



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

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**REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS
2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
UPDATED *INTERIM* HEALTH TRAVEL ADVISORY & RESTRICTIONS
ISSUANCE 10: As of 17 March 2020**

(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 **162 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) have been reviewed and updated as of **17 March 2020 (Issuance 10)** with the following interim inbound and outbound travel restrictions for all visitors to RMI. **These requirements will come into force effective immediately.**

- *An extension of the **total suspension of international travelers coming into the RMI via air travel until April 5, 2020**. All aircraft that need to land in the RMI for refueling purposes must adhere to the RMI Ports Authority Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Human-to-human contact is strictly prohibited.*
- **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.
- **All cruise ships and yachts** at this time are suspended from visiting the RMI until further notice.
- To make sure that we can continue to allow food and supplies to enter the country, all **container vessels and fuel tankers**, which are coming from the restricted countries listed below on their routine path or port of departure, are exempt from the suspension of sea

travel though 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 must adhere to the RMI Ports Authority Standard Operating Procedures (SOP). Human-to-human contact is strictly prohibited.*

- Citizens and residents of the RMI with plans to travel abroad are **strongly advised** to consider postponing their travel arrangements. If travel arrangements cannot be postponed, individuals should be aware that they may be subject to restrictions on reentering the RMI.
- **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.
- RMI Residents and Citizens who are planning to attend **missions, conferences, trainings and group trips** held outside of the RMI are **strongly advised** to postpone their travel until further notice.
- The Chief Secretary, as the head of the National Disaster Committee, together with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, based on recommendations from the RMI Public Health division and the National Disaster Committee, reserve 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.

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.



Jack Niedenthal
Republic of the Marshall Islands
Secretary of Health & Human Services

March 17, 2020