



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
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**REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS
2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)
UPDATED *INTERIM* HEALTH TRAVEL ADVISORY & RESTRICTIONS
ISSUANCE 7: As of 5 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 84 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 and Issuance 6: 3 March 2020), have been reviewed and updated as of 5 March 2020 (Issuance 7) with the following interim inbound and outbound travel restrictions for all visitors to RMI. **These requirements will come into force effective immediately.**

- Suspension of all air and sea travel from the **People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong, Macau, South Korea, Italy, Japan and Iran**. This restriction has been assessed as appropriate to mitigate the risk of COVID-19 importation to the RMI. This applies to any traveler who originated from or traveled through any of the restricted countries after December 31, 2019. **All cruise ships** 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 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 if they have travelled or transited via a country listed under RMI's COVID-19 travel restriction.

- Residents, RMI Citizens and potential visitors residing in the **United States of America** are **strongly advised** to cancel all travel to the RMI. The RMI is still in the process of building infrastructure and capacity to respond effectively to COVID-19. Health facilities in the United States are far more capable of managing a large outbreak of cases.
- Effective immediately until further notice, **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.
- At this time we are requesting that any **missions, conferences and/or trainings** to be held in the Marshall Islands in the upcoming months be **suspended** unless deemed absolutely necessary by the RMI hosting Ministry or agency. Non-government organizations (NGOs) and the Private Sector are also urged to do the same.
- 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 Secretary of Health and Human Services, based on recommendations from the RMI Public Health division, 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.

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.

The following list of COVID-19 affected countries is subject to rapid change based upon global situation and risk, as determined by Secretary of Health and Human Services and cleared by Cabinet by official notice.

COVID-19 affected countries subject to RMI travel restriction:

People's Republic of China	Macau SAR	Hong Kong SAR
South Korea	Japan	Italy
Iran		



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

March 5, 2020