

# Protocol isolation visitor with COVID-19 Aruba

<b>Name document</b>	Protocol isolation of a Visitor with COVID-19 Aruba
<b>Prepared by</b>	Department of Public Health
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<b>Target group</b>	Visitors (non- residents)

## Definitions

- Isolation: This is applied to a person with COVID-19 where a stay in isolation has been indicated or designated.
- Quarantine: This is applied to a person who has been in close contact with a person who has tested positive for COVID-19.
- Visitor: Person who is a non-resident and is staying in an accommodation in Aruba.
- Accommodation: all establishments that accommodate visitors (hotel, apartments, condos, vacation rental etc.)
- Isolation period: a minimum period of isolation determined by the Department of Public Health together with MedCare Clinic, based on disease severity in combination with being >24hrs without symptoms.

## Preface

The nature of highly contagious infectious diseases such as COVID-19 justifies extreme measures to contain its spread by imposing measures on individuals such as forced quarantine and forced isolation when deemed necessary. Pursuant to the State Ordinance on Calamities (Calamiteitenverordening AB 1989 no. 51) the Covid-19 pandemic has been declared a disaster under which the Minister President can implement ministerial decrees with specific instructions as to isolation and quarantine for Covid-19. The Covid-19 pandemic qualifies as a special circumstance pursuant to Article 5 of the General Police Act (Algemene Politieverordening AB 1995 no. GT 8). On Aruba, isolation instruction is given to everyone with laboratory-confirmed case of covid-19, including visitors.

Isolation of a visitor with laboratory-confirmed case of COVID-19 can occur in the following scenarios:

- Visitors PCR tests conducted upon arrival results in a positive test result;
- Visitor develops symptoms related to COVID-19 and tests positive during their stay on Aruba;
- Visitors tests conducted prior to departure from Aruba (outbound test) results in a positive test result.

Please note: those who test positive through an antigen test and do NOT display any symptoms and were NOT in contact with a positive case, need to conduct a confirmatory PCR<sup>1</sup> before the entire process comes into effect. Those who have symptoms or have had contact with a positive case of Covid-19, no confirmatory PCR test is required.

This document establishes the provisions and procedures to be followed by visitors throughout the isolation period. This is with the aim to prevent further spread of the disease and guarantee the protection of traveling family members or companions, locals and health workers. Non-compliance shall result in a fine up to 10.000 Aruban guilders.

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<sup>1</sup> Covered by the Aruba Visitors Insurance.

## Protocol

Visitors testing positive for Covid-19 through PCR testing on Aruba will be relocated to a designated isolation accommodation (if available), which is covered by the Aruba Visitor Insurance<sup>2</sup>. Exceptions are allowed in cases where the visitor who tested positive is staying at an Airbnb apartment provided that the owner of the accommodation gives permission/approval for the visitor to stay in isolation at the accommodation in question. In case that isolation accommodations are not available, the positive cases might be allowed to stay at their host accommodation with the permission of the accommodations provider and only based on availability until relocation can take place.

As a person with a laboratory-confirmed case of Covid-19, you will receive an email from the Department of Public Health of Aruba (DPH) in order to:

- 1) formally inform you of your obligation to remain in isolation until declared recovered by MedCare Clinic;
- 2) collect additional information from you.

Thus, we kindly ask you to monitor your email inbox, including the Junk/Spam folder, very closely. For those who tested positive through PCR test and do not have an email, or have not received an email from the DPH, we kindly request you to fill out the following form: [intake form visitors](#).

If for whatever reason, one has difficulties filling out this form, they can contact the DPH on 280-0505.

The information provided through this form will be used by MedCare Clinic (in charge of medical follow-up and release isolation) and the private concierge (to arrange the logistics pertaining to possible relocation). In the meantime, we kindly request you to remain in your room and instruct your contacts (family members and/or travel companions) to do the same.

- ✓ You must remain in isolation until released by MedCare Clinic. The length of isolation depends on the presence of symptoms. The minimum isolation period is 5 days starting from positive test (test date). This also applies to those who tested weakly positive.
- ✓ Your close contacts (room, apartment or travel companions) must remain in mandatory quarantine for 5 days starting from the last contact with you
- ✓ In case you tested positive as a requirement to enter back to your home country, your close contacts can depart (room, apartment and travel companions) if they can show a negative test result
- ✓ Compliance to the isolation rules set forth in the Ministerial Decree will be monitored by the authorities in question (DPH and the Police Department); non-compliance is a criminal offence and will result in penalties including but not limited to a fine up to Awg.10.000,.

