



Bahamas Tourism Reopening FAQ **As of 6.29.20**

Reopening the Borders

When and how will The Bahamas reopen?

- The Bahamas' tourism sector will gradually come back online, following a strategic, phased approach that ensures critical health and safety protocols are being adhered to, and that the Health sector remains well equipped and ready to respond, as necessary.
- Phase 1, beginning on June 15, will allow for international boaters, yachters and private aviation to return to the destination.
 - These smaller special interest groups will allow a more controlled segment to test the country's new measures.
 - Also, during this phase:
 - Hotels will reopen for staff to return to work and put in place all the measures required to ensure they are ready to welcome guests at the onset of Phase 2.
 - Commercial airlines will be allowed to bring in Bahamian citizens, legal residents, homeowners qualifying for economic permanent residency, or the immediate family members or significant others of any of these groups.
 - It is anticipated that during this period of time, there will be a reduced flight schedule as airlines begin adding The Bahamas to their schedules once again.
- Phase 2, beginning July 1, allows for the resumption of international travel, including:
 - Commercial airlines, both international and domestic
 - Domestic and International airlines are beginning to announce plans for their return to The Bahamas. It is recommended that travellers check with airlines directly for details of recommencement of service.
 - Hotels and vacation rentals, inclusive of Airbnb and HomeAway
 - Transportation ranging from taxis to jitneys and buses
- Phase 3, beginning July 13, allows for the reopening of attractions, excursions and tours.
- Phase 4, beginning July 27, allows for vendors (including straw vendors) and jet ski operators to resume operations.

How do I know what airlines have resumed service to The Bahamas?

It is recommended that travellers check with airlines directly for details of recommencement of service. Among those that have announced plans for their return to The Bahamas are:

- Southwest will resume daily service between Baltimore and Nassau on July 1
- JetBlue will resume daily service between New York (JFK) and Nassau as well as Fort Lauderdale and Nassau on July 2
- Delta Airlines will be resuming its twice daily Atlanta to Nassau service July 2
- United Airlines announced its daily Houston to Nassau and Newark to Nassau service will resume July 6 while Saturday-only Denver to Nassau service will resume July 11
- American Airlines will resume daily flights between Charlotte and Nassau; Miami and Exuma; Miami and Eleuthera and twice daily flights between Miami and Nassau on July



Safety Concerns

How is The Bahamas monitoring the COVID-19 situation to ensure that it is safe to reopen on schedule as is planned?

Reopening of borders will continue to be monitored and guided by the Bahamas government and health officials. Dates are subject to change based on COVID-19 trends, if there is a deterioration in improvement or if government and health organizations deem these phases unsafe for residents or visitors.

Are there concerns over a surge in cases in the U.S. leading to a spike in The Bahamas once borders are reopened to international travellers?

Our main concern is the health and safety of our residents and visitors, therefore, we must mitigate risk while also working to restore our tourism sector and economy. We will continue to monitor the situation and adapt our policies in order to create the safest environment possible. Until there is a vaccine or treatment for the virus, we must continue to ensure that our plans are flexible and will adapt to new information in accordance with recommendations from the Bahamas Ministry of Health, the government and our tourism partners.

Entry Requirements: Testing and Health Declarations

Is a COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test required to enter the Country?

- Yes, both domestic and international travellers are required to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test upon arrival. Those arriving in The Bahamas between July 1 and July 7 must present results no more than ten (10) days old. Those arriving in The Bahamas after July 7 must present results no more than seven (7) days old. Select individuals will not be required to provide a test:
 - Children under the age of two (2)
 - Children between the ages of 3-10, provided their state or county of residence does not administer tests for children under that age. Parent or guardian must provide proof of testing restriction upon arrival.
 - Private pilots who do not deplane
 - Bahamian citizens, residents and homeowners who are returning to The Bahamas from English speaking CARICOM countries
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who are returning to The Bahamas from countries where they cannot obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test. Proof of their inability to receive a test must be presented upon arrival and traveller will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a test at their own expense and receives a negative result.
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who have been out of The Bahamas for less than 72 hours; however they will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test, at their own expense, and receives a negative result.

Where can I get a COVID-19 RT-PCR (swab) test?

