months of fighting this pandemic, the strategy adopted by Burkina Faso seems to be bearing fruit. Indeed, community transmission is increasingly under control. However, imported cases are the most frequent. At the sub-regional level, the various States are at varying levels of control of the epidemic.

Dealing with this situation and the need to respect the principles of free movement of persons and goods within the Community, the sub region States are opting for a gradual opening of air, land and rail borders in the short term.

This opening requires the implementation of appropriate measures to secure the population against the risk of importing COV-2 SARS.

In Burkina Faso, these measures are described in the following guidelines.

II. OPERATIONAL DEFINITIONS

- **Traveler**; any natural person who travels internationally;
- **Point of entry**: place of passage for the international entry or exit of travelers, baggage, cargo, containers, means of transport, goods and postal parcels, as well as organizations and sectors providing services to them on entry or exit;
- **Containment** or quarantine: Restrictions on the activities and/or removal of suspect persons who are not ill or of suspect baggage, containers, conveyances or goods in order to prevent the possible spread of infection or contamination;

- **Isolation**; removal of sick or contaminated persons or affected baggage, containers, conveyances, goods or postal parcels in order to prevent the spread of infection or contamination;
- **Self-containment**: confinement at home by oneself.

III. BEFORE THE TRIP

3.1 Conditions to be met by the traveler

Any traveler to Burkina Faso by land, rail or air must:

- read and comply with the conditions of entry as issued by the authorities, available on the website of the Ministry of Health (<https://www.sante.gov.bf>) and from the consular services of Burkina Faso abroad;
- have a document attesting the negative result of his COVID-19 test by the PCR, carried out no more than 5 days before departure. For this purpose, the test must be carried out by an approved health facility in the country of departure;
- Compulsorily submit himself/herself to sanitary procedures at points of entry.

3.2 Measures to be observed by international transport companies

Transportation companies and travel agencies have a very important role to play in ensuring the smooth reopening process while facilitating the implementation of measures to prevent and control COV-2 SARS infection. Indeed, they must:

- Provide all necessary information to travelers on the conditions of entry in Burkina Faso;
- Systematically take the temperature (by thermoflash or thermal camera) of passengers, which must be strictly at 38⁰ C;
- Require passengers to present a document proving the result of the negative PCR test no more than five days before boarding;
- Ensure that passengers comply with individual and collective hygiene measures before and during the trip (disinfection of hands and wearing masks or nose masks);
- have a complete list of passengers with their identities and destination details (physical address, telephone number, e-mail address, contact person in case of need);
- not take on board any passenger with a temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or with suspicious symptoms of COVID-19.

IV-DURING THE TRIP

4.1. The traveler

He/ She must:

- Respect the hygiene measures during the trip, in particular the permanent wearing of the mask and the respect of the hygiene measures of distancing;

- report any suspicious symptoms of COVID-19 (cough, fever, other respiratory signs...).

4.2. The international transport company

During the trip, the staff must:

- disseminate information on aspects of prevention, entry conditions and guidelines for self-confinement and isolation;
- ensure compliance with individual and collective hygiene measures for travelers during the trip (hand disinfection and wearing masks or nose masks);
- monitor traveler's state of health;
- isolate any traveler who, during the trip, has presented suspicious symptoms of COVID-19 and alert the point of entry.

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V- ON ARRIVAL

5.1. Point of entry

At the point of entry, the following measures will be systematically implemented by;

the traveler:

- obligation to undergo health procedures at the point of entry;
- compliance with barrier measures (systematic hand washing with soap and/or rubbing with hydro alcoholic gel or solution, mandatory wearing of masks, respect of distance);
- submission of the document attesting the negative COVID-19 PCR test result at least five days old;
- correct and systematic filling of the passenger health card (at the airport).

the health team:

- systematic temperature recording (by termoflash or thermal camera);
- registration and transmission of the travelers' list in order to facilitate the medical follow-up;
- authorization to continue the trip or to return home to any passenger with a temperature below 38°C , without suspicious symptoms of COVID-19 and in possession of a negative PCR test document at least five days old;
- COVID-19 test to be done on travelers with a temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or with suspicious symptoms of COVID-19 or without a negative test for COVID-19.

the international transport company:

- maintain a copy of the complete list of travelers, including identities and destination details (physical address, telephone number, e-mail address, contact person if necessary);
- Reporting at the point of entry of any traveler showing suspicious signs of COVID-19 during the trip;

- Submission to health measures in case of detection of passengers with suspected signs of COVID-19 on board.