In the case of relocation, this will take place as follows:

- You will be relocated to one of the designated isolation locations (if available see above) until you are declared recovered/released by the designated health care provider assigned to you (MedCare Clinic).
- Your close contacts (room, apartment or travel companions) will be relocated together with you and will have to remain in quarantine for 5 days after last contact with you.
- After re-location (if applicable), the private concierge will inform the DPH on your new isolation location.

The insurance company will be informed about your positive test result for coverage purposes.

### **Medical follow-up during isolation period**

- Medical follow-up will take place by a designated health care provider (MedCare Clinic).
- Based on the information provided through the digital form, MedCare Clinic will determine when you will be discharged/released from isolation as per protocol.

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<sup>2</sup> All visitors should have purchased the Aruba Visitor Insurance through the online ED Card platform prior to entering Aruba.

- If during this period you develop warning signs such as difficulty breathing, persistent pain or pressure in the chest, confusion, bluish discoloration of the skin (resulting from poor circulation or inadequate oxygenation of the blood), among others, you can contact MedCare Clinic via +297 6994299, preferably via WhatsApp.
- When you are discharged/released from isolation, you will receive a letter from your designated health care provider (MedCare Clinic) stating the completion of your isolation period, known as a “Fit to Fly” letter.
- If you haven’t received your ‘fit-to-fly’ letter at 7pm the night before you have to fly back home, you can contact MedCare Clinic at +297 6994299 (8:30 AM-8:00 PM) or via email at [md@medcare.aw](mailto:md@medcare.aw).

### **Rules applicable during your isolation period**

- The patient stays at the designated or host accommodation for the duration of the isolation period and does not leave it. Staying in your own garden or balcony is allowed provided that this is not shared with others.
- Your close contacts may not leave the house or room either and must remain in quarantine.
- People who do not live there may not come to the house where the patient is staying (except the Public Health Department, general practitioner and/or the private concierge).
- Good hygiene and use of medical mouth mask is very important.
- Limit physical contact and presence in the same room with others (your close contacts who are in quarantine) and keep the number of spaces that you use to a minimum.
  - Stay/sleep in a separate room.
  - Use a separate bathroom and toilet if possible.
  - If certain rooms are shared (e.g. kitchen or bathroom), they must be well-ventilated and cleaned on a regular basis (preferable after each use).
  - Try to keep contact with housemates to a minimum, this includes hugging or kissing and sexual contact.
  - Do not share eating and drinking utensils, towels or other items in the house.
  - If you should nevertheless be in contact or be present in the same room with others, you should keep as much distance as possible (at least 1.5 meters) and the both of you should wear a medical mouth mask. After placing the mask, the mask should no longer be touched. If the mask becomes dirty, it must be replaced. After use, the mask is thrown into a waste bag and immediate hand hygiene is applied.
- Housemates should use disposable gloves when handling laundry, dishes or waste and all other materials with which the positive case has come into contact. Immediately after, a complete hand hygiene should be carried out, with soap and water, for at least 20 seconds.
- Laundry that has been in contact with the positive case or in the immediate vicinity should be washed at a minimum of 60 ° C with a full wash program and normal detergent. Let the laundry dry well in a tumble dryer or on the clothesline in the sun if possible.
- Dishes used by the positive case should be washed separately with standard detergent and hot water, or in the dishwasher on an extended washing program.
- Discard any waste that has come into contact with the positive case in a separate waste bag in the patient's room. Wear gloves when removing the waste bag and dispose of it with the rest of the household waste.
- Clean and disinfect surfaces that are frequently touched by the patient, such as bedside tables and bedroom furniture, door handles and light switches, as well as all sanitary ware, such as bathroom, toilet, and toilet flush handles, on a daily basis. Rooms that are shared should be cleaned preferably after each use. Use a household disinfectant solution (household bleach) for cleaning. Other disinfectants and house cleaners as quaternary ammonium, ethanol are effective too. Always use disposable gloves when cleaning and apply hand hygiene after cleaning.