Ethiopia Updates Travel Advisory
African Union COVID-19 Pass Now Required for Entry & Exit

The Ethiopian Government has updated the country's exit and entry requirements in view of the continued surge of COVID-19 cases in some parts of the world, and the need to strengthen health screening at Ethiopian borders for the long-term biosecurity of the country.

All travellers **exiting, entering or transiting** through Ethiopia to all destinations shall, from **June 7th, 2021**, be expected to present a **digital** negative COVID-19 certificates at all ports of entry based on the Africa Union's Trusted Travel guidelines (information available from: www.africacdc.org/trusted-travel) and the UNDP-sponsored Global Haven Program (www.globalhaven.org). Paper certificates shall cease to be acceptable and only AU Trusted Travel or Global Haven COVID-19 test certificates shall be allowed for exit, transit and entry purposes from **July 1st, 2021**.

The requirement for digital certificates has become necessary due to the alarming increase of fake health documents and rising incidents of forgery detected since the onset of the pandemic.

In an effort to address this gap, the Ministry of Health has collaborated with the African Union and Africa CDC, with technical support from the PanaBIOS Consortium (www.panabios.org), to implement an online system to authenticate and verify travelers' COVID-19 certificates in line with international rules and norms.

Travelers wishing to exit Ethiopia must first visit an authorized laboratory to take an RT PCR COVID-19 test and be issued with Trusted Travel (TT) codes that can be verified by airlines and Port Health authorities across the continent. The travelers will receive a text message (SMS) from PanaBIOS and in addition an email from the testing laboratory and/or from admin@panabios.org with a link activate their account on **trustedtravel.panabios.org** website. Travelers should endeavor to use the same email address they gave the Ethiopian laboratory when activating or registering an account on trustedtravel.panabios.org. Technical concerns may be directed to the dedicated support teams reachable via globalhaven@panabios.org.

In Ethiopia, all authorised RT PCR COVID-19 testing laboratories have already been registered on the African Union TT system.

Travelers entering or transiting Ethiopia from countries yet to onboard to the Trusted Travel Initiative should use the special uploader available through the UNDP-supported Global Haven partnership (www.globalhaven.org) for Covid-19 test results and vaccine certificates verification, which is available both on the **Globalhaven.org** website and the **trustedtravel.panabios.org** check-in pages.

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The AU Trusted Travel requirement applies to both categories of travellers: those traveling within Africa and those traveling from countries where there are labs integrated into the Trusted Travel system. The complementary Global Haven platform supports travellers coming from outside Africa into the continent from places where labs have not currently integrated into the Trusted Travel System. Travelers from such places will need to scan or take a picture of their test certificates and upload into the system for the machine learning algorithms to analyse the features and flag for further investigation if necessary or generate an instant Travel Code if no anomalies or concern is noticed. Therefore, all passengers traveling into Ethiopia are required to use either the Trusted Travel or Global Haven platform depending on their circumstances. **Uploading fake or prank documents can affect one's future travel prospects globally.**

All travelers departing, transiting or entering Ethiopia will thus have either a test result/certificate with a TT code from a TT-compliant laboratory anywhere in the world or a TC code generated by uploading their non-TT test result/certificate via trustedtravel.panabios.org or globalhaven.org. The process of enforcement shall commence on 7th June 2021 and the deadline for full compliance is set for July 1st, 2021. **After 1st July 2021, COVID-19 test certificates without an associated TT or TC code shall no longer be valid for exiting, transiting through, or entering Ethiopia.** Airlines have been instructed to pre-validate all test results and certificates used for travel purposes before boarding travelers bound for Ethiopia.

These new measures come at no extra cost to travelers and have been designed to impose no inconvenience. In fact, compliance should speed up and greatly streamline health screening measures at the airport.

We hereby enjoin all citizens and visitors to Ethiopia, as well as testing laboratories and airlines, to cooperate and comply with the enhanced digital measures for the safety of the people of Ethiopia, Africa, and the rest of the world.

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Minister