

**Office of  
THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**



Ministry of Health, Vaiola Hospital, PO Box 59, Nuku'alofa  
Kingdom of Tonga

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**MINISTRY OF HEALTH  
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA**

**TRAVEL ADVISORY NO. 6 FOR TRAVELERS ARRIVING IN OR INTENDING TO  
TRAVEL TO TONGA**

**PROTECTION AGAINST NOVEL CORONAVIRUS IMPORTATION INTO TONGA**

The Ministry of Health of Tonga hereby issues this Travel Advisory due to the current status of COVID-19 and the recent declaration of COVID-19 as a pandemic by the World Health Organization. The Ministry of Health is closely monitoring this pandemic of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed "COVID-19") that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. To date, 29 confirmed cases have been reported in the Pacific Island Countries and Territories.

The Ministry of Health is seriously concerned about the high risk of importation of COVID-19 into Tonga due to the significant health impacts it will have. There is a very high risk of an outbreak which has the potential to cause huge economic loss to the country. The country alert level is therefore raised from "high" to "very high" according to WHO Risk Assessment.

In exercise of the powers stipulated under the Public Health Act, the following travel advisory is issued, and shall apply to all ports of entry<sup>1</sup> in the Kingdom of Tonga.

1. All international flights to Tonga is diverted from Tonga for the next 2 weeks (23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020 – 6<sup>th</sup> April 2020, however the diversion list is only to 28<sup>th</sup> March 2020), except for international flights approved by the Ministry of Health.
2. Only Tongan passport holders, valid residency visa holders, valid working visa holders, and international travelers are approved by the Ministry of Health, will be granted entry into Tonga.
3. All travelers arriving in Tonga must report and register with the Ministry of Health Border Control Team and provide the following documents:
  - a. A completed Traveler's Arrival Health Declaration Card; **AND**
  - b. Medical clearance obtained within 3 days prior to arrival in Tonga;

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<sup>1</sup> Land and Sea

**HON. ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR ÁMELIA LATU AFUHA'AMANGO TUÍPULOTU  
MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

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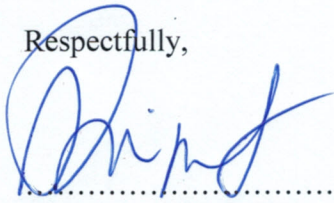


4. All travelers arriving in Tonga must undergo 14 days quarantine in Tongatapu and comply with all directions issued by the Ministry of Health Border Control Team.
5. All travelers, who upon arrival in Tonga, who qualifies as a **suspect case of COVID-19** as determined by the Ministry of Health Border Control Team,<sup>2</sup> shall comply with their directions and undergo 14 days isolation in Tongatapu.
6. All conveyances operating in Tonga are advised to prohibit the boarding of any passenger with symptoms of COVID-19 and report to the Ministry of Health<sup>3</sup> the presence of any sick person on board as required by the International Health Regulations (2005).
7. It is strongly instructed that all persons intending to travel to overseas countries, are to postpone their travel arrangements in the next 3 months.
8. All international flights and vessels entering Tonga shall use Tongatapu as the first port of entry for border screening and control.<sup>4</sup> Cargo vessels shall be re-routed to the outer islands once approved by the Ministry of Health.
9. All international cruise ships and yachts scheduled to arrive after the 19<sup>th</sup> of March 2020 shall be denied entry into Tonga until further notice.

A failure to comply with any of the above will result in criminal prosecution under Tonga's laws.

This Travel Advisory is issued<sup>5</sup> by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and is effective from 1:00am on 23.03.2020 and may be further reviewed and updated as required.

Respectfully,



Honourable Associate Professor 'Amelia Latu Afuha'amango Tuipulotu  
Minister for Health

Date: 23.03.2020

<sup>2</sup> in accordance with the Declaration of an Emergency Notifiable Condition dated 13 March 2020.

<sup>3</sup> The Ministry of Health Border Control Team at all ports of entry in Tonga.

<sup>4</sup> This includes Tongan vessels operating internationally.

<sup>5</sup> This travel advisory is effective from 23.03.2020.

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