

Chile calls for responsible and well-informed tourism to prevent coronavirus infection

- Yesterday, the Ministry of Health published the disease spreading control measure, which indicates that every person coming to Chile from Italy and Spain shall go straight to 14-day quarantine due to a possible COVID-19 infection.

March 10th, 2020

Within the framework of the statement of Public Health Emergency of International Concern, declared by the World Health Organization (WHO), due to the sudden increase of coronavirus cases worldwide, The Chilean Tourism Authorities called for a responsible and well-informed tourism, always following the prevention measures established by the Chilean Ministry of Health.

The Ministry of Health authorities informed that today, there are already confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the country. All those patients are in general good health conditions and under epidemiological surveillance in their respective homes.

Local authorities emphasized that Chile has the proper institutionalality in terms of health, and that work is currently focused on the disease's spreading control.

Tourism and Health authorities are conducting coordinated work in order to duly inform the tourism unions, tour operators and travelers coming from abroad, regarding the prevention measures being adopted to limit the outbreak's transmission risk.

Within this context, the Tourism authority reaffirmed the information provided by the Chilean Minister of Health, Jaime Mañalich, who said that as a means of spreading control of this disease, everyone who comes to Chile from Italy and Spain must go straight to a 14-day quarantine period, due to a possible COVID-19 infection.

The Health Minister explained that travelers coming into the country from the countries established in the measure must "remain home for a 14-day surveillance period, and they will receive, according to the Ministry of Labor's newsletter, the necessary medical leaves to go back to work later."

It is important to mention that due to the fast evolution of this epidemic worldwide, all the prevention and control measures adopted by the health authorities are assessed and updated periodically.

Therefore, we request the local tourism industry as well as travelers coming to Chile, to get informed through the official channels available at the Ministry of Health website (www.minsal.cl). For telephone inquiries in Chile, the *Salud Responde* service has been made available, which can be contacted at 6003607777.

Recommendations for Tourists

The Subsecretaría de Turismo [Tourism Undersecretariat] and Sernatur [National Tourism Service] said that it is essential to follow the recommendations specified by the Ministry of Health in line with the World Health Organization's recommendations:

- Hand hygiene: frequent wash with water and soap, or alcohol-based hand rub.

- Cover your mouth and nose with a disposable tissue or with your elbow bent when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of the used tissue in a covered garbage can.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Maintain at least 1 meter (3 feet) distance between yourself and anyone who has respiratory symptoms (fever, coughing, sneezing).
- Keep surfaces clean and disinfected.
- The use of facemasks is only recommended for people with symptoms and not for healthy people.

CLARIFICATIONS – March 11th

Validity of these measures: No publication in the Official Journal is required, therefore, its application is immediate. That is to say, as of March 10th, 2020. It is valid for all passengers, even when they have started their trip without being informed.

Passengers affected by the measures: Every person arriving in Chile, coming from Spain or Italy, irrespective of having been there before coming to Chile. That is to say, if they were in Italy or Spain then went to Brazil for 5 days and finally arrived in Chile, they must stay the remaining (9) days isolated. If they come directly from Spain or Italy, they must remain isolated for 14 days.

Passengers coming from Spain and Italy with international connection flights in Santiago: Those passengers do not enter Chile and are therefore not subject to the Affidavit requirement about their health conditions, or to isolation. However, the MINSAL can apply the form as record, but without affecting their connection with other flights.

Isolation place: They must stay in private homes, either their own or at relatives', or other accommodations such as a hotel, reporting the address to the Health Authority. In that case, the cost must be paid by each visitor. The room must be ideally a single room, with a private bathroom and good ventilation conditions, according to the MINSAL [Health Ministry] instructions.

Need to comply with isolation in Chile: Passengers MUST NOT comply with 14-day isolation in Chile. This is why tourists entering the country for less than 14 days can decide whether to comply with isolation in Chile or going back to their country. The same applies for crews. Passengers as well as crews that need to leave Chile during their isolation period, when going from/to the hotel/airport, must comply with the protocols provided by the Health Authority when entering the country.

Passengers in connection flights in Spain or Italy: Only those passengers who entered Spain or Italy must comply with home isolation. If they only took a connection flight in Spain or Italy, they would not have to remain isolated. For that purpose, the passenger's Affidavit statement is taken into consideration.

Thank you for your kind reception and we will keep you informed as this information is updated.