

International Policies Will Facilitate the Entry of Tourists to Costa Rica

- **The amendment of Executive Decree No. 42513-MGP-S allows foreign medical insurance policies insofar as they cover treatment in the event of COVID-19 and lodging in the event of a quarantine order.**
- **A medical insurance policy is one of the three requirements that the Government of Costa Rica has established in order to regulate the entry of tourists into the country during the pandemic, along with a negative COVID-19 test and a completed digital form called the Health Pass.**
- **SUGESE has registered a second national insurance product for tourists.**
- **“As of today, there are a variety of options and prices which address the concerns of the tourism sector. This is very good news for the gradual reactivation of our industry,” said Gustavo Segura, the Minister of Tourism.**

Thursday, August 6, 2020 – The insurance requirement in order for foreign tourists to enter Costa Rica can be met through international health insurance policies, as well as the two local options.

This was established on Wednesday, through an amendment of Executive Decree No. 42513-MGP-S published in *La Gaceta*.

Tourists are now not only able to choose from the national products registered with the General Superintendent of Insurance (SUGESE) as of today (those offered by the National Insurance Institute and Sagicor) but also through the international options of their choice, insofar as they comply with three requirements: coverage of medical expenses that arise due to COVID-19, minimum medical expenses equivalent to in-patient hospitalization for such time as may be required, and coverage of 14 days of lodging expenses.

In the event that the insurance policy with international coverage fails to comply with any of these requirements, the tourists must obtain travel insurance offered by one of the insurance companies authorized by SUGESE.

- **“As of today, there are a variety of options and prices which address the concerns of the tourism sector, and our own concerns with regard to the cost schedules for international tourists who visit the country during the pandemic. This is very good news for the gradual reactivation of our industry,” said Gustavo Segura, the Minister of Tourism.**

The Costa Rica Tourism Institute (ICT) shall assume the task of verifying compliance with the minimum requirements set forth in the Executive Decree for policies with international coverage.

The verification shall be conducted electronically. While it is being implemented, personnel of the Institute will be at the airport to personally attend cases of tourists with international coverage. Tourists must request that the international insurance company issue a certificate, in English or Spanish, certifying three minimum conditions:

- a) Effectiveness of the policy during the visit to Costa Rica
- b) Guaranteed coverage of medical expenses in the event of becoming ill with the COVID-19 virus while in Costa Rica, for at least \$50,000 (fifty thousand United States Dollars)
- c) Includes minimum coverage of \$2,000 for extended lodging expenses due to the virus

This new information shall be disseminated to our embassies and consulates around the world, with the support of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic. The ICT will also rely on its public relations agencies in its primary markets. This information will also be available on the www.visitcostarica.com website. The medical insurance policy is one of the three requirements that the Government of the Republic has established in order to regulate the entry of tourists into the country during the pandemic. The other two, as has been stated, are:

- A negative COVID-19 test. The test sample must be taken within no more than 48 hours of when the passenger is to fly to Costa Rica.
- Fill out the digital form called the Health Pass. This form is available at <https://salud.go.cr>.

Costa Rican citizens, residents, pilots, and crew only need to fill out the Health Pass.

Further information on how to acquire the insurance can be obtained by visiting the following links:

National Insurance Company: <https://sevins.ins-cr.com/SIEL/VerArchivo.aspx?ID=9407>

<https://micrositios.ins-cr.com/seguroviajero/index-en.html>

Sagicor: https://www.sagicor.cr/seguro_para_turistas/