

Mandated Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program - Iraq

COVID-19, International SOS Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)

International SOS Medical Responsibilities as part of the COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program - Iraq Energy City

1. What is included in the COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program?

It is a government-approved program where Iraq Energy City (IEC), under the supervision of Intl.SOS, are accredited for performing isolation/ quarantine onsite. The program provides the local health authorities and expatriate workers with a high degree of assurance that they will not be required to enter the local health system for testing or treatment of symptoms, other than rare cases that require advanced diagnostics, COVID-19 treatment, or emergency intervention (assisted breathing, for example) before being evacuated from Iraq.

2. How does it work?

During the initial mandated isolation period the quarantined individuals within the program will be issued a digital thermometer, PPE and instructions, and contacted at least daily by the Intl.SOS health care practitioner (HCP) who will oversee and record temperature checking and other measures to track the health and wellbeing of the individual. The onsite HCP, in coordination with the supervising Doctor will liaise with: the quarantined individual, employer, IEC's dedicated service personnel (management, laundering, catering and cleaning), and the local health system. Protocols with the local health system will be managed in accordance with pre-arranged agreements with the government, which favours expatriate clients not being referred to the governmental facilities unless rarely needed in case of life-threatening conditions and condition require immediate stabilisation before medical evacuation.

3. What happens after the initial mandated quarantine period?

The quarantined individual will move to their usual residential accommodation at their site of assignment under their own arrangements. All liaison with the local health system will be managed by Intl.SOS personnel.

4. What will happen to me if my situation deteriorates and I develop COVID-19 signs and symptoms during the mandated isolation period?

If COVID-19 symptoms and signs manifest, the onsite HCP will coordinate with the supervising Doctor who will in turn liaise with the local health system to fulfil the obligatory requirement and to initiate the governmental confirmatory testing. In collaboration with Intl.SOS the local health system will send a team to collect samples onsite and results will be available within 48hrs. If testing positive the individual will be advised and Intl.SOS will make a recommendation to the employer which will likely be to initiate medical evacuation. In the interim, mild cases (the vast majority) will be managed onsite with the local health system being kept updated. Moderate-severe cases (less likely in the workforce population, considering the healthy workforce factor) are likely to have to be managed at the designated governmental until evacuation can occur.

5. Can I elect not to be a part of the COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program?

It is required by the local health authorities that to be able to quarantine for the mandated 14-day isolation period the isolation must occur on an audited/ accredited and medically supervised life support sites with enhanced surveillance and quarantine capability. Without this significantly enhanced on-site integrated medical and life support capability the isolated individual, or indeed camp resident, who develops symptoms would need to be transferred to the authorised government hospitals for confirmatory testing. Any case testing positive would then have to relocate to an authorized government hospital.

6. If I am an International SOS clinic subscriber, will I also need the COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program?

The COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program is a separate capability designed specifically to meet the mandated requirements of the local health authorities contracted directly. Intl.SOS has been engaged by IEC management to meet the local health system's requirement to have onsite medical presence dedicated to managing the surveillance and isolation program, along with very specific and enhanced infrastructure, catering, cleaning and communication protocols. This will also ensure that quarantined individuals or camp residents that become symptomatic, or confirmed mild COVID-19 cases awaiting evacuation, can remain onsite.

7. Can Internatioal SOS clinics manage COVID-19 cases, as part of the clinic subscription?

Existing Intl.SOS clinic subscribers will still be able to utilize the onsite clinic for primary health and non-COVID emergency response, including access to advice and medications not related to symptoms of COVID-19 while in mandated quarantine. Likewise, the COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program links to the Medical Assistance capability (including COVID-19 equipped Air Ambulances) which is also a key part of the overall existing clinic solution, if the subscriber becomes a confirmed COVID-19 case. It is important that the onsite capabilities be separated operationally otherwise there is significant risk that the primary health/ emergency capability of the main Intl.SOS clinic on IEC would be materially degraded (or even rendered inoperable) to all temporary and permanent Intl.SOS clients if the clinician/ clinic was deemed by the local health authorities to have been substantively exposed to a confirmed COVID-19 case.

8. Does the COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program automatically provide me access to International SOS wider clinical and assistance capabilities?

No, Intl.SOS Clinics and Assistance Centers are accessed by members and subscribers only. However COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program is designed to seamlessly link with Intl.SOS other programs, namely clinic subscription, and corporate membership. Primary health and emergency medicine (other than COVID-19 related) and evacuation coverage (other than coordination with the employer for initiation) are outside the scope of the COVID-19 Surveillance, Isolation & Quarantine Program.

9. Can I simply quarantine myself without medical supervision?

No. Foreign nationals entering Federal Iraq must either be directed from international airports directly to government-administered and supervised quarantine establishments; or to medically-supervised Life Support Camps / Site-based accommodation that has been audited and accredited by the Basra Public Health Authority. Quarantined population must be medically monitored by accredited medical provider throughout the duration of quarantine. It is recommended that companies advise the authorities their plan for where they will fulfill the mandated quarantine period in advance of arrival in Iraq.

10. What happens if an individual breaks quarantine during the mandated period?

The mandated quarantine period and quarantine restrictions / practices are a legal implementation enforced by the Iraq National Committee of Health and Safety. The breaking quarantine rules and covenants by an individual or a group of people must legally be reported to the local health authority and as a minimum resets the mandated quarantine period, but could even result in the individuals being obliged to relocate to government-administered and supervised quarantine facilities.