

# COVID-19: Policy & Protocol

Tanzania (December 1, 2021)

## Quick Summary of the Outbreak

1. A pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan China was first reported to the WHO Country Office in China on December 31, 2019.
2. On February 11, 2020, the WHO announced a name for the new coronavirus disease: COVID-19.
3. The novel Coronavirus disease was declared a pandemic on March 11, 2020.
4. On April 16, 2020, the WHO issued guidance for governments related to public health and social measures to avoid the spread of the disease. These lockdowns had already been in place in numerous countries. Travel restrictions have also been in place.
5. To date, the total number of confirmed cases is 263 million with about 5.2 million deaths.
6. The countries with the highest numbers of cases are the USA (more than 49 million), India (more than 34 million) and Brazil (more than 22 million).
7. For daily reports about the situation, please visit this link on the WHO website: [www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports)

## Symptoms of COVID-19

Symptoms of COVID-19 can range from mild illness to pneumonia. Some people will recover easily, and others may get very sick very quickly. People with coronavirus may experience symptoms such as but not limited to:

- fever
- respiratory symptoms
- coughing
- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- Other symptoms can include runny nose, acute blocked nose (congestion), headache, muscle or joint pains, nausea, diarrhea, vomiting, loss of sense of smell, altered sense of taste, loss of appetite and fatigue.

## The Current Situation in Tanzania

1. The Tanzanian government has started reporting limited aggregated weekly numbers to the World Health Organization on COVID-19 starting in September 2021. This data is not shared with the public in Tanzania. Some concerns have been raised that real data is not being disclosed so extra caution must be taken.

2. Officially, from 3 January 2020 to 30 November 2021, there have been 26,270 confirmed cases of COVID-19 with 730 deaths in Tanzania, reported to WHO. As of 21 November 2021, a total of 1,337,045 vaccine doses have been administered.
3. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has not issued a Travel Health Notice for Tanzania due to COVID-19, indicating an unknown level of COVID-19 in the country.
4. Community transmission of COVID-19 continues across Tanzania.
5. The Department of State's current travel advisory level for Tanzania is Level 4 – Do Not Travel.
6. Despite the opening up of sectors of business and society throughout Tanzania, the risk of contracting COVID-19 through community transmission remains elevated. The US Embassy has recommended that U.S. government personnel and their families exercise continued caution in day-to-day activities (e.g., limiting entry of individuals into your home) and take steps to limit potential exposure while outside the home (e.g., wearing a face mask, washing your hands frequently, observing social distancing, and avoiding crowds).
7. Healthcare facilities in Tanzania can become quickly overwhelmed in a healthcare crisis. Limited hospital capacity throughout Tanzania could result in life-threatening delays for emergency medical care.
8. Commercial flights are operating to and from Tanzania. A temporary ban on international flights was lifted in May 2020. Major carriers have now resumed flights to Tanzania, though in some cases on a reduced schedule.

(Main source : <https://tz.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>)

### Current Entry and Exit Requirements

1. Currently, international passengers are required to present a negative COVID-19 test certificate upon arrival. The test must be a Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) test or Nucleic Acid Amplification Test (NAAT) collected at a nationally accredited/approved laboratory, with the sample collected **within 96 hours of departure to Tanzania**.
2. Travelers are required to complete an online Health Surveillance Form (at <https://afyamsafiri.moh.go.tz/> for Tanzania mainland and at <https://healthtravelzanz.mohz.go.tz> for Zanzibar) **within 24 hours prior to arrival**. Travelers will then receive a Unique Health Code (UHC), which they will present to health officials upon arrival.
3. Travelers arriving from countries with variants of concern or with high numbers of COVID-19 cases or who have traveled through those countries in the last 14 days are required to take a rapid test at their own expense at the point of entry. The list of countries for which a rapid test is required can be found at <https://www.moh.go.tz> and at the point of entry. **The USA is on the list of countries for which a rapid test is required.** The cost for rapid testing is 10 USD per traveler for mainland Tanzania and USD 25 for Zanzibar. Payment can only be made in cash, but visitors will have the option of paying for their rapid test by credit card online. This is the preferred option to avoid long queues at the airport.

