



SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Dated 26th February, 2020.

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

REF: JOINT TRAVEL ADVISORY No. 2

This Joint Travel Advisory No.2 is issued by Ministry of Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration together with the Ministry of Health and Medical Services and will take effect on the **27th of February, 2020**. This Joint Travel Advisory supersedes the Joint Travel Advisory dated 10th February, 2020 and remains in force unless otherwise directed.

There is a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC) declared by the World Health Organization (WHO) determined to constitute a public health risk to other States through the international spread of disease and requires a coordinated international and national response.

Based on health advice from the Ministry of Health and Medical Services on the increased risk posed by the spread of 2019 novel coronavirus ("the COVID-19"), the Solomon Islands Government has introduced strict new travel restrictions and revised travel advice. This advice is subject to change at short notice due to the developing nature of the Public Health Emergency.

1. Notification for intending travellers and crew:

1.1: Any person who has travelled from or transited through the Countries identified in Annexure A ("Restricted Countries") at any time during the 14 days immediately before the

day on which the person arrives in Solomon Islands will not be permitted to enter the Country.

1.2: The traveller will be asked the country of original departure and to give an undertaking that they have not been in or transited through Restricted Countries and Regions (Annexure A) in a period of 14 days prior to their arrival in Solomon Islands. This will further be verified on arrival to immigration in Solomon Islands.

1.3: Travellers are hereby advised if they are displaying any symptoms of COVID-19, maybe denied entry or boarding and are strongly advised to postpone travel to Solomon Islands until they are healthy.

1.4: Subject to the conditions of 1.2 and 1.3 Persons who have come from or travelled through any of the Affected Countries(Annexure B), **during the last 14 days immediately before travel to Solomon Islands**, may be allowed to enter the country through any route, but will be subject to risk based assessment at the Points of entry.

2. Pre-arrival screening measures:

2.1: The pilot or ship master of all aircraft/ vessels coming to Solomon Islands are directed and mandated to report, upon arrival, presence of sick person on board (symptoms or signs of flu, running nose, fever, headache, chest pain, difficulty in breathing, or rash) using health declaration part of aircraft general declaration or Maritime Declaration of Health as applicable.

2.2: All persons including crew arriving in Solomon Islands either by air or sea will be required to complete a Traveller's Public Health Declaration Card. If health officials determine that the traveller or crew member poses a Public Health Risk, the health officials at Points of entry will make appropriate recommendations to Immigration officials to restrict, deny or condition entry.

2.3: All travellers originating or transiting through Affected Countries (Annexure B) will be monitored and are mandated to report presence or development of any symptoms within 14 days of arrival in Solomon Islands. They could be subjected to quarantine and/ or isolation as applicable. Persons suspected of or displaying any symptoms of the COVID-19 will be isolated and subjected to future diagnosis or tests by Health Authorities. Any

quarantine/ isolation place and period shall be determined and/or directed by Health Authorities.

2.4: All incoming travellers entering Solomon Islands **MUST** provide full details of their place of stay, travel itinerary and current personal contact details in Solomon Islands upon their arrival in Solomon Islands.

3. Additional measures specific to incoming maritime vessels and crafts:

3.1: The Solomon Islands Government has temporarily designated Honiara Port and Noro Port as the only approved Entry and Exit Points of Clearance for all Vessels (cargo, fishing, cruise liners, pleasure craft and super yachts, logging, ore, fuel and bunker vessels, and other commercial/scientific vessels) arriving or departing Solomon Islands waters. The Customs Comptroller will issue specific directives for maritime traffic.

3.2: Approvals under 3.1 shall be conditioned to presentation of mandatory minimum documentation detailed in the Customs directive and/or as requested by the Solomon Islands Government.

3.3: Any vessel or craft undertaking inward clearance that fails health clearance shall be immediately placed under quarantine and no persons shall be allowed to disembark. A Yellow Quarantine flag shall be displayed and the vessel must immediately move to and stand off from the Port of Honiara until a health clearance is given. During the quarantine period no persons shall be permitted to disembark and no supplying vessel crew or shore personnel shall be permitted to go on board the quarantine vessel.

3.4: Vessels originating from or transiting through Restricted Countries and Regions (Annexure A) at any time during the 14 days immediately before the day on which the Vessel arrives in Solomon Islands will not be allowed to disembark till 14 days period is complied with and these will also be subject to close monitoring and strict clearance based on Customs directives.

4. Post Arrival Measures:

4.1: Contact management including monitoring of each traveller from Affected Countries (Annexure B) will be undertaken by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services Surveillance

Unit with the assistance of law enforcement agencies until such time as the Ministry of Health and Medical Services considers appropriate.

5. Key recommendations for Solomon Islands Public:

5.1: Further, the Government has imposed a "No Travel" restriction to all Members of Parliament and Government Officials to Restricted Countries and Regions (Annexure A).

5.2: Citizens and residents of Solomon Islands are advised to avoid and/or defer non-essential travel to Restricted Countries and Regions and Affected Countries (Annexure A and B) and those who travel out from Solomon Islands to Restricted and Affected Countries and Regions will be subject to measures in 1.1 and 1.2 of the Travel Advisory.

6. General information:

6.1: All persons travelling or intending to travel to and from Solomon Islands are strongly encouraged to familiarize themselves with travel restrictions issued by Solomon Islands government. The following government websites will be posting updated Travel Advisories and information related to travel into and from Solomon Islands: www.ndmo.gov.sb, www.commerce.gov.sb, www.visitsolomons.com.sb and www.customs.gov.sb

6.2: Travellers are further advised that the Annexures (Annexure A and B) to this Travel Advisory will be updated regularly upon daily assessments by Authorities of the global risks associated with the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

All Airlines, Travel Agents, Customs, Immigration, Bio Security, Solomon Islands Ports Authority, Government Ministries, Solomon Islands Overseas Missions and relevant stakeholders are duly informed of this notice for their adherence.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

For further information please contact:

National Health Emergency Operations Centre Ministry of Health and Medical Services

Tel: [+677 23650](tel:+67723650) and [7522202](tel:+6777522202)

Email: nheoc@moh.gov.sb

Dated this 26th Day of February, 2020.

Jointly Issued By



Hon. Dickson Mua Panakitasi, MP
Minister for Health and Medical Services

Hon. Clezy Rore, MP
Minister for Commerce, Industries, Labour and Immigration

ANNEXURE A

List of Restricted Countries and Regions

1. Peoples Republic of China (Mainland China)
2. Republic of Korea
3. Japan
4. Singapore
5. Italy
6. Hong Kong SAR
7. Thailand
8. Iran
9. Chinese Taipei
10. Macau

ANNEXURE B

Affected Countries

- Afghanistan
- Australia
- Bahrain
- Belgium
- Cambodia
- Canada
- Egypt
- Finland
- France
- Germany
- India
- Iraq
- Israel
- Kuwait
- Lebanon
- Malaysia
- Nepal
- Oman
- Philippines
- Russia
- Sri Lanka
- Spain
- Sweden
- United Arab Emirates
- United Kingdom
- United States of America.
- Vietnam