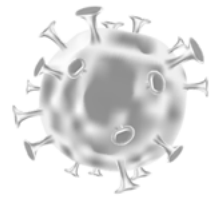




World Health
Organization

African Region



INFORMATION BULLETIN

**African Region Scientific Conference:
Looking Beyond COVID-19 pandemic**

**28th - 31st March 2023, Cape Town
International Convention Centre, South Africa**

Theme: *Accelerating Recovery of Essential Immunization Services
and Resilience of Health Systems in the African Region*





Dear Participants

The WHO Country Office in South Africa welcomes you to the African Region Scientific Conference: Looking Beyond COVID-19 pandemic 28th - 31st March 2023, Cape Town International Convention Centre (CTICC), South Africa.

We trust that you will enjoy your stay.

Please find below some useful information:

COVID-19 REQUIREMENTS

For Covid-19 travel advisory please visit the link:

<https://www.gov.za/covid-19/individuals-and-households/travel-coronavirus-covid-19>

All international travellers arriving at South African Ports of Entry must be vaccinated against COVID-19 and produce a valid vaccination certificate

Some airlines require travellers to produce vaccination certificates or recent negative PCR tests.

HOTEL ACCOMMODATION AND MEALS

For WHO sponsored participants, a group booking has been secured and paid from 27 to 31 March 2023 at selected Hotels (Southern Sun The Cullinan; Southern Sun Waterfront; Westin Hotel; AC Hotel) near the CTICC 1. This includes Bed & Breakfast throughout your stay. A list indicating hotel allocation for all WHO sponsored participants will be communicated shortly.

Any miscellaneous expenses incurred with the hotel, including additional days before or after indicated dates should be settled by the participants before departure.

CTICC 1 will provide lunch & coffee/tea breaks during the 4-day meeting.



Due to recent security issues, you are strongly advised to book flights arriving during daytime (6am to 6pm).

Transfers between Cape Town International Airport and the Hotel has been arranged. For transport arrangements, please send your arrival and departure information/itinerary to Selome Tadesse Worku on stadesse@who.int & Dikeledi Setumo on setumod@who.int.

Our protocol focal point, Mr Jose Sambo will "meet and greet" you at the airport on 27 and 28 March 2023. He is reachable 24/7 during this time period in case you cannot find your way at the airport (+27 64 756 9735).

SHUTTLE TO THE VENUE

Daily shuttle will be provided between hotel and CTICC 1 by the hotel. Walking between venues is not advisable although the hotel and CTICC 1 are close.

VACCINATIONS

If you are travelling from a yellow fever risk country or if you have been in transit exceeding 12 hours, through the airport of a country with risk of yellow fever transmission, **A VALID YELLOW FEVER VACCINATION CERTIFICATE IS REQUIRED** before entry into South Africa.

The list of countries for which a yellow fever vaccination certificate is required for entry into South Africa is:

- * Angola, Argentina
- * Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso and Burundi
- * Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire and Colombia
- * Democratic Republic of the Congo
- * Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia

- * French Guiana
- * Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau and Guyana
- * Kenya
- * Liberia
- * Mali, Mauritania
- * Niger, Nigeria
- * Panama, Paraguay, Peru
- * Senegal, Sierra Leone, Southern Sudan, Sudan, Suriname
- * Togo and Trinidad and Tobago
- * Uganda
- * Venezuela

Travelers immunized against yellow fever are issued with an internationally recognized vaccination certificate for inspection by immigration officials.

The international health regulations concerning yellow fever are unequivocal, and unvaccinated travellers may face denial of entry into the country.

VISA

All participants invited to the conference are eligible for Visa on arrival. Holders of United Nations Laissez-passer, volunteers attached to the United Nations, persons involved in any United Nations agency and persons performing services on behalf of the United Nations, including their spouses, dependent relatives and other members of their household do not require port of entry visas when visiting the Republic of South Africa for periods not exceeding 90 days. Provided they are in possession of the relevant letters or identification documents to identify themselves at ports of entry as a personnel of the United Nations.

It is mandatory for holders of ordinary passports that require Visa on arrival to send a clear copy of their passports' bio page to Jescah Mhike mhikej@who.int and cc Annita Ouedraogo ouedraogoan@who.int latest by Wednesday 15 March 2023.

Please make sure to have these documents handy when travelling to South Africa:

- * Official document from the Home - Immigration directive document from the Home Affairs of the Republic of South Africa (attached)
- * Letter of Invitation from WHO
- * Additional invitation/confirmation letter issued by the South African WHO country office (to be sent to you after we receive your bio page).
- * A copy of your WHO letter of appointment or any relevant document that proves your link with the World Health Organization (if applicable).

For any support regarding Visa on arrival please contact to Jose Sambo at samboj@who.int (+27 64 7569735) or Francis Gamba gambaf@who.int (+27 829787847)

CURRENCY

The currency of South Africa is the "Rand" which is in the following denominations: Notes: 200, 100, 50, 20 and 10; coins 5, 2, 1 and cents.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

You can change your foreign currency with the Bank or Bureau de Change. A copy of your international passport will be required.

The current exchange rate is approximately US\$1.00 = ZAR 18.00 however it varies.

DSA/Per Diem

The per diem rate for Cape Town is \$166 (ZAR 3050) per day. Participants are expected to receive per diems (with deductions for accommodation and meals provided) through wire transfers before departure. Per diems will be paid to meeting participants in Cape Town only when WHO had difficulties creating their supplier forms and/or confirming their bank details and when US\$ are not available in the country of origin or for participants who do not have international bank accounts.

CLIMATE

End of March is early autumn it can be cool in the evenings and early mornings - you may need to bring warm clothing items!

ELECTRICITY

The electricity in South Africa is 220 volts. Recommended plugs are 2 or 3 round pin.