Contact your health care professional to receive a COVID-19 RT-PCR Test. Tests are also available at select [CVS](#) and [Walgreens](#) stores across the U.S. For additional information, please visit your [state](#) or [local](#) health department's website.



Who is required to complete a Health Declaration Card?

All travellers visiting the Bahamas between June 15 – June 30th are required to complete an Electronic Health Declaration Form at travel.gov.bs prior to departure and for any inter-island travel within The Bahamas. An automated response will be provided upon completion, and it is essential that travellers present proof of confirmation upon arrival in their destination.

Is a print version of my electronic Health Declaration Form required for travel between June 15-30?

Travellers can show proof of electronic Health Declaration via print copy or on their mobile device.

What if I do not complete the electronic Health Declaration Card?

Travellers visiting The Bahamas between June 15-June 30 who fail to complete an electronic Health Declaration form or provide a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test will result in denied entry to The Bahamas.

Who needs to complete an electronic Health Visa?

All travellers visiting The Bahamas after July 1 will be required to complete an electronic Health Visa prior to departure at travel.gov.bs. Each traveller will need to upload their test results and provide contact information. An automated response will be provided upon completion, and it is essential that travellers present proof of confirmation upon arrival in their destination.

Why is The Bahamas requiring an electronic Health Visa?

Due to the recent increase of COVID-19 cases in the U.S., and in an abundance of caution for the health and safety of both travellers and residents, all incoming visitors must complete an electronic Health Visa and present a COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test upon arrival. This will help prevent the risk of further spread and provide information crucial to contact tracing purposes.

Is a print version of my electronic Health Visa required for travel after July 1?

Travellers can show proof of electronic Health Visa via print copy or on their mobile device.

What if I do not complete the electronic Health Visa?

Travellers visiting The Bahamas after July 1 who fail to complete an electronic Health Visa or provide a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test will result in denied entry to The Bahamas.

Do I need to quarantine upon arrival in The Bahamas?

- For most travellers, quarantine is not required upon entry. However, if persons are exhibiting COVID-19 symptoms upon arrival, they will be transferred to an area away



from other passengers where health professionals may need to conduct additional testing and/or recommend additional measures such as quarantine.

- Those that will be required to quarantine for 14 days upon arrival include:
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who have been out of The Bahamas for less than 72 hours
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who are returning to The Bahamas from countries where they cannot obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test. Proof of their inability to receive a test must be presented upon arrival.
 - Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test, at their own expense, and receives a negative result.

What do international boaters, yachters and those travelling on private aviation need to prepare for when visiting The Bahamas June 15-30?

- A COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test is required and must be presented upon arrival. Results must be no more than ten (10) days old. Select individuals will not be required to provide a test:
 - Children under the age of two (2)
 - Children between the ages of 3-10, provided their state or county of residence does not administer tests for children under that age. Parent or guardian must provide proof of testing restriction upon arrival.
 - Private pilots who do not deplane
 - Bahamian citizens, residents and homeowners who are returning to The Bahamas from English speaking CARICOM countries
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who are returning to The Bahamas from countries where they cannot obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test. Proof of their inability to receive a test must be presented upon arrival and traveller will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a test at their own expense and receives a negative result.
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who have been out of The Bahamas for less than 72 hours; however they will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test, at their own expense, and receives a negative result.
- All travellers – both domestic and international – are required to complete an Electronic Health Declaration Form at travel.gov.bs prior to departure and for any inter-island travel within The Bahamas. An automated response will be provided upon completion, and it is essential that travellers present proof of confirmation upon arrival in their destination. This is an important step for contact tracing purposes.
- No quarantine will be required upon arrival (if all steps are met).
- Failure to comply with the test requirements and health form submission will result in denied entry.
- Boaters must also:
 - Inform marina at least 48 hours prior to vessel's arrival
 - Wear masks while on marina's premises
 - NEVER shake used or unused clothing, sheets, or cloth items
 - Boats always required to remain 50 feet apart



- No “rafting” (tying boats together)
- No “beaching” (running boats ashore in shallow water to disembark)

What about Bahamian Citizens, Residents and Homeowners?