5.2 Passenger management at points of entry

- Passengers with no suspected symptoms of COVID-19 or a temperature below 38⁰C and with documentation of a negative PCR test result of no more than five (5) days at 05 the time of health clearance will be counselled on compliance with barrier gestures and distancing measures. Concerned ones can integrate the community with the need to perform PCR testing at D8 and D14 at the dedicated sites (*Annex 1*).
- Any passenger with a documented negative PCR test result of at least five days, with high temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or suspected symptoms of COVID-19 will be routinely isolated for the free COVID-19 laboratory diagnosis.
- If a passenger does not have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, the following procedure will be applied;
 - collection of the identity proof (passport or identity card) at the airport or at land and rail entry points;
 - obligation to take samples for testing at the expense of the passenger;
 - management of test results:
- ✓ **Negative TDR result:** Handing-over of identity documents after verification of the payment of the test fee. Counseling on compliance with barrier gestures and distancing measures. Continuation of journey awaiting initial PCR results. integration to the community if the initial PCR result is negative with advice to perform PCR testing at D8 and D14 at dedicated sites (*Annex 1*). If the PCR result is positive, the care protocol will be applied;
- ✓ **Positive TDR result:** Confinement in a dedicated site pending the initial PCR result;
- ✓ **Positive TDR and PCR results:** free treatment (medical treatment and follow-up):
 - o in a medical supervision site in case of symptomatology or presence of comorbidities;
 - o otherwise at home after a favorable environmental assessment or in a residential site if not.
- ✓ **Passenger in transit without negative PCR result on arrival:** less than 48 hours on a scheduled flight, confinement in a hotel at your own expense under police control;

5.2 Passenger management at entry points

- Passengers with no suspected symptoms of COVID-19 or a temperature below 38⁰C and with documentation of a negative PCR test result of no more than five (5) days at the time of health clearance are counselled on compliance with barrier gestures and

distancing measures. The concerned ones may enter the community with the need to perform PCR testing at D8 and D14 at dedicated sites (*Annex I*).

- Any passenger with a documented negative PCR test result of up to five days, with high temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}\text{C}$ or suspected symptoms of COVID-16 will be routinely isolated for free COVID-19 laboratory diagnosis.
- If a passenger does not have a negative COVID-19 PCR test result, the following procedure will be applied:
 - o collection of the identity proof (passport or identity card) at the airport or at land and rail entry points;
 - o obligation to take samples for testing at the expense of the passenger;
 - o management of test results:
- ✓ **Negative TDR result:** Handing-over of identity documents after verification of payment of the test fee. Counseling on compliance with barrier gestures and distancing measures, Continuation of the trip while waiting for the results of the initial PCR. Integration into the community if the initial PCR result is negative, with advice to perform PCR testing at D8 and D14 at dedicated sites (*Annex I*). If the PCR result is positive, the care protocol will be applied;
- ✓ **Positive TDR result:** Containment in a dedicated site pending the initial PCR result;
- ✓ **Positive TDR and PCR results:** free of charge (medical treatment and follow-up):
 - o in a medical supervision site in case of symptomatology or presence of comorbidities;
 - o otherwise at home after a favorable environmental assessment or in a residential site if not.
- ✓ **Passenger in transit without negative PCR results on arrival:**
 - o less than 48 hours on a scheduled flight, hotel confinement at passenger own expense under police control.
 - o more than 48 hours, performing PCR and TDR in the same conditions as passengers at the entry points.

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NB: conditions subject to change.

VI. MONITORING

6.1. Terms and conditions

In order to ensure the effectiveness of home containment/isolation or the appearance of possible community-based events, the following measures will be applied:

- information of the health facility closest to the traveler's place of residence;
- unannounced visits by community-based health agents (ASBC) to the traveler's house.

6.2. Procedures

An identification of the contacts of travelers will be carried out, and a follow-up of these will be carried out.

6.3. Hospitalization conditions

Any traveler showing signs of gravity and/or comorbidities will be taken over at the treatment center closest to the point of entry according to the protocol in effect.

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VII. ISOLATION

7.1 Indication of isolation

Any passenger who tests positive for PCR and who is in a favorable environment following an evaluation will be isolated at home if he is asymptomatic and without comorbidities. Otherwise, they will be cared for in a health facility.