4. If passengers test positive for COVID-19 on arrival, they will be required to quarantine for 14 days **at their own expense at a hotel facility designated by the local authorities.**
5. Local authorities might also put in place additional screening measures without notice and passengers must adhere to them.
6. The Government of Tanzania is collecting tracking information for all international passengers arriving to Tanzania.
7. Airlines collect passenger attestations from passengers departing Tanzania to the United States regarding COVID-19 vaccination status and testing.
  - Passengers must present the attestation in hard copy to the airlines before check in. Airlines may or may not have forms available at their counters.
  - Internet and printing services are available at the airport for a fee, but travelers may find it easier to fill and print the form before starting their travel.
  - A fillable attestation form is available from the CDC website here: <https://www.cdc.gov/quarantine/fr-proof-negative-test.html>.

(Main source: <https://tz.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>)

For more information, please visit these websites:

- Ministry of Health in Tanzania: <https://afyamsafiri.moh.go.tz/#/home>
- U.S. Embassy in Tanzania: <https://tz.usembassy.gov/covid-19-information/>
- Tanzania Embassy in Washington D.C.: <https://tanzaniaembassy-us.org/>
- US Department of State: <https://travel.state.gov/content/travel/en/international-travel/International-Travel-Country-Information-Pages/Tanzania.html>
- CDC page on COVID-19: [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/index.html)

## GEI Global Policy

1. We take daily updates from core, factual, reliable sites:
  - [www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public](http://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public)
  - [www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html](http://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-nCoV/summary.html)
  - [www.worldometers.info/coronavirus](http://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus)
  - Further local in-country sites for Tanzania
2. We immediately address and action any amendments required to the Company Protocol (see below) arising out of the updates.
3. We follow country-specific guidelines and protocols, and those may supersede our Company guidelines and protocols.
4. We disseminate the Company Protocol to all in-country staff (including all program managers and guides) and we train and update them before the start of every program.
5. We assess program managers and guides prior to each program of their up-to-date knowledge of the available information and their comfort with the Company Protocol.
6. We have an internal written document of our Company Protocol for all in-country staff on how to operate programs during the global COVID-19 spread. The Company Protocol is as follows:

## GEI Protocol

1. Our staff members are all fully vaccinated. We will as much as possible only work with tourism personnel who have been vaccinated and who have submitted a vaccination certificate to us.
2. We have identified the government-appointed medical facilities/clinics/hospitals in Tanzania capable of providing the best available care to our clients if required. These are:
  - **Aga Khan Hospital** in Dar Es Salam, Ocean Road, Ufukoni Street, P.O. Box 2289. Telephone: +255 (0)222115151-4, Mobile: +255 (0)784-550100/550200, +255 (0)756 886610/886620.
  - **Arusha Lutheran Medical Centre**, Fr. Babu road, Block No.54 Levolosi, Arusha City, P.O.Box 17047, Arusha. Telephone: +255 (0)272548030.
3. We provide our clients with available local COVID-19 related information for pre-departure dissemination.
4. **We require that all our guests be fully vaccinated for COVID-19 at least 14 days before travelling to one of our destinations. Our guests will be required to send us a copy of their vaccination certificates prior to traveling.** Guests who cannot get vaccinated because of a health condition could be exempt upon submission of a medical certificate attesting of the condition. We will review the medical certificate and take a decision on a case-by-case basis. Any further requirements that will be in place such as the submission of negative COVID-19 tests prior to departure and upon arrival will be communicated.

