SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

Ministry of Health and Medical Services
P O Box 349, HONIARA, Solomon Islands

Tel: (677) 21202 ***Fax: (677) 20085***

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Travel advisory for travellers arriving in Solomon Islands: Protection against novel coronavirus importation into Solomon Islands.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) of the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) hereby issues this Travel Advisory due to the current outbreaks of novel coronavirus (2019-nCoV) globally. This travel advisory supersedes the one issued on January 28th, 2020.

MHMS is closely monitoring an outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed "2019-nCoV") that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to spread. As of February 01, 2020, apart from China, importation of this infection has happened in many countries including Australia, Japan, USA, Republic of Korea, Japan, Malaysia, Federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, France, Germany, UAE, Sri Lanka, Thailand, India, Finland, UK, and Viet Nam etc.

Due to the current 2019-nCoV outbreak, MHMS is highly concerned towards the likelihood of importing this infection into Solomon Islands. There is increased likelihood of large-scale outbreaks which will not only cause high morbidity and mortality but also has potential of causing economic loss to the Country.

The travel advisory is effective and remains in-force until further notification.

MHMS in accordance with the Immigration Act and Quarantine Act, Solomon Islands would advise the following travel advisories and measures be implemented to ensure safety to citizens of Solomon Islands:

1. All persons arriving in Solomon Islands will be required to complete a Traveller's Public Health Declaration Card (Copy attached). This traveller's health declaration card replaces the one which was being used in relations to measles threat.
2. The Government of Solomon Islands hereby restricts Members of Parliament and Government Officials from traveling to China.
3. Citizens and residents of Solomon Islands who are planning to travel to affected countries are recommended to avoid and/ or defer non-essential travel and take standard precautions to prevent the infection during travel. They will be subjected to conditions mentioned below in Point 5 and 6 upon their arrival.
4. Any person who has travelled from China or transited through China 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 Solomon Islands. Close monitoring and strict clearance by the relevant Health authorities will be conducted at the Honiara International Airports.
5. Any quarantine/ isolation period will be determined in consultation with Health experts.
6. All the maritime vessels and ships including fishing vessels originating or transiting through China are mandated to report their departure and anticipated arrival to the MHMS *a priori*.
7. The vessel operators and airlines operating in Solomon Islands are mandated to report presence of sick person on board as per requirements under the International Health Regulations (2005).

The necessary directives may be issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Immigration Division to all countries with whom Solomon Islands has Diplomatic relations including regional bodies such as the SPC and Pacific Islands Forum as well as airlines and shipping companies that serve the Solomon Islands to implement these measures.

Issued

Minister of Health and Medical Services