

SOLOMON ISLANDS GOVERNMENT

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<u>Travel advisory for travellers arriving in Solomon Islands: Protection against measles importation into Solomon Islands.</u>

Further to travel advisory issued by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) of the Solomon Islands Government (SIG) on December 13, 2019 and supplementary information issued on December 17, 2019, the MHMS proposes to issue updated addendum/ clarifications on measles containing vaccine requirements prior to entry in Solomon Islands. These include:

- Two new countries are being added to the list of affected countries and it includes Kiribati and Papua New Guinea. The mandatory requirement of vaccination for these two countries comes into force on January 20, 2020. For the remaining countries the original date for requirements for entry into Solomon Islands listed as of December 28, 2019 remains in force; and
- For the purpose of this advisory, the list of affected countries now includes American Samoa, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Philippines; and
- 3. The mandatory requirement for vaccination against measles is not applicable to persons transiting through affected countries (American Samoa, Samoa, Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, Australia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea and Philippines) where the original port of boarding/ departure/embarkation was not one of the affected countries; and
- 4. For the purpose of this advisory, a transit applies to staying temporarily within the airport terminal complex before continuing on to your next destination and includes transfer; and
- The proof of vaccination also includes a medical certificate from a recognized medical practitioner/ hospital that states that the traveller is protected from measles due to past infection or immunization with measles vaccine.

The necessary directive may be issued by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration to all countries with whom Solomon Islands has Diplomatic relations including regional bodies such as the SPC and Pacific Forum as well as airlines and shipping companies that serve the Solomon Islands to implement these measures.

Minister of Health & Medical Services