

## COVID TESTING AND OFFICIAL CERTIFICATES FOR THE RIVER CLUB GUESTS BEFORE DEPARTURE

Many visitors will require a fresh COVID-Negative Certificate in order to journey onward. The information below is intended to reassure The River Club guests that this is available in Livingstone and Zambia in general, and that the lodge will facilitate the process of swabbing, testing and certificate collection for The River Club guests.

The process used is a nose / throat swab that detects genetic material of the SARS-CoV-2 virus using a lab technique called Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR). It is also referred to as a Molecular Test. NOTE: Guest stay itineraries need to be divulged in full to The River Club team early in the reservation proceedings in order for us to determine when during the stay, the optimum date will be for a swabbing appointment to be made, taking into account certificate collection as well.

### Only for The River Club Guests – IN LIVINGSTONE - Swabbing / Testing swabs / Certificate Collection

#### 1. GOVERNMENT PROCEDURE

The Government system works well as long as the correct procedure is followed. Payment is made by guests at the lodge.

- Arrangements have to be made in advance in good time
  - The River Club makes an appointment for swabbing in good time in advance.
  - The River Club then arranges payment to the Livingstone General Hospital bank account before the day of the swabbing appointment because proof of payment has to be shown before swabs will be taken.
  - Swabbing is done only in the morning Mondays to Saturdays between 08h30 and 12h30 and that morning's swabs are sent to the lab as a batch.
  - Swabbing is done usually at the District Health Office in Livingstone or, failing that, the Livingstone General Hospital.
- The PCR test itself is carried out at Livingstone General Hospital lab.
  - **Important to note:** only if the COVID Task Team Mobile Unit is available on the appropriate date (and time), and if there is a sufficient number of guests requiring swabbing at the same time to justify a trip, pre-arrangements can be made for the team to travel to the lodge.
- Results take from 24 to 48-hours.
- When time is short, if the Livingstone COVID Task Team is available, pre-arrangements can be made for swabbing on arrival at Livingstone Airport or Victoria Falls Border Post.
  - If not, guests will need to go direct from the airport to either the District Health office or the General Hospital for swabbing.
- Either way, a firm appointment has to be made in advance and payment made before the swabbing date.
- Short weekend visits need careful pre-arrangement or results and certificates will not be out in time.
- The District Health Office issues a SARS-CoV-2 Medical Certificate for International Travel.
- The River Club will collect this on behalf of guests (passports will need to be provided).
- The River Club uses the Government system whenever possible

COST USD 75 per test - Includes all logistics required within Livingstone

#### 2. PRIVATE PROCEDURE

Swabbing is carried out by certain Doctors in private practice and the Speciality Emergency Services Clinic

- The River Club will make an appointment for swabbing and pay the relevant service provider in advance.
- At present, appointments can only be made Monday to Friday 09h00 – 14h00.
- The swabs are couriered to Lusaka.
  - \*Courier service timing is important because the service only runs Mondays to Fridays.
- The PCR test is carried out at CIDRZ (Centre for Infections Disease Research in Zambia Ltd).
- Results are e-mailed or sent by text to the clinic or The River Club.
- A SARS-CoV-2 Medical Certificate for International Travel is issued in Livingstone by the District Health Office, or in Lusaka by the UTH (University Teaching Hospital) – the preference should be specified when the swabs are taken
- If certificates are to be issued in Livingstone, The River Club will collect on behalf of guests (passports will need to be provided).

COST USD 200 per ROUTINE test (48-hours) / COST USD 225 per EXPRESS test (24-hours)

Includes all logistics required within Livingstone - payment is due by the guest at the lodge

### TESTING IN LUSAKA – to be arranged by guests themselves

- If you need a COVID test in Lusaka prior to departure, there is a fast-track COVID-testing centre set up for leisure travellers in a private medical clinic overseen by the same organization that handles other infectious disease research in country.
- Use this link: <https://cidrz.timetap.com> put in a few personal details, select the date and time you would like an appointment, and you're confirmed.
  - COST USD 150 for 24-hour turnaround – pre-payment by EFT only
  - COST USD 100 for 48-hour turnaround – pre-payment by EFT only

### CAUTION - COVID-TESTING RATES

Please note all rates quoted for COVID swabbing, testing and certification are subject to change without notice.

#### THE LODGE DIRECT CONTACT DETAILS

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