5. We request that our clients ensure that all program participants have adequate travel and medical insurance, including medical evacuation insurance. Copies of such documents should be sent to us prior to departure.
6. Hotels and lodges require that we submit scanned passport copies for each program participant in advance.
7. **A COVID-19 Safety Officer will be assigned to each program.** The Safety Officer will be responsible for ensuring best practice is followed throughout the program by monitoring behavior, environment, and adherence to agreed hygiene measures. **For groups with up to 20 participants, the Program Manager or Guide will play this role and will be supported by other team members who will be on standby in case of an emergency.** For larger groups, the Program Manager or Guide will play this role as well as a second member of our team who will be appointed to be with the group.
8. Specific preventive measures will be put on place and include the following:
  - Participants must keep a social distance of 1.5 meters at all times.
  - Participants must wear a mask in public places or when requested by the Safety Officer.
  - Participants must wear a mask when their temperature is being checked, when visiting public places or when adhering to social distancing of 1.5 meters is not possible.
  - Masks should meet the following requirements:
    - Have two or more layers of washable, breathable fabric
    - Must completely cover the nose and mouth
    - Fit snugly against the sides of your face and don't have gaps
    - Have a nose wire to prevent air from leaking out of the top of the mask
  - It is important to change face masks that cannot be washed or reused at least every 4 hours and to dispose safely of any used face masks in a bin bag that is then closed tightly.
  - If masks are taken off to eat or drink, it is important to place them somewhere safe to keep them clean, such as in the pocket, purse, or in a paper bag.
- Vehicle configuration and utilization limits will be applied as per industry protocols and per agreement with client.
- Participants will be encouraged to occupy the same seat for the day, if not the whole program.
- Number of occupants on game drive vehicles will be limited.
- Accommodation: **Single rooms will be reserved for all participants unless otherwise instructed. If rooms are to be shared, rooming lists are to be adhered to and not changed during the course of the program.**
9. Personal protective equipment (PPE):
  - No PPE (including facemasks) or cleaning/sanitizing supplies will be provided for travelers unless specifically requested and travelers will be expected to bring their own.
  - Hand sanitizer will be available on embarkation and disembarkation of vehicles, and at all sites in line with global industry protocols.

- GEI will have on hand a limited emergency supply of face masks should guests need to buy some for themselves. It will be a small supply and guests are generally expected to have enough masks for the duration of the trip.
- GEI will supply face masks and sanitizer for all ground staff and drivers.

10. Temperature checks and symptoms scanning:

- **Daily temperature checks and visual assessment of any COVID-19 related symptoms will be conducted and recorded by the GEI Safety Officer/guide.**
- Additionally, guests will also be asked to self-monitor and immediately inform the guide if they have a temperature of 37.5 C (36.2 C on the wrist) or higher and/or if they are feeling unwell.
- **During the daily monitoring by GEI, the Safety Officer/guide will do the following:**
  - Take every participant's temperature with a handheld thermometer each morning.
  - Assess if a participant is showing any other symptoms of COVID-19.
  - Wear a face mask while doing the readings, and so must each program participant.
  - Have a clip board with a participant list for every day, where the reading of each participant will be recorded, thus always keeping the record up to date.
- If the temperature check by the Safety Officer/guide shows that a person has an initial elevated temperature (37.5 C or higher on the forehead and 36.2 C or higher on the wrist), the test will be repeated 10 minutes later. If the temperature is then still 37.5 C or higher on the forehead or 36.2 C or higher on the wrist, the participant will be sent to his/ her room, and the temperature check will be repeated an hour later by the Safety Officer or by a GEI member of staff. If the temperature is still high an hour later, the GEI Safety officer or GEI member of staff will call the nurse on duty. If the group is out in the field, the participant will be requested to wear a face mask and will be seated on the back seat of the bus, until the temperature check can be repeated an hour later. If the temperature is still high an hour later, the participant will be taken to the nearest hospital for a check-up and medication if needed. The GEI Safety Manager will decide if a PCR test needs to be taken and will advise the participant accordingly. The cost of the PCR test will be at the participants' expense.
- If a participant does not have a temperature but is showing other signs of COVID-19 during the program, he/she will be asked to self-isolate until a PCR test is conducted. If the group is out in the field, the participant will be requested to wear a face mask at all times and will be seated on the back seat of the bus or be taken to the nearest hospital for a check-up and medication
- **Reminder: Temperature screening will not identify a person who has COVID-19 who is asymptomatic (not showing any symptoms), does not have an elevated temperature as one of their symptoms, or is on medication that reduces their temperature. A person may also have an elevated temperature for other reasons, including a medical condition not related to COVID-19.**
- **PCR testing labs are not widely available in Tanzania and tests are expensive.**

