



REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS
2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
UPDATED INTERIM HEALTH TRAVEL ADVISORY & RESTRICTIONS
ISSUANCE 23: As of 5 March 2021

(Subject to regular review, as required)

On 30 January 2020, World Health Organization declared the current novel coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC). The virus was first detected in Wuhan city, Hubei Province, PRC, and subsequently cases of COVID-19 have been detected in **216 countries and territories**.

The new virus is a coronavirus, which is a family of viruses that include the common cold, and viruses that cause severe respiratory infections. The virus can be transmitted from person to person, similar to other influenza viruses.

In response to the declaration of PHEIC, the Republic of Marshall Islands' (RMI) former COVID-19 travel advisories and restrictions (**Issuance 1:** 24 January 2020, **Issuance 2:** 31 January 2020 and **Proclamation declaring State of Emergency** dated 7 February 2020, **Issuance 3:** 13 February 2020, **Issuance 4:** 26 February 2020, **Issuance 5:** 25 February 2020, **Issuance 6:** 3 March 2020, **Issuance 7:** 5 March 2020, **Issuance 8:** 7 March 2020, **Issuance 9:** 8 March 2020, **Issuance 10:** 17 March 2020, **Issuance 11:** 2 April 2020, **Issuance 12:** 30 April 2020, **Issuance 13:** 7 May 2020, **Issuance 14:** 2 June 2020, **Issuance 15:** 3 July 2020, **Issuance 16:** 30 July 2020, **Issuance 17:** 4 September 2020, **Issuance 18:** 1 October 2020, **Issuance 19:** 4 November 2020, **Issuance 20:** 3 December 2020, **Issuance 21:** 5 January 2021, **Issuance 22:** 4 February 2021 and have been reviewed and updated as of 5 March 2021 (**Issuance 23**) with the following interim inbound and outbound travel restrictions for all visitors to RMI. **Because COVID-19 is a national threat these requirements will come into effect immediately.**

- An extension of the **total suspension of international travelers coming into the RMI** via air travel **until 5 April 2021**. All aircraft that need to land in the RMI for refueling purposes must adhere to the National Disaster Committee approved Amata Kabua International Airport Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Periodic spot checks will be conducted on airport ground crew handling aircraft in the RMI. Ground crew not adhering to the strict no human-to-human contact protocols will be subject to an immediate **minimum** 14-day quarantine.
- Suspension of all domestic passenger air travel **between Kwajalein and Majuro** on international airlines. Air travel between Kwajalein and Majuro on Air Marshalls is still permitted, unless the condition level changes to level 1 in either location or as deemed necessary by the NDC, then all travel is suspended.

- It is also **strongly advised** that at this time all citizens and residents currently residing on Majuro or Ebeye who are intending to travel to the outer islands to reside or work, do so as soon as possible.
- Temporary suspension of non-essential international departures for RMI citizens. For essential travels, citizens of the RMI are **required** to seek a waiver exemption from Chief Secretary's Office.
- At the discretion of NDC, **any persons entering the RMI without official clearance shall either be removed or placed immediately under quarantine** in a secure RMI Government approved facility and submit to all testing at the direction and discretion of RMI medical personnel **up to 21 days from arrival**.
- **All liveboard vessels and yachts** at this time are suspended from visiting the RMI until further notice.
- All **fishing vessels** that have transited through or departed from COVID-19 infected countries are suspended from entering the RMI ports until further notice.
- To ensure continuity of transshipment services, a limited number of **carrier vessels** shall be exempt. However, these carrier vessels are strictly required to spend fourteen (14) days at sea prior to port entry and only after clearance by MoHHS, RMI Ports Authority, MIMRA and the RMI Immigration Division. Transshipment shall be limited to twenty (20) purse seiners and ten (10) carriers at any one time. Vessels within the transshipment area are subject to RMI Ports Authority's coordination of entry and exit, including access to the wharf for provisioning purposes. Fishing companies are required to produce company policy and/or SOPs in compliance with the travel advisory and the Maritime SOP requirements, such as no human-to-human contact, etc. Said SOPs shall be amended as per this updated travel advisory and shall remain in effect unless otherwise revised by the Maritime Working Group (MoHHS, RMI Ports Authority, MIMRA and the RMI Immigration Division). MIMRA shall provide a list of eligible fishing vessels and carriers for entry purposes. Vessels not on the list may appeal to the NDC through the Maritime Working Group for entry prior to departure from their originating port.
- To make sure that we can continue to allow food and supplies to enter the country, all **container vessels and fuel tankers** are exempt but are strictly required to spend **14 days** outside of the RMI after departure and prior to arrival at the RMI Pilot Station. All container vessels and fuel tankers that have a history of entering RMI ports that have the same crewmembers on board as verified by MoHHS and Immigration are exempt from the 14-day quarantine. For vessels that have changed crews, new crewmembers must show 21 days of consistent health checks prior to arrival and those new crewmembers with valid negative test results must have consistent health checks along with other existing crew prior to arrival into the Marshall Islands. Vessels with newer crewmembers, with fewer days on board will be required to complete the 14 days at sea prior to entry and cargo operations. All container vessels and fuel tankers must adhere to the National Disaster Committee approved Standard Operating Procedures-Maritime (SOP). Human-to-human contact is strictly prohibited.

- To promote economic activities, **cruise ships** and **purse seiner fishing vessels** needing to enter the Marshall Islands **strictly for the purpose of provisioning** must apply for an entry permission from the NDC after the final review and technical recommendation from the Maritime Working Group.
- **All GRMI officials, including elected officials, SOEs and auxiliary bodies,** are **required to suspend** all international trips paid for by the GRMI or sponsored by outside agencies or organizations with the exception of patients approved by the RMI Medical Referral Committee.
- The Chief Secretary, as the head of the National Disaster Committee, based on recommendations from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, the RMI Public Health Division and the National Disaster Committee, reserves the right to make exceptions to any of the above restrictions to allow for essential services. All safety protocols developed by the Ministry of Health and Human Services in compliance with WHO and CDC guidelines will be followed in these instances.
- Any failure to comply with the terms set forth in this Travel Advisory #23 shall be subject to the Emergency Order on Fines and Penalties.

These are interim travel restrictions, which have been introduced by the Government of the RMI as part of current health emergency preparedness measures for COVID-19. These restrictions will be reviewed and updated as needed and communicated to the public.



Kino S. Kabua
Chief Secretary – Office of the Chief Secretary

5 March 2021