



**SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT**

**Ministry of Health and Medical Services**

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**28<sup>th</sup> January 2020**

**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.

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services 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 expand. As on January 26, 2020, apart from China, importation of this infection has happened in 9 countries including Australia, Japan, USA, Republic of Korea, Japan, Malaysia, federal Democratic Republic of Nepal, Thailand and Viet Nam etc.

Due to the current 2019-nCoV outbreak, the Solomon Islands Ministry of Health and Medical Services 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, mortality but also has potential of big economic loss to the country.

The 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 advisory becomes effective from January 28, 2020. This traveler's health declaration card replaces the one currently being used in relations to measles threat.
2. Citizens and residents of Solomon Islands who are planning to travel to China are recommended to avoid and / or defer non-essential travel and take standard precautions to prevent the infection during travel.
3. All Incoming international travellers will be subjected to temperature check upon arrival in Solomon Islands.
4. Incoming travellers who have been in China 15 days prior to their arrival in Solomon Islands are mandated to report to the Ministry of Health and Medical Services Public Health Emergency and Surveillance Unit on telephone +677 23650 if they develop acute respiratory infection and have symptoms such as fever, cough, and breathing difficulty.
5. Incoming travellers who have travelled to or from China within the past 15 days who display symptoms including fever and cough with or without breathing difficulty will be isolated upon arrival and will be investigated for 2019-nCoV infection.
6. 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 directive may be issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration to all countries with whom Solomon Islands has Diplomatic relations including regional bodies such as the SPC and Pacific Forum as well as airlines and shipping companies that serve the Solomon Islands to implement these measures.

Issued



Honorable Dickson Mua.

Minister of Health and Medical Services