- Arusha: Selian Hospital and Mount Meru Hospital. Price: USD 100 per person. Open daily 08:00 to 15:00.
  - Dar es Salaam: Aga Khan Hospital and IST Clinic. Price: USD 100 per person and must be paid at the center via credit card. Open daily 08:00 to 15:00.
  - Serengeti: Seronera Serengeti Covid Centre. Price: USD 50 + USD 20 (Total USD 70). Results within 48 hours. Online booking required <https://pimacovid.moh.go.tz/#/booking> with passport details.
  - Zanzibar: Migombani COVID-19 Centre. Price: USD 80
- All lodges and hotels temperature generally screen their guests daily, upon entering reception & restaurant area(s) and bar(s). In case any person has a high temperature (confirmed 37.5 or higher), he/ she has to go to an isolation room at the hotel until a doctor or nurse can be dispatched to perform the Covid test. The isolation room and Covid test will be for the guest's own account. The GEI Covid Safety Officer will arrange this together with the hotel as conveniently and economically as possible.
11. Every GEI Program Manager/Guide ("Guide") is individually briefed about key health and safety measures for each program. This includes the following:
- On arrival, all guests are requested to alert the Guide immediately if they have any symptoms typical of a cold or flu at any time during the program. For this purpose, he/she ensures that all guests have access to his/her mobile phone/WhatsApp number and email address.
  - The Guide will also proactively approach any guest who shows symptoms (cough, fever, etc.). Such guest is asked to stay at the hotel, to wear a mask, and to avoid contact with other people as much as possible.
  - During the arrival briefing session, the Guide informs all guests about hand washing: [www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/hand/handwashing.html](http://www.cdc.gov/healthywater/hygiene/hand/handwashing.html).
  - In case of any concern at any time during the program, the Guide organizes an evaluation by a medical practitioner as soon as possible and follows said practitioner's instructions. He/she will also immediately alert the GEI local office and GEI's global head office.
  - If the guest is suspected of having, or is diagnosed with, COVID-19, the Guide shall follow the GEI policies and also follow the instructions of the local authorities and health facilities. He/she shall also keep GEI's global head office informed at all times so that head office staff can alert and communicate with the client and any emergency contacts.
12. **In the event of a positive diagnosis, a decision on whether the other program participants need to be tested and possibly even self-isolated as well is taken together with local health authorities. In general, GEI recommends that program participants get a PCR test done 3 to 5 days after exposure. The PCR tests will be at the participants own costs. If a participant is positive, isolation rooms will be made available at the hotels and lodges at the participants' own cost.**
13. Furthermore, GEI's global head office will decide together with the client and the local health authorities whether to proceed with or cancel the program.
14. **Any travelers who contract COVID-19 while in the destination country will be required to self-isolate or quarantine in line with government regulations at that time. Their participation in their program will be suspended and any costs incurred are to be covered**

**by participants and/or their institution. Travel and medical insurance are compulsory and expected to be in place.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE: The information and prices provided in this document has been researched carefully but due to the current situation, it changes regularly so we cannot guarantee its accuracy. We invite our guests to always check the travel updates and restrictions both in their home country and Tanzania before traveling.**