

PUBLIC NOTICE - Updated COVID-19 Guidelines for Tourism, Hospitality & MICE Industry

Following the cabinet resolutions of 13 October 2021 on measures to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Rwanda Development Board (RDB) would like to update the public on the following guidelines for tourism, hospitality, entertainment, recreation, Meetings, Incentives, Conferences & Exhibitions (MICE) to be observed from 14 October to 14 November 2021:

1. Safe Social gatherings including concerts, festivals, exhibitions shall continue under the following measures:
 - a. All participants (including organizers and service providers) must present a valid vaccination certificate and a negative Real Time Polymerase Chain Reaction (RT-PCR) or Rapid Antigen COVID -19 test taken within 72 hours prior to the event.
 - b. All events shall be held at 50% venue capacity in approved venues.
 - c. All participants must adhere to 1-meter physical distance and wear mask properly all times during the event.
 - d. All event planners must request permission for events including concerts, festivals, exhibitions at least 10 days prior by emailing the Rwanda Convention Bureau at info@rcb.rw.
2. Live performances are permitted at designated event venues and hospitality establishments. Performers must ensure that they are vaccinated, and present valid negative RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test results taken within the last 72 hours and ensure 1-meter physical distancing. Clients attending live performances must present valid negative RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test results taken within the last 72 hours, ensure social distancing and wear masks at all times.
3. Physical conferences and meetings will continue at 50% of the venue capacity. All participants must present a valid negative RT-PCR or Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours.
4. Hotels, restaurants, cafes and recreation centers may serve clients at 50% capacity indoors and at 75% capacity outdoors (in open spaces). Clients are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated and regularly tested for COVID-19.
5. All hotels, restaurants, cafés, bars, and other accommodation establishments as well as entertainment venues and recreation centers are required to ensure their staff are fully vaccinated and tested for COVID-19 every 14 days.

6. Bars will continue to gradually open and observe guidelines issued jointly by the Ministry of Trade & Industry and Rwanda Development Board on 21 September 2021.
7. Night clubs shall reopen gradually in a phased approach and will operate at 30% capacity. Clients are required to be fully vaccinated and have a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours.
8. Night clubs shall submit an application for re-opening to RDB via email tourism.regulations@rdb.rw for official authorization to re-open:
 - a. Decisions on the applications for re-opening shall be made by RDB within a period not exceeding seven (7) days.
 - b. Approved night clubs shall operate within the permitted business operating hours and shall ensure their staff are fully vaccinated and tested for COVID-19 every 14 days.
 - c. ONLY Night Clubs with approval from RDB will re-open in the first phase. During that period, RBC shall conduct regular onsite testing to inform safe reopening of the next phases.
9. Tourists, including children older than 5 years, visiting the country's national parks will be required to present a negative COVID-19 test result taken within 72 hours. A RT-PCR test is required for all primate visits to Volcanoes, Nyungwe, Gishwati-Mukura National parks while a negative Rapid Antigen COVID-19 test result is accepted for all other activities in the above National parks and for Akagera National Park.
10. Hotels and restaurants are encouraged to continue providing on-site COVID-19 testing facilities for clients who may require the service. Rwanda Biomedical Centre will continue providing the required technical support.
11. All guests intending to stay in hotels and other accommodation establishments must provide valid negative COVID-19 test results taken within 72 hours.
12. Sauna, massage parlors and swimming pools are allowed to open for clients who have a negative COVID-19 test taken within 72 hours and who are fully vaccinated (except for persons under 18 years of age). Staff of these establishments must be fully vaccinated and tested for COVID-19 every 14 days.
13. Owners of tourism, hospitality, Entertainment & Recreation and MICE establishments are responsible for monitoring and compliance of these guidelines.

14. Fines and penalties will be issued to non-complying establishments by local government authorities as set by respective Districts or City of Kigali Councils.

RDB reminds the public to adhere to the health and safety directives issued by the Ministry of Health to curb the spread of COVID-19.

Done at Kigali, **14th October 2021**

Signed on behalf of Clare Akamanzi, Chief Executive Officer, Rwanda Development Board.

Zephanie Niyonkuru

Deputy Chief Executive Officer