- Bahamians are required to complete an electronic Health Declaration Form at travel.gov.bs prior to departure and for any inter-island travel within The Bahamas. An automated response will be provided upon completion, and it is essential that travellers present proof of confirmation upon arrival in their destination. This is an important step for contact tracing purposes.
- In most cases, Bahamians are required to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test upon arrival. There are select situations where Bahamian citizens and legal residents are not required, such as:
 - Bahamian citizens, residents and homeowners who are returning to The Bahamas from English speaking CARICOM countries
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who are returning to The Bahamas from countries where they cannot obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test will be permitted entry. Proof of their inability to receive a test must be presented upon arrival and traveller will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who have been out of The Bahamas for less than 72 hours are not required to present a COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test upon arrival; however they will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test, at their own expense, and receives a negative result.

What preparations and precautions should travellers expect when planning to visit The Bahamas after July 1?

- A COVID-19 RT-PCR Negative (Swab) Test is required and must be presented upon arrival. Those arriving in The Bahamas between July 1 and July 7 must present results no more than ten (10) days old. Those arriving in The Bahamas after July 7 must present results no more than seven (7) days old. individuals will not be required to provide a test:
 - Children under the age of two (2)
 - Children between the ages of 3-10, provided their state or county of residence does not administer tests for children under that age. Parent or guardian must provide proof of testing restriction upon arrival.
 - Private pilots who do not deplane
 - Bahamian citizens, residents and homeowners who are returning to The Bahamas from English speaking CARICOM countries
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who are returning to The Bahamas from countries where they cannot obtain a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test. Proof of their inability to receive a test must be presented upon arrival and traveller will be required to quarantine for 14 days.
 - Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a test at their own expense and receives a negative result.
 - Bahamian citizens and legal residents who have been out of The Bahamas for less than 72 hours; however they will be required to quarantine for 14 days.



- Quarantine time may be reduced if the traveller opts to take a COVID-19 RT-PCR (Swab) Test, at their own expense, and receives a negative result.
- All travellers will be required to complete an electronic Health Visa prior to departure at travel.gov.bs. Each traveller will need to upload their test results and provide contact information. An automated response will be provided upon completion, and it is essential that travellers present proof of confirmation upon arrival in their destination.
- No quarantine will be required upon arrival, however, travellers who show symptoms of COVID-19 may be transferred to an area away from other passengers for further testing and evaluation.
- At airports and seaports, healthcare personnel will conduct temperature screenings for all incoming visitors. Travellers will be required to wear a face mask in any situation where it is necessary to enforce physical distancing guidelines, such as when entering and transiting air and sea terminals, while navigating security and customs screenings, and at baggage claim. Also, at airports and seaports, travellers will need to:
 - Follow physical distancing directions.
 - Adhere to instructions with more time provided for boarding and exiting.
 - Adhere to more distance established between active gates at terminals.
 - Hold and scan their own boarding passes or mobile devices.
- Travellers planning to visit The Bahamas should also be prepared to:
 - Monitor business websites (airlines, hotels, attractions, etc.) for changes in protocols.
 - Avoid travelling when they feel ill.
 - Follow The Bahamas' "Healthy Traveller Campaign" ongoing practice of:
 - Physical distancing measures (3ft -6ft)
 - Regularly washing hands
 - Wearing PPE such as face masks when appropriate

What about Cruises? What new protocols will be in place for ships calling on The Bahamas?

- Cruise protocols are subject to change and will be updated once cruise lines are set to resume travel to The Bahamas.
- At this time, protocols may include:
 - All vessels required to submit Declaration of Health to the Port Health Control Officer or other designated Government officer in advance of arrival in The Bahamas.
 - If any passenger or crew member is presenting COVID-19 symptoms, no disembarkation can take place. No gangway will be attached to the ship, until the ship is given the all clear by Port Health Control Officer or other designated Government officer.
 - When guests do disembark, it is contemplated that the ships will install temperature screening equipment in immediate proximity to the disembarkation gangway. A health officer from the Government of The Bahamas will monitor and observe the temperature screening process.
 - Once off their cruise ship, all passengers will be required to comply with protocols in place for tour operators and attractions, taxis, restaurants, retail, etc.,



which in many cases require the wearing of face masks and respecting physical distancing measures.

