

Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries
Theme: *Ashgabat Process: Financing for Better Connectivity*

Awasa, Turkmenistan

15 – 16 August 2022

COVID-19 Protocol

Developed by the United Nations and the Government of Turkmenistan

5 August 2022

The United Nations and the Government of Turkmenistan are pleased to welcome all registered participants to the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries that will take place from 15-16 August 2022 in Awasa.

The Conference will take place as safely as possible, taking into account the COVID-19 global pandemic. Protecting the health and safety of conference participants and the local community, while at the same time enabling an effective, inclusive, and safe Conference, is of utmost importance. Everyone participating has an important role to play in keeping us safe.

To this end, all registered participants attending the Conference, and other meetings in context of the Conference (hereinafter referred to as “the participants”), must adhere to the Conference COVID

1. BEFORE TRAVELING TO TURKMENBASHI

All Conference registered participants not already present in Turkmenistan and wishing to travel to Turkmenistan for purposes of attending the Ministerial Transport Conference of Landlocked Developing Countries **are required to be vaccinated against COVID-19 before entering the country. The following COVID vaccines are recognized by the Government of Turkmenistan:**

List of vaccines recognized by the Government of Turkmenistan: Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna, AstraZeneca, Chinopharma, Sinovac, Sputnik Light, Sputnik v, EpiVacCorona.

In order to be admitted in the country, all participants will need to show a certificate confirming that they have been fully vaccinated against COVID-19 with two doses of the vaccine (not limited to above listed). **In order to be recognized as valid, the first dose of the vaccine will need to have been administered at least 42 days before entering the country.**

In the case where a participant has not been fully vaccinated against COVID:

A medical note justifying the reasons why that participant is exempted from taking the vaccines will have to be provided.

For participants that have not been fully vaccinated against COVID and had COVID in the past few weeks, a certificate confirming the presence of antibodies to COVID-19 (IgM, IgG) will also have to be provided.

In addition to being fully vaccinated against COVID-19, all participants will need to show the results of a **PCR test taken within 48 hours before arrival in Turkmenistan** (exceptions will be made in case that the 48 hours have elapsed during the flight into Turkmenistan). A PCR test taken 48 prior to boarding the Turkish Airlines flight from Istanbul to Turkmenbashi will also be accepted. Participants are therefore requested to be tested on time before departing their country.

At the Istanbul Airport:

If, for some reason, a participant cannot obtain the result of his/her PCR test within the 48 hours specified above, he/she can decide to be tested for COVID at the Istanbul International Airport (IST), while waiting for the connecting flight to Turkmenbashi.

The Airport hosts the Istanbul Airport Test Center, which is open 24 hours a day and seven days a week, and does not require for an appointment. The testing center is in front of Entrance 14 in Arrivals Hall. The test fee is 250 TL or about \$35 for all ages. PCR test results can normally be obtained in approximately 60 minutes. Please consult the following webpage for more information: <https://www.istairport.com/en/announcements/istanbul-airport-test-center-is-at-your-service-24-7>

2. ARRIVAL AT THE TURKMENBASHI AIRPORT

Most participants will arrive from the charter flight reserved to Conference participants from Istanbul to Turkmenbashi International Airport on 13 August 2022. In addition to providing results of a PCR test taken within **48 hours before arrival in Turkmenistan**, the Turkmenistan Government requires all participants to be tested for COVID-19 upon arrival to Turkmenistan. The PCR testing will take place in Turkmenbashi International Airport and it will be administered by Turkmen medical services.

Participants will have to wait in the airport, in a designated VIP area, until the results are ready (approximately two hours wait). Once the results are ready, the participants will be transferred to their hotel.

In case any participant tests positive for COVID-19, this participant will be taken to a nearby medical service in Turkmenbashi to be assessed by a physician. If the participant has mild or no symptoms, the participant will be transferred to the hotel for isolation in his/her own room.

3. DURING THE STAY

Participants are required to respect the COVID-19 precautionary measures in effect in Turkmenistan during August 2022.

Participants are required to wear face masks in indoor public spaces and when using public transportation. Masks will not be required during catered gatherings or when addressing the Conference. Participants are also required to observe other precautionary measures that the organizers may indicate.

Turkmen medical services may require another test before departure. For the convenience of the participants, this additional PCR testing will take place at the hotel (date/time to be communicated). As a result of that procedure, the Turkmen Government will be able to provide a certificate confirming the presence or the absence of COVID-19.

If a participant tests positive for COVID-19, Turkmen medical services will determine whether the participant can isolate in his/her room (if symptoms are mild or absent) or if the participant needs to be referred to specialized medical facilities (only in cases where symptoms are very severe).

In case of a positive COVID-19 case among the participants of the Conference, costs related to quarantine and medical treatment will be met by the Government.

4. DEPARTURE FROM TURKMENBASHI

Most of the participants will depart Turkmenbashi on the charter flight leaving on 17 August at 00:25. The Government of Turkmenistan will not object to potential COVID-19 infected participants leaving the country, however, Turkmen medical services might require those participants to take additional measures, such as wearing personal protective equipment (PPE) (e.g. masks, gowns, gloves).