



Ministry of Health & Medical Services
P.O.Box 347, Honiara, Solomon Islands

Improved COVID-19 situation in Solomon Islands and Re- Opening of Borders on 1st of July Health Advisory #3.

1. **COVID-19 situation in Solomon Islands has improved with declining cases and admissions at health facilities. Nevertheless, the risk to our health and lives is not yet over. Health is still recording few cases in our provinces. With the easing of public and social measures and more importantly the reopening of our borders on the 1st of July there is also possibility of new infection of COVID -19 and 3rd wave.**
2. **Therefore, the Ministry of Health is issuing this advisory to guide us on how to continue to mitigate any possible risks of COVID-19 to our communities.**

For EVERYONE:

- Public encouraged to wear face masks if experiencing flu like symptoms and/or when in public spaces.
- Frequently wash your hands with soap and water or use hand sanitizer
- As much as possible avoid shaking hands.
- Cough or sneeze into bent elbow or tissue and dispose of it properly in bins
- Avoid spitting in public places
- It is not mandatory to undertake a COVID-19 test for inter-provincial travel, but you should reconsider your travel if you are experiencing COVID-19 related symptoms or you have been exposed to someone diagnosed with COVID-19.
- Public is encouraged to continue practicing physical distancing of at least 2 meters whenever possible.
- Ensure you get fully vaccinated against COVID-19. If you haven't received your dose yet, get it done and if you only received first doses ensure you get your second dose to be fully vaccinated against COVID 19.
- For those 18 years and above, you can get your booster dose if your last dose of vaccination is 4 months earlier.

3. **For Business Houses and Critical Infrastructure (shops, banks, restaurants etc...) and public areas (markets etc.):**
 - Continue to follow and strengthen the COVID-19 safe practices at the workplace including maintaining social distancing of at least 2 meters, hand hygiene, and wearing of facemask.

4. **For person experiencing COVID 19 Symptoms**

- If you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, you can get tested at any of the HCC clinics but if your symptoms are getting worse, immediately go to the National Referral Hospital for further medical assistance.
- For persons living in provinces if you experience any COVID-19 symptoms, please visit your nearest health clinic or go to the nearest hospital if your symptoms are getting worse.
- You are more at risk of getting serious disease if you are above 50 years of age, unvaccinated or partially vaccinated, or suffer from other diseases such as diabetes, hypertension, respiratory disease etc. or if you are obese.
- If you need further advice or information on COVID-19, please contact the National Health Emergency Operation Centre on 115 or 25256.

5. **Incoming International Travelers.**

As of 1st July 2022, all incoming international passengers or travelers to Solomon Islands will not have to undergo mandatory quarantine. It means that a person upon arrival at the airport can head straight to their homes or hotels.

However, there is a likelihood that international arrivals may develop COVID-19 after arrival in Solomon Islands putting others at risk. As such Ministry of Health strongly recommend the incoming travelers to adhere to and observe the following COVID - 19 protocols.

- All incoming international passengers or travelers to Solomon Islands must provide one (1) COVID-19 PCR negative test within 72 hours, before travelling into the country.
- All incoming international passengers must be fully vaccinated except for children less than 18 years and those not eligible for vaccination due to contraindications.
- All incoming travelers still need to complete the pre-departure questionnaires.
- It is highly recommended for all incoming passenger to take PCR COVID 19 testing at day 3 after arrival in the country. The testing can be done at Kukum Health Clinic and Rove Health Clinic on weekdays and on weekends between 8:30AM and 4:30PM. You will be informed of your result.
- It is strongly advised to postpone traveling to other provinces for 3 days till you get a negative test.
- It is also recommended for all incoming passengers experiencing COVID 19 sign and symptoms to immediately get a COVID -19 PCR test at an approved health facility.
- All incoming passengers are encouraged to practice COVID-19 safety practices, when at homes, going to the public places, using public transport and at the work places for at least five (5) days. This includes:
 - a. Wearing facemask
 - b. Physical distancing of at least 2 metres apart in public spaces and places
 - c. Practice Hand hygiene
 - d. Do not participate in mass gatherings
- If your result is positive, the following applies:
 - a. You will be required to self-isolate at home for at least seven (7) days. Your contacts will also need to be tested to stop infection from further spreading in your household.
- If any of your family members develop COVID-19 symptoms within 10 days after your arrival in Solomon Islands, get them tested for COVID-19. Let us continue to fight against COVID 19 and together we can control and mitigate spread of COVID 19 to protect ourselves, families, communities and our nation, Solomon Islands.

This advisory will be updated as the situation develops.