



President

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Proclamation on the State of Health Disaster due to the community spread of COVID-19

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the Novel Coronavirus outbreak as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC);

WHEREAS, the virus is considered to be contagious with several more highly contagious mutations occurring with more effective modes of transmission;

WHEREAS, the COVID 19 virus has been identified in Majuro and Ebeye communities;

WHEREAS, the RMI is home to more than 53,000 people living on 70 square miles of land spanning an area of more than 750,000 square meters of ocean in the Western Pacific and the transmission of COVID-19 can be extensive;

WHEREAS, the threat of this virus being spread in the communities is extremely high;

WHEREAS, the outer islands/atolls health centers are limited and do not have adequate infrastructure as compared to the urban hospitals of Majuro and Ebeye. Therefore, it is extremely important the introduction and containment of COVID-19 virus to the outer islands is avoided;

WHEREAS, the elderly and individuals with comorbid medical conditions (diabetes and hypertension) are the most vulnerable populations to develop severe complications and death, and 30% of Marshall Islands residents fall into this category;

WHEREAS, COVID 19 vaccines are available in the RMI due to the gracious donations by the United States Government, and other development partners and the administration of vaccines is occurring since last year;

WHEREAS, the Marshallese communities in the United States of America as part of a wider Pacific community have been disproportionately represented among cases and deaths from COVID19, our citizens proving particularly vulnerable to infection; and

WHEREAS, to implement an effective and efficient response to community spread of COVID-19, there is an urgent need for the whole of government and whole of society to cooperate and adhere to relevant instructions and protocols to prevent more community spread of the COVID-19 in the RMI.

NOW THEREFORE, Cabinet Members have been briefed and, at their meeting on August 12, 2022, do hereby approve this Proclamation.



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BY THIS PROCLAMATION, the Cabinet has invoked its powers and duties under the *Disaster Assistance Act 1987*, and as such, I, DAVID KABUA, have heretofore, and on behalf of the Cabinet, signed and caused the issuance of the ORDERS necessary to protect and safeguard the lives and health in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

THIS PROCLAMATION and all ORDERS issued hereunder, shall remain in effect until the expiry of 31 days from the date hereof, or unless extended again by Cabinet.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- I. All Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Private Sector and Stakeholders are hereby directed to work in unison, to plan and coordinate a national effort and response through the National Disaster Committee (NDC) along with MoHHS as the technical advisor, with reference to the Communicable Disease Response Plan (CDRP).
- II. Travel Restrictions and Requirements:
 - All aircraft and sea vessels permitted to enter into the RMI must adhere to the National Disaster Committee approved Airport and Maritime Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs).
 - All requirements of the Safe Travel Program will continue until further notice from the NDC.
- III. Government Ministries and Agencies Roles and Responsibilities
 - A. The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS)
 - Activation of the MoHHS' Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) and Emergency Operations Center (EOC).
 - Activation of the MOHHS' Epidemiology Network (EPINET) Team, the subject matter experts and focal point, will be charged with providing strategic direction, situational reports and advice on the MOHHS Communicable Disease Response Plan (CDRP) to the NDC on a daily and weekly basis or as needed.
 - Implement surveillance protocols at all ports of entry on a daily basis.
 - That the MoHHS CDRP will be activated and managed by the MoHHS EPINET Team with coordination with the NDC.
 - Shall provide updates to the NDC, Cabinet and the general public on the international and local status of the COVID-19.
 - Advise the NDC and the Cabinet on relevant and sound recommendations including changes to the existing Travel Advisory due to the COVID-19, extension and lifting of this Proclamation.



- Provide weekly situational reports to NDC, Cabinet and Nitijela once the outbreak occurs.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services to work alongside the Secretary of Foreign Affairs and Trade on a surge list of essential needs to share with diplomatic partners, including regional and international organizations that RMI is a member of for assistance.
- The Secretary of Health and Human Services is executing his/her functions and powers in accordance with the Public Health, Safety and Welfare Act 7 MIRC Ch.1 §108, to penalize any vessels and persons that are non-compliant with travel restrictions and advisories with the maximum fines allowable by law.
- Hospital and Public Health Service reoriented for the next 2 months;
- Activation of COVID-19 Community One Stop Shop (CCOSS) Sites (Alternate Care Sites).
- COVID-19 Vaccination PODS will be activated onwards.

B. The Ministry of Education (MOE) and the Public-School System (PSS)

- All schools (private and public) will be closed for the next two months.

C. The Public Service Commission (PSC):

- That the PSC shall compensate Overtime Hours to the Health and Wash clusters and other responders accordingly and waive the 32-hour overtime biweekly to government employees working beyond 80 regular hours to respond to the outbreak.

D. The Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services (MOFBPS):

- That the MOFBPS shall expedite the procurement process in purchasing goods and materials related to the RMI COVID-19 Pandemic & Response Plan.
- That the MOFBPS shall exempt any custom import duties on any health materials, supplies, vaccination and other contributing general items from abroad to assist the Government.
- With guidance from the Cabinet and Office of the Chief Secretary, the MOFBPS shall ensure response funds are readily available and an account is set up
- Assist Office of the Chief Secretary and MOFAT in identifying potential funds and or resources from diplomatic partners, international and regional partners.

E. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- That the EPA shall assist the RMI MOHHS Environmental Health Unit on Decontamination control activities.



- That the Environmental Protection Authority shall provide reports to the EPINET Chair and Office of the Chief Secretary.

F. The Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce (NRC)

- That the NRC shall assist the RMI MOHHS Environmental Health Unit on COVID-19 activities and other related quarantine requirements.

G. The Local Government and Council (LGC)

- That the LGC shall liaise closely with the NDC and MOHHS on community engagement to provide updates on COVID-19 and provide support in the implementation of the RMI COVID-19 Response Efforts.

H. The Ministry of Transportation, Communication and Information Technology (MoTCIT)

- That the MoTCIT including relevant SOEs shall ensure compliance and implementation of the COVID-19 Travel Advisory issued by MoHHS.
- That the MoTCIT and DCA shall ensure United Airlines and Air Nauru adhere and comply with the COVID-19 Travel Advisory issued by MOHHS.
- The MoTCIT, through RMI Ports Authority and MIMRA, ensures 100% compliance of the COVID-19 Travel Advisory by pilots, fishing vessel agents, fishing and container vessels.
- That the MoTCIT ensure all ports of entry staff at the airport and sea ports wear masks and gloves during screening and clearing of air and sea vessels following infection control protocol issued by MoHHS.
- The Secretary of MoTCIT shall activate the level of security for sea ports of entries based on MoHHS' advisory.
- Coordinate pre-arrival meetings.

I. RMI Ports Authority

- RMI Ports Authority to provide all the required documents (voyage memo, port of call list, crew list, health declaration, measles certificate and MoHHS Surveillance Form on Coronavirus) two weeks prior to arrival of any sea vessel.
- RMI Ports Authority to develop a ports clearance protocol in regards to the COVID-19 Travel Advisory. RMI Ports Authority to provide a weekly report of all incoming and departing vessels to MoHHS.
- Coordinate pre-arrival meetings with relevant agencies on incoming vessels before a vessel can be cleared to enter RMI.



J. Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA)

- MIMRA to provide all required clearance documents (voyage memo, port of call list, crew list, health declaration, measles certificate and MOHHS Surveillance Form on Coronavirus) 72 hours in advance to Ports Authority.
- That the MIMRA shall ensure all fishing vessels and agents comply with the COVID-19 Travel Advisory issued by MOHHS.

K. This Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities (MoWIU)

- Design and manage the construction of the necessary laboratory and surge isolation facilities in Majuro, Ebeye and the Neighboring Islands.

L. The Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MOCIA)

- 1) That the MOCIA shall prioritize and broadcast health alerts, press releases and updates to the general public. MOCIA shall allocate 30 minutes daily for COVID-19 updates.

M. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MOFAT)

- 1) If necessary, and in consultation with the Office of the Chief Secretary and the Ministry of Health and Human Services, that the MOFAT shall seek assistance from development partners and regional and international organizations to assist in mitigating the COVID-19; and
- 2) That the MoFAT shall be responsible to inform the foreign missions on island on the status of COVID-19 outbreak.

N. Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (MIRCS)

- MIRCS sits auxiliary to GRMI per MIRCS Act of 2013 to provide support and complementary resources in times of peace and conflict.
- Based on projected scenarios and response, if necessary, to facilitate psychosocial support mechanisms for responders, caregivers, and affected peoples.
- MIRCS to facilitate, if required, home-based care and training thereof.
- MIRCS to engage, if necessary, the International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) in the establishment of a field hospital. MIRCS to involve, if necessary, high-level support from International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to safeguard humanitarian actions and International Humanitarian Law (IHL) MIRCS to request DREF from Asia-Pacific regional clusters and conjoin National Society appeals for greater assistance.



O. The Ministry of Justice, Immigration, & Labor

- That the Immigration Division shall ensure the COVID-19 Travel Advisory is implemented at all Ports of Entry (air and sea). Review passports and itinerary of every traveler. Immigration Division to work closely with the RMI Boarding Party, per the Ports of Entry (POE) Act, to review vessel documents prior to clearing any vessel. In such an event where a vessel is under special quarantine, Immigration, along with Sea Patrol, will ensure the vessel adheres to quarantine protocol.

P. The Office of the Chief Secretary

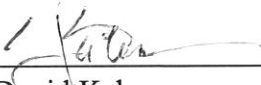
- Direct and activate the NDC. The whole of the GRMI and stakeholders must join forces.
- The Office of the Chief Secretary will ensure operations are supported and coordinated efficiently and effectively.
- That the Office of the Chief Secretary, along with the NDC, shall provide updates and sound recommendations on a needs basis, specifically regarding matters of policy and financial resources consideration, to the Cabinet for further determination and direction.
- Assist MoFBPS and MOFAT in identifying potential funds and or resources from DAEF, World Bank, RMI funds, diplomatic partners, external and international partners.

Q. The Office of the President

- 1) That the Office of the President shall provide ongoing support, financial resources and ensure relevant ministries and agencies comply with the promulgation.

I FURTHER ORDER that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation be filed in the Office of the Chief Secretary and that widespread publicity and notice be given of this Proclamation.

Given under my hand this 12th day of August 2022.



David Kabua
President



Earlie C. Bing
Clerk of the Cabinet