WHO COUNTRY OFFICE

CONTACTS

WHO/South Africa contact numbers are as follows:

+27 12 305 7700/7701 (Reception)

+27 83 413 6358 (Dr Owen Kaluwa, WHO Representative)

+27 82 978 7847 (Mr Francis Gamba, Operations Officer)

+27 83 260 6100 (Dikeledi Setumo, Programme Assistant)

+27 79 884 2843 (Mr Philemon Nyangi) WHO Nurse

+27 64 756 9735 (Mr Jose Sambo) Protocol focal point

SECURITY

A security briefing will be conducted during the first day of the meeting. Cape Town UNDSS focal person is Sunesh Indhur and he can be contacted on sunesh.indhur@un.org +27 83 283 9025. The emergency police number is 10111.

SECURITY TIPS FOR SOUTH AFRICA

At the accommodation

- * Do not leave your luggage unattended unless it is locked away in your room.
- * Store valuables in the safe deposit box.
- * Keep your room locked at all times.
- * If someone knocks, check who it is before opening the door.
- * Use the chain or loop, even better get a rubber doorstop.
- * DO NOT enter your room if you find your door unlocked. Go back to the reception and inform them.
- * DO NOT leave the sign "Please clear the room" on your door when you go out.
- * While you go out in the evening leave the sign "Do not disturb" on your door.
- * Make sure that luggage is only given to the hotel's bell staff and a receipt is issued for stored luggage.

In the street

- ✳ Plan your route beforehand.
- ✳ Don't stop people to ask for directions or check your map on the street.
- ✳ Try not to look like a tourist by making obvious that it is your first time in the area.
- ✳ It is better to explore in groups and stick to well-lit busy streets.
- ✳ Avoid drawing attention to you by wearing lots of jewellery and showy displays of cameras and other valuables.
- ✳ Carry just as much money as you require for the day.
- ✳ Keep your handbag and cellular phone with you and do not leave them unattended.
- ✳ Always keep an eye on what's going on around you.
- ✳ If you think someone is following you get yourself to the nearest public place as quickly as possible.
- ✳ Avoid going out unnecessarily after hours.
- ✳ If you want to call a taxi, your hotel or the nearest tourism info office can recommend a reliable service.
- ✳ A policeman or a traffic officer will be glad to direct you if you get lost.

At the ATM

- ✳ If possible, use ATMs you are familiar with or choose well-lit, well-situated ATMs, like outside banks where there normally is a guard.
- ✳ Scan the area before you approach the ATM and avoid using an ATM if there are suspicious-looking people around or if it is isolated or looks unsafe in any way.
- ✳ Avoid opening your purse, bag or wallet while in the ATM queue. Have your card in your hand or pocket before you approach the ATM.
- ✳ If the ATM appears to have attachments to the card slot keypad, use another ATM and inform the bank.
- ✳ Insert the card and press CANCEL, retrieve the card and start again. If the card doesn't come out DON'T insert your PIN.
- ✳ Do not accept help from strangers and never give your PIN to anyone (even people claiming to be bank employees or security guards. Criminals work in teams - one to distract you, while the other steals your card and money.

- ✳ Be on the lookout for "shoulder surfing" - people standing close behind you to watch you enter your PIN.
- ✳ Do not key in your PIN until the ATM prompts you to do so.
- ✳ If you feel the ATM is not working as it should, press cancel, withdraw your card and go to another ATM. Report the matter to the bank.
- ✳ Finally, do not forget to take your receipt or transaction records with you to protect information of your account.

On the Road

- ✳ Plan your route in advance
- ✳ Keep the doors locked at all times and wind the windows up.
- ✳ Do not leave your cellular phone or other devices where it is visible from outside the car.
- ✳ Lock your valuables inside the boot (trunk) before your departure.
- ✳ Do not ask strangers to take you a group picture no matter how friendly they seem.
- ✳ At night, park in well-lit areas.
- ✳ Do not pick up hitchhikers.
- ✳ If in doubt about the safety of an area, phone a police station for advice.
- ✳ Practice the same prevention skills you do in parking lots or garages at home.
- ✳ Become familiar with your route before you start the trip. Get a map of the route and study it.
- ✳ Make sure your car is in a good working order. Learn how all the windows, door locks and other equipment work before you leave. Keep your maps concealed, not lying on the seat or the dashboard where others can see them. Keep car doors locked and windows up while you are driving. When parking your vehicle ensure that it is locked by pulling the door handle after it was locked by the remote control.
- ✳ If your car is bumped by another car, think before you get out. If you are in doubt or feel uncomfortable, signal to the other driver to follow you to a nearby police station or a busy, well-lighted area where it is safe to get out.
- ✳ If you see accidents don't stop, call the police.

Cape Town

- * There is no specific area to avoid in Cape Town

Areas to avoid in Pretoria, especially after dark:

- * The CBD
- * Sunnyside

▲ Townships:

- * Mamelodi
- * Atteridgeville

Any informal settlement (characterized by dwellings/shacks fabricated by corrugated metal, plastic, wood etc) – found on their own or on the periphery of townships

Areas to avoid in Johannesburg, especially after dark:

- * The old CBD
- * Braamfontein
- * Hillbrow
- * Yeoville
- * Bezuidenhout Valley
- * Jeppe

▲ Townships:

- * Soweto
- * Alexandra
- * Katlehong
- * Vosloorus
- * Tokoza
- * Tembisa
- * Diepsloot

Any informal settlement (characterized by dwellings/shacks fabricated by corrugated metal, plastic, wood etc) – found on their own or on the periphery of townships.



Emergency Contacts, UNDSS South Africa:

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Police 10111
Ambulance 10177
Cellphone emergencies services 112