7.2. Conditions

- The tested positive traveler must:

- stay in an individual room during the 14 days of isolation;
- during the 14 days of isolation, refrain from any movement outside the place of residence and respect the protective barrier measures of COVID-19: therefore, he cannot go to his workplace, take public transport, travel within the country or participate in any event in public places (certificate of confinement available for workers);
- contact the COVID-19 alert number in case of severity signs (breathing difficulties, cough, high fever...);
- Always wear a mask when leaving the room and respect the measures of distancing (keep at least 1 meter away from family and friends) and hand hygiene with soap and water or hydro-alcoholic solution (SHA);
- refrain from sharing objects with other family members (cutlery, toiletries, etc.);
- Regularly close the main door leading to the rest of the house.

When it concerns a child, a family member must be designated to take care of him/her during the isolation period. This person is also confined and is subject to the same measures as the confined person arriving from a trip.

-Traveler's family and friends tested positive.

The loved One's of the person confined at home must:

- respect the measures of distance (keep at least one meter away from the person) and hand hygiene with soap and water or hydro alcoholic solution (SHA);
- Regularly disinfect surfaces (doors, tables, etc.) in the house, objects used by the contaminated person, in accordance with the rules of infection prevention and control;
- keep airborne for a maximum time during the day (3 hours) and as far as possible, the room in which the traveler tests positive is confined.

-For the services of the concerned ministries

- **Health Services**

After the traveler has entered the territory, the following arrangements must be made by health personnel

- o to communicate the contacts of the traveler to the health care institution responsible for him/her;
- o to carry out spot checks (telephone calls, home visits) of the traveler by the community-based health agents within the traveler's geographical jurisdiction;
- o organize the active search for cases.
- o Strengthen community-based monitoring;
- o Conduct testing for suspected cases;
- o transfer positive cases to isolation;
- o disinfect positive cases houses.

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- **The social welfare**

After an environmental assessment, food support may be provided to the confines/isolated and contact persons. This support can be granted by the Ministry in charge of national solidarity in case of confinement of several members of the same family.

- **Tourism and hotel services**

They are responsible for identifying isolation sites in collaboration with health services.

7.3. End of isolation

The end of the isolation occurs after 2 negative PCR tests carried out in the positive and contaminated traveler.

VIII. HEALTH CONTROL PROCEDURES AT ENTRY POINTS AND TEST COSTS

8.1. Operational procedures for health control at points of entry

- Composition and role of the members of the health control team at land and rail entry points.

The team at the land point of entry shall consist of at least five (05) persons:

- one person for disinfection and temperature measurement of passengers;
- one person for checking travel documents, documents proving a negative COVID-19 PCR test result of not more than five days old;
- two persons for sampling and performing rapid tests;
- one person for data recording.

-Composition and role of the members of the health control team at the airport entry point

- **On landing**

The team is composed of at least five (5) people:

- o two persons responsible to take the temperature and application of the gel or hydro alcoholic solution;
- o one person in charge of checking travel books, PCR test documents and retrieving passenger information;
- o two persons for sampling and carrying out the rapid tests.

- **On boarding**

The team is composed of at least two (02) people to take the temperature and the application of the gel or the hydro alcoholic solution.

NB: the interventions of these teams will be carried out in close collaboration with the border police and the other actors concerned.

- **Materials and tools**

It must be made available to the teams:

- minimum personal protection equipment (gown, pairs of gloves, mask, gel or hydro-alcoholic solution, goggles...);
- hand washing devices;
- thermoflash or thermal cameras;
- means of communication;
- an isolation room/isolation tent;
- office furniture (pen, register...);
- tools: traveler's card, contact information sheet;
- sampling equipment (swabs, VTM tubes, tongue depressors, etc.);
- material for transporting samples (triple packaging);
- disinfection equipment (chlorine, sprayer, water bucket, etc.).

- **Sanitary control procedures**

- **Precautions to be observed by the health control officer**

The health agent must:

- o have equipment to prevent infection (hand washing device, EPL, masks, gloves, hydroalcoholic solution/gel...);
- o respect the infection control prevention measures;
- o keep at least one meter away from the passengers;
- o ensure that passengers are kept at a physical distance from each other.

- **Precautions to be observed by passengers**

Passengers should review the barrier and hygiene measures:

- o distance of at least one meter from each other;
- o Wear a mask or nose mask;
- o washing hands with clean water and soap or rubbing hands before taking the temperature.

- **Stages of health control**

The steps of the sanitary control are:

- o To arrange the travelers on line, taking into account the physical distance of at least one meter;
- o hand friction and temperature measurement;

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- o verification of travel documents, documents attesting to the results of COVID-19 PCR tests and recovery of the completed traveler's health cards (at the airport);
- o Checking in of passenger details;
- o the collection and performance of COVID-19 tests for passengers who do not have a document attesting a negative COVID-19 result;
- o the isolation of passengers with positive results or showing signs of COVID-19.

