

PRESS RELEASE

The High Level Committee on COVID-19 is continuously monitoring all development regarding the Omicron (B.1.1.529) variant, categorised as a Variant of Concern by the World Health Organisation on 26 November 2021.

Preliminary scientific data shows that the variant has 32 mutations. Leading scientific research teams around the world are still assessing if the variant is more contagious or severe than previous ones.

Mauritius remains committed to ensure the health and wellness of its citizens, residents and visitors by constantly upgrading and adapting its protocols to the impending threat.

In light of latest available scientific data, the Republic of Mauritius has applied further arrival restrictions on flights arriving from South Africa to Mauritius with immediate effect.

It has therefore been decided that passengers arriving on flight MK852, from Johannesburg to Mauritius on Saturday 27 November will be subject to additional health screening.

In addition to PCR tests done at arrival in Mauritius, passengers will have to observe an in-room, hotel quarantine period of at least 7 days.

As of Sunday 28 November and until further notice, there will be **no incoming passengers on flights connecting South Africa to Mauritius**. Repatriation flights for Mauritian citizens, Resident and Occupational Permit Holders will be organised through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

While acknowledging the significant disruption which might result from such measures, the Ministry of Health and Wellness insists upon their utmost necessity to ensure the health and wellness of all.

27 November 2021

Ministry of Health and Wellness