

## COVID-19 Information for passengers disembarking in the Autonomous Region of the Azores

This document is the responsibility of the Regional Government of the Azores and aims to inform you of the measures that are in force in the Autonomous Region of the Azores, in the context of combating the Covid-19 pandemic, directed specifically to passengers who disembark at airports in the Azores on flights from areas considered by the World Health Organization to be areas of active community transmission of SARS CoV 2 or that have chains of active transmission of this virus.

For more information you can consult:

Electronic sites of the Azores Regional Government: [www.azores.gov.pt](http://www.azores.gov.pt) and [covid19.azores.gov.pt](http://covid19.azores.gov.pt)

World Health Organization website: [www.who.int](http://www.who.int)

Website of the General Directorate of Health of the Government of Portugal: [www.dgs.pt](http://www.dgs.pt)

### Why is there a need to determine specific measures for passengers disembarking in the Azores?

Firstly, to protect your health, the health of all those you can contact while in the Azores, including your family, and the health of all Azoreans.

Do not forget that the SARS CoV 2 virus is highly contagious and can ultimately cause death.

It may happen that a person is infected and not know it. This is because, according to current scientific knowledge, about 25% to 30% of the infected are asymptomatic. That is, they have no symptoms, such as fever, cough or difficulty breathing. In such cases, being infected and being asymptomatic, you may be contaminating other people without being aware of it.

On the other hand, even in the case of people who, being infected, end up revealing symptoms, the period in which they can start passing the virus on to others with whom they contact, precedes, by some days, the manifestation of symptoms.

Finally, the mainland of Portugal is considered by the World Health Organization, as of active community transmission zone. This means that the SARS CoV 2 virus circulates in the community without being able to determine the focus of infection.

In the Azores, the transmission chains of the virus have so far been identified and circumscribed.

Thus, also to prevent the public health situation in the Region from worsening, several measures have been determined by the Regional Government for passengers disembarking at the airports of Ponta Delgada, on the island of São Miguel, or Lajes, on the island of Terceira.

### What are these measures and what do I have to do?

The moment you disembark, you are presented with a health form that you must complete and sign.

In that statement, you have the possibility to choose several solutions. You can choose one:

The **first option** is to have already carried out a screening test for the SARS CoV 2 virus within 72 hours before your flight left for the Azores and the result was negative.

In this case, you must present proof, in paper form, of a document issued by an accredited laboratory to carry out tests on COVID 19, which attests to the conduct of a SARS CoV 2 screening test, within 72 hours prior to the departure of the flight from the airport of origin, where your identification appears, the laboratory where it was performed, the date of the test, the signature of the person responsible for the test, and the NEGATIVE result.

If your stay in the Azores lasts for seven or more days, you must, on the 5th and 13th days, from the date of the SARS CoV 2 screening test, in case it is extended to this or for more days, contact the Health Authority of the municipality where I reside or am staying, with a view to conducting a new SARS CoV 2 screening test, to be promoted by the local Health Authority, the result of which will be communicated to me within 24 hours.

Alternatively, you can choose the **second option**:

This consists of starting the procedures to perform the screening test for the SARS CoV 2 virus at at the time of landing.

For this, the Health Authority professionals who are at the airport will need to collect biological samples from you, in order to carry out the SARS CoV 2 screening test.

In this case, you will be taken to a hotel determined by the Regional Government of the Azores, where you have the obligation to stay in the room, in prophylactic isolation, except in cases of force majeure duly authorized by the Local Health Authority, until the result of the said test.

The maximum time limit to receive your test result is 48 hours.

The cost of accommodation and meals at the hotel is assumed by the Regional Government of the Azores from the moment you check in, until the moment when the test result is transmitted to you, in case it is NEGATIVE.

If the NEGATIVE result is transmitted to you after 12:00, you can stay in the room until 12:00 the next day.

If the NEGATIVE result is transmitted to you by 12:00, the Regional Government of the Azores will no longer assume the cost of accommodation from that time, and may return to your residence, if you reside on the island where you landed, or to the accommodation you had booked.