8.2. Costs

The air traveler who has not produced a document attesting a negative PCR test result more than five (5) days old should pay a flat fee of ninety thousand (90000) FCFA.

For land and rail travelers in the same conditions, a lump sum of twenty-five thousand (25000) FCFA is applied for social reasons.

The collection and management of these expenses shall be governed by a decree involving the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Economy, Finance and Development.

CONCLUSION

Passengers management is a priority in the control of the COVID-19 pandemic at this stage of its evolution in Burkina Faso. This requires the collaboration of several actors and also the sensitization of the population.

The application of these contextualized guidelines based on ECOWAS directives and proposed within the framework of the progressive opening of borders will certainly reduce the spread of COVID-19. They are likely to be revised according to the evolution of the pandemic.

Pr Léonie C. LOUGUE/SORGHO

ANNEXES

Annex I- COVID-19 RCP implementation sites

No	Sites	Location
01	CMA, Kossodo	Ouagadougou
02	CMU, Pogbi	Ouagadougou
03	CHU ,Tengandogo	Ouagadougou
04	CMU, Sector 52	Ouagadougou (Patte d'Oie)
05	CM, Saaba	Ouagadougou(Saaba)
06	CMU, Sector 15	Ouagadougou(Tampouy)
07	CMA, Do	Bobo Dioulasso
08	CMA, Dafra	Bobo Dioulasso

*** Annex 2: Information on the conditions of entry in Burkina Faso and passenger management at points of entry in the fight against COVID-19**

**MINISTRY OF HEALTH
BURKINA FASO**

**BURKINA FASO
Unity-Progress- Justice**

**INFORMATION ON ENTRY CONDITIONS IN BURKINA FASO AND
PASSENGER MANAGEMENT AT ENTRY POINTS IN THE FIGHT
AGAINST COVID-19**

ENTRY CONDITIONS:

- The applicant must be in possession of a document proving a negative PCR test result no more than five days old;
- not showing symptoms of COVID-19 at the time of travel;
- have not been in contact with a COVID-19 patient within 14 days prior to travel.

PROCEDURES FOR PASSENGERS AT POINTS OF ENTRY.

1. Passenger with no suspicious symptoms of COVID-19, no temperature $\geq 38^{\circ}$ C, and with a negative PCR test result not more than 5 days old at the time of sanitary formalities;

- counselling on compliance with barrier gestures and distancing measures;
- integration into the community with a recommendation for PCR testing at D8 and D14 in dedicated sites¹.

2- Passenger presenting a temperature of 38° C or suspicious symptoms of COVID-19 or not having a negative PCR test result within five days of arrival at the time of health formalities:

- collection of the identity proof (passport or national identity card) at the point of entry;
- Obligation to take samples for tests at the expense of the passenger up to 90 000 F CFA at airport entry points and 25 000 FCFA at land and rail entry points.
- systematic confinement in a hotel at the passenger's expense pending the results of the initial PCR within 72 hours' maximum for those with a positive TDR.

3-Management of test results

3.1 Negative TDR results; Handing-over of the identity documents after verification of the payment of the test fees. Counseling on compliance with barrier gestures and distancing measures. Continuation of the journey while awaiting the results of the initial PCR. Integration into the community if the initial PCR result is negative, with advice to perform PCR testing at D8 and D14 at dedicated¹ sites. If the PCR result² is positive. refer to 3.3.

3.2. Positive TDR results: confinement in a dedicated site pending the result of the initial PCR.

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3.3. Positive TDR and PCR results: free treatment (medical treatment and follow-up):

- in a medical supervision³ site in case of symptomatology or presence of comorbidities
- otherwise at home after a favorable environmental assessment or in a residential site if not.

4- Passenger in transit without negative PCR result on arrival:

- less than 48 hours on a scheduled flight, confinement in a hotel at his/her own expense under police control;
- more than 48 hours, PCR and TDR carried out under the same conditions as passengers at the point of entry.

NB: conditions subject to change.

1: Ouagadougou Collection at the CMU of Pogbi, Kossodo, CMA of Pissy, CHU of Tengandogo, CM of sector 52, CM of sector 15, CM of Saaba, CM of sector 21.

Bobo Dioulasso CHU Souro SANOU, CMA of Do, CMA of Dafra

Other regions: Sites identified by the Regional Epidemics Management Committee

2: Results will be delivered within 72 hours in Ouagadougou: at the departure sites for outgoing travelers, at the CORUS for incoming travelers or by electronic means.

3: Peripheral level CSPS or CMA and Intermediate level and Central level CHR or CHU

