



**REPUBLIC OF MARSHALL ISLANDS**  
**2019 NOVEL CORONAVIRUS (COVID-19)**  
**UPDATED INTERIM HEALTH TRAVEL ADVISORY & RESTRICTIONS**  
**ISSUANCE 17: As of 4 September 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 **213 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) have been reviewed and updated as of **4 September 2020 (Issuance 17)** 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 October 2020, with the possibility of extensions towards the end of the year**. 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 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 3 or lower in either location, 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 through the National Disaster Committee.**

- 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 no less than 21 days from arrival.
- **All cruise ships including live aboard 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.
- **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 #17 shall be subject to the Emergency Order on Fines and Penalties (schedules of fines attached).

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

4 September 2020



*President*

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

**Emergency Order issued pursuant to section 102(6) of the *Emergencies Act***  
**1979**

**Interpretation**

In this Emergency Order:

1. “**Commissioner**” means the Commissioner of the Marshall Islands Police Department;
2. “**Officer**” includes an immigration officer, custom officer, quarantine officer, port officer, police officer, both local and national or any other officer authorized by any written law.
3. “**Person**” includes an individual or an organization, corporation, or similar legal entity.

**Notice of offense**

1. An offense occurs where a person:
  - a. Breaches, violates or fails to comply with any Travel Advisory issued by the Ministry of Health and Human Services pursuant to the State of Emergency declared on February 27, 2020; and
  - b. Provides any false, misleading or withholding of information in violation of any Travel Advisory issued by the Ministry of Health and Human Services pursuant to the State of Emergency declared on February 27, 2020.
2. An officer may serve an Emergency Order Offense Notice on a person who has committed an offense.
3. A Notice shall be in a form approved by the Commissioner.
4. A person who has been served with a Notice may elect to pay the fine stated in the Notice within twenty-four (24) hours of the issuance of the Notice.

**Penalties**

1. Where a person commits an offense and is served an Emergency Order Offense Notice, the following shall apply:
  - a. A fine of:
    - i. For an individual, a fine of \$500 for a first offense, and a fine of \$1,000 for a continuous offense; or



- ii. For an organization or corporation or similar legal entity, a fine of \$10,000 for a first offense, a fine of \$50,000 for a continuous offense; or
      - b. Detainment not exceeding 6 months; or
      - c. Both detainment and fines prescribed under paragraphs (i) or (ii).
  2. The payment of a fine under this Order, shall avoid any further prosecution for an offense.
  3. Where a person is convicted of an offense, he or she shall be liable to a fine not exceeding \$10,000 or imprisonment not exceeding a term of 35 months, or both.
  4. All payments of fines shall be paid into the Ministry of Justice Special Revenue Fund.

Given under my hand this 23<sup>th</sup> day of April 2020.

  
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H.E. David Kabua  
President

  
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Earlie C. Bing  
Clerk of the Cabinet



*President*

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

**Emergency Order issued pursuant to section 102(6) of the *Emergencies Act* 1979 due to the State of Emergency on COVID-19**

**Interpretation**

In this Emergency Order:

1. **“Commissioner”** means the Commissioner of the Marshall Islands Police Department;
2. **“Officer”** includes an immigration officer, custom officer, quarantine officer, port officer, police officer, both local and national or any other officer authorized by any written law.
3. **“Person”** includes an individual or an organization, corporation, or similar legal entity”
4. **“places accessible to the public”** means a public road or public building or public vehicle or public place includes any place which the public is admitted or is allowed, any private land near or adjacent to any public road or public place, a beach, foreshore or the lagoon.

**Notice of offense**

All importation of betelnut is hereby prohibited and an offense occurs where a person a person imports betelnut to the Republic of the Marshall Islands “Republic” or uses betelnut in public in any part of the Republic..

**Penalties**

1. A person who commits an offence shall be subject to:
  - a. A fine of:
    - i. For a first offence, a fine of \$200 or up to 30 days in prison or both; or
    - ii. For a second offence, a fine of \$500 or up to 3 months in prison or both;
2. Satisfaction of the penalty imposed under this Order, shall avoid any further prosecution for an offense.
3. All payments of fines shall be paid into the Ministry of Justice Special Revenue Fund.
4. This order will take effect from 12.00AM Monday May 4, 2020 and stay in effect for the entirety of the COVID 19 State of Emergency.



Given under my hand this \_\_\_ day of April 2020.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "David Kabua", written over a horizontal line.

H.E. David Kabua  
President

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Earlie C. Bing", written over a horizontal line.

Earlie C. Bing  
Clerk of the Cabinet