



FLOCK TO MARION NEWSLETTER NO. 15. 01 FEBRUARY 2022

Dear Flock to Marion Passengers,

Welcome back to dry land! Wow, what a week. Just a few days ago we were watching Wandering (and need I say it, Tristan) Albatrosses, along with countless other seabirds, caressing the swells of the Southern Ocean from our vantage point aboard the beautiful MSC Orchestra.

As mentioned on our final night in the Covent Garden Theatre, there were many dedicated people behind the success that was Flock to Marion, but I want to express our thanks again to you: our passengers. Thank you for believing in our very ambitious dream from the beginning, and, in particular, for keeping your positivity, belief and encouragement right up until the moment when Captain Pinto started up the engines, we waved Cape Town goodbye, and set sail for the relatively uncharted waters of the Prince Edward Islands. All of this despite the uncertainty of a global pandemic!

On that note, we were not made aware of any passengers who tested positive for COVID-19 during the voyage; however, unfortunately some of the Flock to Marion guides and passengers have tested positive after disembarkation. This despite MSC's industry-leading safety protocols and every effort to mitigate COVID-19, such as the requirements of vaccination certificates, 48-hour PCR testing and pre-embarkation antigen testing. We understand that no one is displaying serious symptoms and we wish those who have been affected a speedy recovery. We advise anyone who is feeling poorly to have a COVID-19 test and to seek advice on medication from their doctor or pharmacy.

For your info, below is a statement released by the Presidency last night.

All the best,

Mark



Mark D. Anderson
Chief Executive Officer
BirdLife South Africa

A special Cabinet meeting held today, 31 January 2022, has approved changes to the Adjusted Alert Level 1 COVID-19 regulations. This follows meetings of the National Coronavirus Command Council (NCCC) and the President's Coordinating Council (PCC) which received updates on the management of COVID-19 in South Africa.

The information gathered through the system used by the Department of Health has reported that South Africa has exited the fourth wave nationally.

Based on the trajectory of the pandemic and the levels of vaccination in the country, Cabinet has decided to make the following changes to Adjusted Alert Level 1 with immediate effect:

- Those who test positive with no symptoms do not have to isolate.
- If you test positive with symptoms, the isolation period has been reduced from 10 to 7 days.
- Contacts do not have to isolate unless they develop symptoms.

The rationale for these amendments is informed by the proportion of people with immunity to COVID-19 which has risen substantially, exceeding 60-80% in several sero-surveys.

Cabinet also reviewed the resumption of schooling to full-time learning in all schools. Primary, secondary and special schools will return to daily attendance. The regulatory provision for social distancing of 1 meter for learners in schools has also been removed.

The Ministers of Health and Basic Education will in the coming days issue directives reflecting on this new approach.

Government commends all South Africans who continue to observe COVID-19 regulations and protocols. We also remind those who are yet to get vaccinated to go for their COVID-19 vaccination and continue observing basic health protocols to prevent the transmission of the virus.

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ISSUED BY THE MINISTER IN THE PRESIDENCY OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, MR
MONDLI GUNGUBELE (MP)

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