



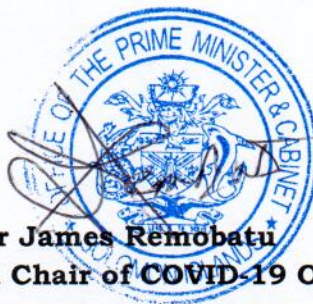
## **TRAVEL ADVISORY NUMBER 19**

**29 July 2021**

### **TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF ALL INCOMING PASSENGER SERVICE BY AIR OR BY SEA TO SOLOMON ISLANDS UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

1. The Solomon Islands Government wishes to inform all intending travelers to Solomon Islands – both Solomon Island citizens and non – Solomon Islands Citizens that **effective immediately**, all incoming passenger services to Solomon Islands by air or by sea, are suspended until further notice. All cargo flights and vessels will continue subject to weekly reviews.
2. To give legal effect to this suspension, the Prime Minister by Order has prohibited the entry of persons from a country where there is widespread community transmission of the COVID-19 Delta Variant under the Emergency Powers (COVID-19) (Prohibition of Entry) (No. 2) Order 2021 dated 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2021.
3. Requests for repatriation flights during this period will be considered on their individual merits. Approval will be based on the assessment by the Ministry of Health on the level of risk and the prevalence of the Delta variant COVID-19 situation in the country the repatriation aircraft is travelling from and countries it will land enroute to Solomon Islands.
4. It is mandatory for all flight crew of any repatriation flight approved to enter Solomon Islands to fill our predeparture questionnaire [PDQ] and to undertake a PCR COVID-19 test 72 hours before arrival in Honiara and send these documents to our National Health Emergency Operation Centre [NHEOC\_REPAT@moh.gov.sb] at least 48 hours before arrival. The PDQ will be sent to the requesting party if / when the request is approved.

5. The period of suspension will enable the Oversight Committee and our frontline ministries time to 'review and reset' our SOPs considering the highly transmissible 'Delta variant' of COVID-19 that has now affected more than 100 countries globally, including some of our closest neighbours in the region.
6. Given the virulence and aggressiveness of this highly infectious and easily transmissible Delta variant of COVID-19 and having witnessed the devastating effect it can have on small island countries like Solomon Islands, it is in the best interest of our country and our people that we take this action to 'review and reset' our preparedness and our SOPs to ensure they are appropriate for the Delta variant.
7. The suspension of incoming passenger services is temporary. It will be lifted (i) as soon as we see marked improvement in the regional and global situation in relation to the 'Delta variant', especially in the countries that people are travelling to Solomon Islands from, (ii) our preparedness level and SOPs are 'reset' to combat the Delta variant of COVID-19, and / or (iii) our vaccination coverage in our Emergency Zones has reached or is approaching 80% of the target population.
8. Solomon Islands has seen the impact of the 'Delta Variant' in its close neighbours – Australia and Fiji. We are drawing on the experiences in Fiji, Australia and other Delta-variant affected countries to 'review and reset' our preparedness level and our SOPs to ensure Solomon Island is both prepared and protected from the delta variant of COVID-19 as much as possible.
9. When flights for incoming passenger services recommence, all travelers are encouraged to be fully vaccinated and comply with the country's entry and pre departure COVID-19 tests requirements enshrined in the Regulations. Any traveler from high-risk or extremely high-risk countries are required to self-quarantine 21 days prior to arrival in Solomon Islands in addition to the pre-departure testing even if they are fully vaccinated.
10. We will provide regular updates on the status of the temporary suspension going forward.



**Mr James Remobatu**  
**Secretary to Cabinet and Chair of COVID-19 Oversight Committee**