



*President*

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

**Proclamation Declaring State of Health Emergency due to the  
Global Public Health Emergency of International Concern on the  
2019 Novel Coronavirus**

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

**WHEREAS**, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) has not been identified in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI); however, the threat of this new coronavirus being imported into Republic of the Marshall Islands continues to heighten. The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) and border control agencies have been implementing health screenings at the Amata Kabua International Airport and Majuro Seaport since January 24, 2020. Meanwhile, over 28,292 confirmed cases have been identified worldwide, and the virus has claimed over 565 lives in the People's Republic of China (PRC);

**WHEREAS**, there has been one coronavirus death outside of PRC that occurred in the Philippines on a 44-year old visitor from the city of Wuhan where the virus was first reported;

**WHEREAS**, there is no confirmed treatment for nCoV except supportive care and isolation;

**WHEREAS**, nCoV is considered to be highly contagious with prolonged contact and, to date, all of the exact modes of transmission are unknown;

**WHEREAS**, healthcare providers, first responders and immediate contacts are at risk of contracting nCoV;

**WHEREAS**, immune-compromised persons are the most vulnerable populations to develop severe complications and or death;

**WHEREAS**, the MoHHS health infrastructure is limited and does not have sufficient resources to respond to an outbreak. Therefore, it is extremely important to halt the spread of nCoV virus within the RMI;

**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 nCoV can be extensive;

**WHEREAS**, to implement an effective and efficient response against this nCoV, 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 entry of the nCoV to RMI;



**WHEREAS**, the RMI has been under a State of Health Emergency since August of 2019 because of a severe outbreak of dengue 3 which continues to be a major health issue to this day and that has devastated both the human and financial resources of the RMI;

**NOW THEREFORE**, the Cabinet has been briefed and, at their meeting on February 7, 2020, do hereby approve this Proclamation.

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Due to the Global Public Health Emergency of International Concern  
on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

**BY THIS PROCLAMATION**, the Cabinet has invoked its emergency powers under the *Emergencies Act 1979*, 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 emergency ORDERS issued hereunder, shall remain in effect until the expiry of 10 days from the date hereof, or unless extended by Cabinet, or extended by a Nitijela Resolution.

**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 preparedness and immediate 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:
  - Suspension of all air and sea travel **FROM and TO** People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong and Macau as deemed appropriate and necessary to prevent the introduction of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) to Republic of the Marshall Islands.
  - Sea vessels transporting containers of food and essential commodities to the RMI shall change their boarding ports from PRC, Hong Kong and Macau or other restricted countries listed in the travel advisory.





- All persons intending to travel abroad are strongly urged to postpone their travel arrangements. If travel arrangements cannot be postponed, persons should understand that they could be restricted from re-entering RMI if a state or country visited or transited through are added to the restricted list on the MoHHS' Travel Advisory.
- RMI Citizens who reside, work or attend school or otherwise domiciled in areas of confirmed nCoV cases with ongoing local transmission, excluding countries that are already on the MoHHS Travel Advisory, who decide to return/visit RMI shall be subject to undergo strict quarantine for at least 14 days in a country with no ongoing local transmission of nCoV.
- All GRMI officials, including elected officials, SOEs and auxiliary bodies, to suspend international trips effective immediately until further notice with the exception of patients approved by the RMI Medical Referral Committee.
- The list of restricted countries is subject to change at any time based upon global situation and risk, as determined by Secretary of Health and Human Services by official Travel Advisory.

### 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 nCoV.
- Advise the NDC and the Cabinet on relevant and sound recommendations including changes to the existing Travel Advisory due to the nCoV, 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 to 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.

#### **B. The Ministry of Education, Sports and Training (MoEST)**

- All schools (private and public) must have water, soap and hand sanitizers at all classrooms and bathrooms.
- All schools (private and public) to teach children on hygiene etiquette/curriculum – cover mouth and nose when coughing/sneezing, washing hands, etc.
- All schools (private and public) to regularly sanitize all surfaces on a daily and as needed basis.
- Any children and/or staff who have the signs and symptoms of fever, cough and hard time breathing should be sent home.
- Develop an isolation protocol with assistance from MoHHS.
- All schools (private and public) to provide a weekly report on hygiene curriculum.

#### **C. The Ministry of Finance, Banking and Postal Services (MoFBPS)**

- 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 DAEF, World Bank, RMI funds, diplomatic partners, international and regional partners.



#### **D. The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MoFAT)**

- Inform and share updates to diplomatic partners, including regional and international organizations that RMI is a member to, resident diplomatic corps along with the RMI overseas missions.
- Liaise with diplomatic partners, including regional and international organizations that RMI is a member to for assistance.

#### **E. The Ministry of Culture and Internal Affairs (MoCIA)**

- Responsible for announcing daily updates, public service announcements, press releases, and radio spots to the general public via the nation Radio V7AB.

#### **F. The Ministry of Transportation, Communication and Information Technology (MoTCIT)**

- That the MoTCIT including relevant SOEs shall ensure compliance and implementation of the nCoV Travel Advisory issued by MoHHS.
- That the MoTCIT and DCA shall ensure United Airlines and Air Nauru adhere and comply to the nCoV Travel Advisory issued by MoHHS.
- That the MoTCIT, through RMI Ports Authority and MIMRA, ensures 100% compliance of the nCoV 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.
- Secretary of MoTCIT shall activate level of security for sea ports of entries based on MoHHS' advisory.
- Coordinate pre-arrival meetings





### **G. 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 nCoV 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.

### **H. Marshall Islands Red Cross Society (MIRCS)**

- MIRCS sits auxiliary to GRMI per MIRCS Act of 2013 to provide support and complimentary resources in times of peace and conflict.
- Based on projected scenarios and response, if necessary, to facilitate psychosocial support mechanisms for responders, care-givers, and affected peoples.
- MIRCS to facilitate, if required, home-based care and trainings thereof.
- MIRCS to engage, if necessary, International Federation of Red Cross (IFRC) in 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 cluster and conjoin National Society appeals for greater assistance.

### **I. The 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 to the nCoV Travel Advisory issued by MoHHS.



- MIMRA to provide their clearance protocol to RMI Ports Authority and MoHHS.

#### **J. The Ministry of Works, Infrastructure and Utilities**

- Design and construct a surge isolation ward at Majuro Hospital along with a separate waiting area as soon as practical.

#### **K. The Ministry of Justice, Immigration and Labor**

- That the Immigration Division shall ensure the nCoV 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 event where a vessel is under special quarantine, Immigration, along with Sea Patrol, will ensure vessel adheres to quarantine protocol.

#### **L. 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.





### M. The Office of the President

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

**I FURTHER ORDER** that as soon as hereafter possible, this Proclamation Declaring State of Emergency due to the 2019 Novel Coronavirus 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 7<sup>th</sup> day of February 2020.

  
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David Kabua  
President

  
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Earlie C. Bing  
Clerk of the Cabinet