

## RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING THE TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF FLIGHTS FROM THE UNITED KINGDOM TO COLOMBIA

The Colombian Consulate General in London informs you that, based on the provisions of the Colombian Ministry of Health and Social Protection and Ministry of Transport, adopted through <u>Resolution 2452 of 21 of December 2020</u>, travellers from the United Kingdom will only be allowed to enter Colombia in the cases mentioned below and adopting the sanitary measures - preventive isolation and quarantine of fourteen (14) days - as follows:

- Colombian nationals, and foreign nationals with a permanent residence in Colombia, that is, holders of a resident visa and their beneficiaries in the country. These passengers must comply with the sanitary measures adopted by the Ministry of Health and Social Protection.
- Persons belonging to the diplomatic corps duly accredited in the country.
- The aircraft crew.

All travellers from abroad must have a Negative COVID-19 PCR test, taken no more than 96 hours before boarding. However, in accordance with <u>Resolution 002 of 4 of January 2021</u>, airlines must allow the boarding of passengers who do not have this test, when they verbally state that they had difficulties to take it or to obtain the result in the term required prior to the flight. The verbal manifestation of the passenger will be understood to be made under the gravity of oath.

In these cases, once entering the country, the traveller must inform the Colombian Migration officer of the chosen option:

- 1. Perform the PCR test in Colombia and keep the preventive isolation until the moment in which you obtain a negative result for COVID-19, or
- 2. Keep compulsory preventive isolation for fourteen (14) days or the term indicated by the health authority.
- The passenger may keep the quarantine in his/her place of residence or place of accommodation.
- The Secretary of Health of the place of arrival and/or destiny will oversee that the traveller keeps preventive isolation.
- The value of the PCR test and the costs derived from preventive isolation will be the traveller's responsibility.
- Verbal statements will be stored in the Colombian Migration system.
- \* See more information about the provisions for the <u>arrival of travellers from abroad</u> here.

## **General Recommendations:**

- The suspension of direct flights from the United Kingdom is a temporary measure and does not imply the closure of borders in Colombia.
- The Consulate is not competent authority to guarantee flight itineraries or provide information on availability of flights, validity of routes or rates given the current volatility and contingency.
- To find out a flight's specific situation, we suggest to visit or contact the airlines' websites directly, as this is the channel where you can see the latest updates on routes, policies and/or information on the operation of commercial flights. If you purchased your ticket through a travel agency, we recommend contacting them to validate travel alternatives back to the country. It is also recommended to contact the travel insurance company (if you have one) so they can give you the required guidance that applies to the current restrictions.
- The Consulate will continue to inform the Colombian Ministry of Foreign Affairs about the restrictions in progress, so that the immigration, health, and aeronautical authorities can review the global and national epidemiological evolution, to evaluate and require any authorisation for the operation of commercial flights.
- Due to the restrictions disclosed on January 4, 2021 by the governmental authority in the United Kingdom, and the establishment of a national lockdown in England to prevent the transmission of COVID-19, the Colombian Consulate in London will prioritise essential and emergency procedures, all requiring an appointment through the email <a href="mailto:clondres@cancilleria.gov.co">clondres@cancilleria.gov.co</a> more information on procedures and consular services please visit the current protocol in the <a href="mailto:consular Services">Consular Services</a> section.
- We recommend to review and check the websites of the <u>Colombian Ministry</u>
   <u>of Foreign Affairs</u> and <u>Migration Colombia</u> for updates and information on
   immigration and entry requirements to the country.

## Links of interest:

**Coronavirus Portal Colombia** - Ministry of Health and Social Protection - <a href="https://covid19.minsalud.gov.co/">https://covid19.minsalud.gov.co/</a> - Spanish

**Coronavirus UK Portal** - British Government GOV.UK - <a href="https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus">https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus</a> - English

Coronavirus Guide based on the National Health Service (NHS) in the United Kingdom - PDF in English PDF en español

IOM - International Organization for Migration Migrant Information Service

Portal - Online information and assistance in the UK: <a href="https://covid19uk.iom.int/">https://covid19uk.iom.int/</a> - available in Spanish and English

**Questions and Answers about Coronavirus Disease (COVID-19)** - World Health Organization - Website in English *Página web en inglés* 

**UK Vaccination Program** - Information on the NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Program - Easy-to-read guide in English

Resources on COVID-19 in different languages regarding topics such as health and wellness, employment and benefits, domestic violence, housing, among others - website in English with some resources in Spanish website in English with some resources in Spanish

**Doctors of the World website** - government information translated into 60 languages, available in Spanish government information translated into 60 languages, available in Spanish