

## COVID TESTING & OFFICIAL CERTIFICATES

### FOR USE ON DEPARTURE – AVAILABLE ONLY FOR THE RIVER CLUB GUESTS

As more experience is gained taking guests through the COVID re-testing for departure process, we have learnt how the medical side of the public and private sectors work, and therefore how to extract the optimum from both.

As the world of travel stands now, many visitors require a fresh COVID-Negative Certificate in order to leave Zambia. The information below is intended to reassure The River Club guests this is available in Livingstone and Zambia in general, and that the lodge will facilitate the process of swabbing, testing and certificate collection in Livingstone 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.

#### TESTING CHILDREN

- Children under the age of 5 do not require COVID-negative certificates to enter Zambia.
- Children from the age of 5 upwards requiring COVID-negative certificates to depart can be tested in Zambia.
- NOTE: Guest stay itineraries need to be disclosed in full early in the reservation process so The River Club Operations team at the lodge can assess in advance which day and timing is best to do the swabs.
- Turn-around lab-testing-time is taken into account in each case in order to ensure certificate collection is possible in stress-free time before departure.
- While the private system works on any day of the week, arrival and departure info will determine if the public health system will work as an alternative

#### PROCEDURE IN LIVINGSTONE – i. Swab | ii. Lab Test | iii. Results | i.v. Certificate Issue and Collection

The River Club Operations team at the lodge will let you know in each case, which will be the most efficient system to use and will take care of all logistics required.

#### SWABBING & TESTING - PUBLIC DISTRICT HEALTH SERVICES

- Works well as long as correct procedure is followed
  - Swabbing available only on **Monday to Friday mornings**
  - If swabbing is needed in the afternoon or over a weekend, private medical practice is the only option.
- Arrangements need to be made in advance in good time
  - The River Club arranges pre-payment and a receipt is obtained before swabs are taken.
  - It is not possible to pay at point of swabbing.
- The Swabbing and Testing Process
  - Swabbing is done at the District Health Office in the mornings between 08h30 and 12h30
  - Each morning's batch of swabs is sent to the General Hospital lab for PCR testing that afternoon/night.
- Results delivery
  - Results generally take 24-hours but delays can result when the PCR machine has to be stopped for routine maintenance.
  - Next morning, results are taken as hard copies from the lab to the District Health Office in Livingstone CBD.
- Certificate Issue
  - The District Health Office issues a SARS-CoV-2 Medical Certificate for International Travel.
  - Passport copies are required in order to save guests the often long wait for certificate issue.
  - A member of The River Club Ops Team waits for certificate issue and collects from the DHO on behalf of guests.

**Cost** USD 85 per test - Includes all logistics required within Livingstone - Pay Master or Visa Card or US Cash at the lodge

#### SWABBING & TESTING – PRIVATE MEDICAL PRACTICE – approved by the Africa CDC

The necessity to use a private medical practice arises when guests have no choice but to be swabbed in the afternoon or over a weekend. Otherwise using a private medical practice is entirely up to guests.

- Payment arrangements
  - The River Club facilitates pre-payment in most cases as this is much easier for guests. See costs below.
- Timing is flexible
  - Swab any day of the week morning or afternoon
  - A private lab runs the test
  - Swabs taken in the morning, results are ready later that afternoon or evening.
  - Swabs taken in the afternoon, results are ready next morning.
  - Passport copies are required at the outset of the process.
- Africa CDC Trusted Travel Online Portal
  - Certificates for travel are issued using the PanaBIOS online system. Many guests may already be on this system. If not each guest needs to register as a user on this link <https://africacdc.org/trusted-travel/>.
  - The private medical practice needs your user name and ID in order to access the site to upload your certificate.
  - You can send it to your own mail address for easy access as you travel and you can also e-mail it to [theooffice@theriverclubzambia.com](mailto:theooffice@theriverclubzambia.com) if you need to print it.

**Cost** USD 130 per test – Pay at the lodge using a Master or Visa Card or US Cash – Lodge Ops facilitates all

**OR** USD 120 per test – Pay the Medical Practice direct in USD CASH – credit cards are not accepted

**Plus** USD 10 per test – in addition, Guest pays The River Club for Lodge Operations to facilitate all logistics required

**@ Lodge** USD 120 per test – call-out fee for medical practice to swab privately at the lodge – guest pays Swabber in USD Cash

**@ Lodge** USD 130 per test – call-out fee Lodge pays Swabber cash – Guests pay Master or Visa Card at the lodge or in advance

**NOTE:** USD CASH NOTES must look clean and not be minted prior to 2017 or they will not be accepted

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

If you need a COVID test in Lusaka prior to departure, there are various COVID-testing facilities for leisure travellers.

- Use this link: <https://cidrz.timetap.com> to make an appointment with the Centre for Disease Research in Zambia.
  - COST USD 150 for 24-hour turnaround | COST USD 100 for 48-hour turnaround | pre-payment in both cases by EFT only

#### CAUTION - COVID-TESTING RATES

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