The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs – Protocol – presents its compliments to the diplomatic missions accredited in France, the international organizations headquartered or having an office in France, and the permanent delegations and representatives to these international organizations, and has the honour to inform them of the following:

In the context of the fight against the COVID-19 epidemic, the French authorities have taken new measures via decrees 2020-884 of 17 July 2020, 2020-911 of 27 July 2020 and 2020-944 of 30 July 2020 amending decree 2020-860 of 10 July 2020 stipulating the general measures required to address the COVID-19 epidemic in territories no longer in a health state of emergency and in those where it has been extended (annex 1). Protocol would in particular like to draw the attention of the diplomatic community to the following measures:

I – Restrictions on entering French territory

For travellers from areas in which the virus is circulating, such as those defined by the order of 10 July 2020 which may require regular updates (annex 2), the restrictions on entering French territory set out in note verbale no. 0220231 of 25 May 2020 remain in force and will result in denial of entry except in cases where international travel certificates are valid.

These certificates must be submitted prior to boarding. They are subject to updates and can be downloaded on the Minister of the Interior’s website (www.interieur.gouv.fr).

II – Health checks

For certain destinations and/or for certain areas of origin, the French authorities shall set up enhanced health checks, proportionate to the health risks and in line with the circumstances:

Therefore, in addition to the measures set out in point I above:

2.1. - People aged 11 and above wishing to travel by public air transport from an area where the virus is circulating as defined by the abovementioned order of 10 July to one of the communities referred to in Article 72-3 of the Constitution (territorial communities) must submit the results of a virology test carried out less than 72 hours before the flight, confirming that they are not infected with COVID-19.

2.2. - From 1 August 2020, people aged 11 and above wishing to travel by public air transport to Metropolitan France from one of the countries referred to in Annex 2 bis of decree 2020-860 of 10 July 2020 must, upon boarding, submit the results of a virology test carried out less than 72 hours before the flight, confirming that they are not infected with COVID-19.
For persons arriving from countries referred to in annex 2 bis, the French authorities have instructed airlines to deny boarding to passengers unable to submit a certificate confirming that they are not infected, issued less than 72 hours prior. Otherwise, the French authorities can deny entry and order that the person return to the State of origin.

Persons aged 11 and above arriving in Metropolitan France by public air transport from one of the countries referred to in Annex 2 ter of decree 2020-860 of 10 July 2020, who are unable to submit the results of a virology test carried out less than 72 hours before the flight, confirming that they are not infected with COVID-19 shall upon arrival in French territory be directed to a health check station for this test to be carried out.

2.3 - Finally, travellers from other areas in which the virus is circulating as defined by the order of 10 July 2020 and who are able to do so are requested to have in their possession the results of a virology test carried out less than 72 hours before the flight, confirming that they are not infected with COVID-19, which will be a valid alternative to the sworn declaration that they do not have symptoms of COVID-19.

III – Quarantine and isolation measures

For persons arriving in or entering French territory who, in the month prior to their entry or arrival, have stayed in an area in which the virus is circulating as defined by the order of the Minister with responsibility for Health of 10 July 2020, amended decree 2020-860 of 10 July 2020 also sets out that the competent prefect for the territory shall:

3.1 - Stipulate that persons displaying COVID-19 symptoms should be placed in quarantine or isolation;

3.2 - Be authorized to stipulate quarantine or isolation measures for:

   i) travellers who, upon arrival, cannot show the results of a virology test carried out less than 72 hours before flying which proves that they are not infected with COVID-19.

   ii) travellers arriving on the territory of a community referred to in Article 72-3 of the Constitution from any other part of the national territory.

The 14-day quarantine or isolation shall take place, at the choice of the person concerned, at their place of residence or in a suitable accommodation facility for the implementation of the health instructions prescribed, taking into account individual and family circumstances.

Furthermore, throughout French territory, protective measures and physical distancing measures must be carefully observed, you should wear a mask wherever it is required or recommended, and be careful and responsible should you display symptoms or be infected by the virus.

IV - Health measures applicable to the diplomatic community

Health measures applicable to the diplomatic community shall continue to be defined by point III of note verbale 2020-0220231 of 25 May 2020.

Furthermore, Protocol draws the attention of the diplomatic corps to the fact that the abovementioned health checks are not mandatory for delegation members on official missions, staff from the diplomatic or
consular mission, or from an international organization headquartered or having an office in France, as well as their spouses and children.

They are, however, invited to provide proof of a virology test carried out less than 72 hours before arriving in French territory, confirming that they are not infected with COVID-19 in order to facilitate boarding a flight for France and their arrival in French territory, and where appropriate, to voluntarily undergo health checks in place at French borders.

Moreover, should they present symptoms of COVID-19, or if they are diagnosed with the disease, they are encouraged to submit voluntarily to quarantine or isolation in the place of their choosing.

Protocol will duly inform the diplomatic missions accredited in France, the international organizations headquartered or having an office in France, and the permanent delegations and representations to these international organizations of any further measures which may be taken by the French authorities to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus and requests that they cooperate with the measures taken in light of this unprecedented health crisis.

The French Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs – Protocol — avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the diplomatic missions accredited in France, international organizations headquartered or having an office in France, and permanent delegations and representations to international organizations, the assurances of its high consideration.

Annex 1: Decree of 10 July 2020, updating the general measures required to address the COVID-19 epidemic in territories no longer in a health state of emergency and in those where it has been extended

Annex 2: Order of 10 July 2020 identifying the areas where the SARS-COV-2 virus is circulating