If your stay in the Azores lasts for seven or more days, counting from the day of the test, you should, on the 5th and 13th days, if it lasts until this or for more days, contact the Health Authority of the county where you reside or are staying, with a view to conducting a new SARS CoV 2 screening test, to be promoted by the local Health Authority, the result of which must be communicated to you within 24 hours.

Alternatively, you have a **third option**:

Carry out voluntary quarantine for a consecutive period of fourteen days in a hotel indicated for this purpose, committing to carry out biological samples collection and screening test to SARS CoV 2, to be promoted by the local Health Authority, before the end of that period.

The results of this test will be communicated to you within a maximum of 24 hours after the completion of the process of collecting your biological samples.

The costs of accommodation and food during this quarantine are assumed by the Regional Government.

You have at your disposal a **fourth option**, which is to return to the place of origin of your flight or to travel to any airport outside the Autonomous Region of the Azores, remaining until that moment in prophylactic isolation in a hotel indicated for this purpose.

### **How to proceed in case I want to travel to another island?**

In case I intend to travel to another island, I **communicate this intention** by filling in the health form provided according to the draft attached to Normative Circular no. 37, of May 28, 2020, from the Regional Directorate of Health, committing myself to comply with the following procedures:

If I perform a screening test on arrival in the Region, I can, from the moment I become aware of the NEGATIVE result, travel to another island in the Region.

If I present a NEGATIVE test on arrival, I can immediately travel to the other island.

Whether in one situation or another, I am obliged to contact the local health authority where I live or are staying, on the 5th and 13th days, counted after the initial test, to perform a new SARS-CoV-2 screening test.

### **VERY IMPORTANT**

**If you refuse to choose one of the options mentioned above, or if you fail to comply with the duty of prophylactic isolation or voluntary quarantine, the local Health Authority may, within the scope of its powers, determine the mandatory quarantine for the period of time necessary to complete the 14 days since your arrival in the Region, in a hotel defined for this purpose, the costs of which are your responsibility and not that of the Regional Government of the Azores.**

**In this case of mandatory quarantine determination, this decision will be submitted to a judge for validation within a maximum period of 24 hours.**

**In addition, and in relation to non-compliance, a complaint will be made for the crime of disobedience.**

**From the decisions of the Health Authority that concern you, you can appeal or complain to the Regional Health Authority, to the Regional Health Secretary of the Government of the Azores or to a court of law.**

## **Contacts:**

### **Municipal Health Authorities**

#### **A. São Miguel:**

Ponta Delgada:

Dr.ª Larisa Shogenova - sres-dspd@azores.gov.pt – 296 249 250

Ribeira Grande:

Dr. José Carvalho Santos - sres-dsrg@azores.gov.pt – 296 470 500

Lagoa:

Dr. João Sousa - sres-dsl@azores.gov.pt – 296 960 286

Vila Franca do Campo:

Dr. João Martins de Sousa - sres-dsvfc@azores.gov.pt - 296 539 420

Povoação:

Dr. Magno Silva - sres-dsp@azores.gov.pt – 296 550 150

Nordeste:

Dr. Teves Carreiro - sres-dsn@azores.gov.pt – 296 480 090

#### **B. Terceira:**

Angra do Heroísmo:

Dr. Sérgio Melo - sres-dsah@azores.gov.pt – 295 402 900

Praia da Vitória:

Dr.ª Helena Gonçalves - sres-dspv@azores.gov.pt – 295 545 000

### **Regional Health Authority**

Enf. Tiago Lopes – sres-drs@azores.gov.pt – 295 204 200

### **Regional Health Secretary**

Dr.ª Teresa Machado Luciano – sres@azores.gov.pt – 295 204 200

### **Judicial Courts**

#### **A. São Miguel:**

Ponta Delgada - pdelgada.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 296 209 670

Ribeira Grande - ribgrande.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 296 470 700

Lagoa - pdelgada.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 296 209 670

Vila Franca do Campo - vfcampo.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 296 539 070

Povoação - povoacao@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 296 550 080

Nordeste - nordeste@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 296 090 020

#### **B. Terceira:**

Praia da Vitória - praiav.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 295 540 360

Angra do Heroísmo - angrah.judicial@tribunais.org.pt - Telefone: 295 204 600