On-Island Tourism Protocols

When do I have to wear a face mask?

- All travellers must wear a face mask in any situation where it is necessary to enforce physical distancing guidelines, such as:
 - When entering and transiting air and sea terminals
 - During security and customs screenings
 - At baggage claim
 - When checking in and boarding aircraft, vessel or other form of transportation
 - When traveling in a taxi
 - When standing in line at attractions
 - Before being seated at a restaurant
 - While checking into a hotel
- Face masks are not mandatory on the beach but must be worn in all other public spaces that surround the beach and while entering and exiting the beach. Social distancing is mandatory on the beach and gatherings are restricted to five (5) people or less.
- Face masks are not required during exercise but must be visible and easily identifiable on your person. Masks must be worn up to the point of exercise and immediately after.
- All persons, including Bahamian residents and visitors are subject to a new fine of \$200 or a penalty of one month imprisonment, or both, if they are found not wearing face masks in areas where it is required.

What is the on-island curfew what does it mean for travellers?

The Government of The Bahamas has imposed a mandatory countrywide curfew between the hours of 10:00 pm and 5:00 am daily where every person must remain in their place of residence. Travellers must return to their accommodations (hotels, rentals, etc.) and remain on property within the curfew hours. However, guests at hotels are free to move about the property within curfew hours and will not be confined to their rooms, provided they follow individual hotel guidelines.

What is the “Clean & Pristine” Certification?

- A Certification Agency has been established - representing a collaboration between the Ministry of Tourism, Ministry of Health, and other regulatory agencies - to enforce a “Clean & Pristine” Certification Program.
- **All** tourism related, customer-facing entities in The Bahamas must verify they have in place and are adhering to the Government approved health and safety guidelines to receive Clean & Pristine certification. Adequate signage outlining policies will be clearly displayed at all locations helping to guide staff and visitors.

What does this mean for Taxis and Independent Cars?

- Passengers to wear masks at all times throughout journey
- Passengers should not ride in front seat
- Vehicles reduce the maximum number of people by 50%



- Sedans = 2 persons, or a family travelling together
- SUVs = 4 persons

What does this mean for Hotels, Resorts and Vacation Rentals?

- Extensive health and safety protocols enforced; details will be clearly stated by specific institutions
- Enhanced cleaning for guest rooms
- Hand sanitizer and disinfectant readily available
- Employee health monitoring
- Limiting guests in elevators

What does this mean for Restaurants, Food & Beverage Services?

- Buffets discontinued until further notice
- All meals must be served at individual tables where social distance is adhered to, or prepackaged
- Disposable menus offered or displayed on monitors or chalkboards
- Seating to accommodate for physical distancing of guests; limiting number of guests

What does this mean for Excursions, Tours, Local Attractions and Shopping?

- Maximum number of guests and duration of guest visit limited
- Guests use personal gear (such as snorkelling gear) as appropriate
- Guests will not be allowed to touch products unless purchasing
- Cashless sales encouraged
- Beach chairs to allow 6ft. physical distancing between family units; gatherings limited to 5 persons
- Cleaning timetable / checklist maintained

What does this mean for Vessel and Ferry Operations?

- Maximum passengers on-board reduced by 50%
- Passenger seating assigned to ensure proper distancing
- Vessel sanitizing:
 - Before any passenger embarks
 - Between all passenger exchanges
 - On high touch surfaces consistently during passage
 - At end of each day

Tourism Readiness and Recovery Plan

What is The Tourism Readiness and Recovery Plan? Where can I view it?

- In preparation for the reopening of our borders and the resumption of commercial travel, a Tourism Readiness and Recovery Committee was established among public and private sector partners to develop a collaborative plan for reopening.
- The committee collected and considered feedback from in excess of 100 public and private sector stakeholders from every type of business and tourism touchpoint - from



airlines and cruise ports, to hotels, taxi drivers, tour operators, and retailers, to name a few.

- As a result, The Bahamas “Tourism Readiness and Recovery Plan” is an approved, comprehensive guide of health and safety protocols to be followed consistently across the country.
- For more information, or to view the plan in full, please visit: www.bahamas.com/travelupdates.