



TRAVEL ADVISORY NUMBER 21

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR TRAVELLERS TO SOLOMON ISLANDS

21st March 2022

The Solomon Islands Government wishes to inform Solomon Islands Citizens and Non - Citizens planning to travel to Solomon Islands to take note of this latest travel advisory during the COVID-19 Pandemic. This advisory covers the following areas:

- Weekly international passenger flights
- Entry requirements
- Country risk profile
- Quarantine period
- Miscellaneous provisions

A. Weekly International passenger flights

1. Currently, there is weekly scheduled Solomon Airlines flight from Brisbane every Fridays. Solomon Islands Citizens and non –citizens planning to travel Solomon Islands have to book with Solomon Airlines. There are limited spaces available in the flight based on available quarantine spaces. These numbers will increase as we head towards the opening of the borders in July 2022.
2. For foreign nationals, they will still need to apply for **exemption to the COVID-19 Oversight Committee to enter the country**. For citizens returning overseas, the Border Opening Committee (BOC) will determine their application on case-by-case basis.
3. For citizens and residents, they can return after one (1) month from overseas and after fulfilling entry requirements. If less than 1 month, this will be determined on case-by-case basis.
4. To all foreign nationals that are holding approval letters to enter the country issued by Immigration, these letters mean you have fulfilled the

requirements by immigration to enter the country. However, during the SOPE, only travelers approved through the Oversight Committee and its 'Border reopening subcommittee' will be allowed to enter the country.

B. Entry Requirements

a. Mandatory Vaccination – a requirement for entry into Solomon Islands

- 5. All travelers to Solomon Islands 18 years and older must be fully vaccinated before they can enter the country.** The final dose of the vaccination must be received 4 weeks prior to the travel date. *[For example, if they take their 2nd dose of Pfizer, AstraZeneca or Sinopharm, or 1 dose of Johnson & Johnson on 1 November 2021, they can enter Solomon Islands after 4 weeks, i.e., on this date, after 17th March 2022].*
- 6. For travelers who are less than 18 years and are eligible to take their vaccination, they are strongly encouraged to do before they enter the country. If they are unable to do so, they must agree to be vaccinated as soon as practical after arrival.**
- 7.** An electronic copy of both sides of the original vaccination certificate must be sent to the National Health Emergency Operational Centre [NHEOC] at NHEOC_REPAT@moh.gov.sb for verification by health authorities as 'proof of vaccination' before approval for travel is granted.
- 8. No one 18 years and older is allowed to enter Solomon Islands if they are not fully vaccinated.**
- 9. It is strongly recommended that booster doses of the vaccine be taken as per the policy prevailing in departing country.**

C. Country Risk Profile associated pre-departure and post arrival testing and quarantine requirements

- 10.** The government has approved a two (2) risk categories, – COVID-19 free and non – COVID free.
- 11.** The key change is the reduction of post arrival quarantine period and a reduction in pre-departure and post-arrival COVID-19 testing regimen based on scientific analysis and the fact that all returning adults MUST fully vaccinated.
- 12.** The requirements for the 2 categories in the regulation are as follows:

a. For travelers from COVID-19 free countries

- i. One Pre-departure PCR COVID test within 72 hours prior to arrival
- ii. 7 days quarantine post arrival
- iii. One test during quarantine on day 6 or 7 and discharge on day 7 if negative
- iv. If traveler transits through Covid-19 affected country – 10 days quarantine and two tests

b. For travelers from COVID affected countries

- i. One Pre-departure PCR COVID test within 72 hours prior to arrival
- ii. One Rapid Antigen or PCR COVID Test within 12 hours prior to check-in
- iii. 10 days quarantine post arrival
- iv. Two tests during quarantine on day 5-7 and days 9-10 and discharge on day 10 if both tests are negative

13. The Ministry of Health and Medical Services can increase the pre-departure and post arrival requirements based on risk assessments for each of the 2 categories [12, a- b].

14. The requirements outlined in paragraph 13 a and b applies to all travelers including diplomats. Any person that does not comply will not be permitted to board the aircraft. Any passenger that boards in breach of the COVID-19 regulations will be forced to return to where he or she boarded the flight or face prosecution.

15. Electronic copies of Pre-departure PCR COVID -19 and Rapid Antigen tests results must be sent to the National Health Emergency Operational Centre [NHEOC] at NHEOC_REPAT@moh.gov.sb for assessment by health authorities before approval for travel is granted.

D. Quarantine requirements for families travelling with Children

16. For children who cannot be vaccinated, the duration of quarantine for families traveling with them are as follows:

- i. Families with children travelling from COVID-19 free countries – **10 days quarantine and 2 tests**
- ii. Families with children travelling from moderate/ high risk countries – **10 days quarantine and 2 tests**

E. Miscellaneous provisions

E.1 - Application processing fees

17. The COVID-19 Oversight Committee processing fees for applicants to enter the country during the SOPE is \$2,000 per application. This fee is payable by all applicants that do not fall under the exemption list in paragraph 17 below.
18. The following categories are exempted from paying the OSC processing fees:
 - a. Diplomatic missions
 - b. Agreed bilateral programmes
 - c. Agreed priority national projects
 - d. Regional and Multilateral organisations
 - e. State Owned Enterprises (SOEs)
 - f. UN Agencies
19. Those who do not fall under any of the categories listed in paragraph 18 of this advisory will need to pay a processing fee of **SB\$2,000.00** per application. Applicants must pay the processing fee for entry into the country during the COVID-19 Pandemic period at the Ministry of Finance and Treasury (MoFT).
20. The processing fee stated above is separate to the fees charged by Immigration Division for the appropriate visa and Labour Division for work permits.
21. For those who are required to pay the processing fee, the following documents are mandatory to submit before their applications are processed and considered:
 - g. Application Letter
 - h. Official Treasury Receipt
 - i. Valid work permit
 - j. Long -term visa
 - k. Passport biodata page
 - l. Vaccination Status (must be fully vaccinated, proof of vaccination must be provided)
 - m. Dependency visa (under humanitarian grounds)
 - n. Any related supporting documents (e.g., proof of marriage)
22. All applicants must submit those required documents before their applications can be processed and considered for approval. Any incomplete application will be held in abeyance until all the required documentations are submitted for consideration.
23. All applicants must submit their application (electronically or hardcopy) and addressed to the Chair of the Oversight Committee, Secretary to Cabinet, Mr James Remobatu, Office of the Prime Minister & Cabinet at

iremobatu@pmc.gov.sb and copied to the Chair of the Subcommittee on the Exemption of Foreign Nationals, Deputy Secretary, Mr Cornelius Walegereia, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade at Cornelius.Walegereia@mfaet.gov.sb. When submitting your applications for exemptions to enter the country, at this stage, please, **DO NOT** copy the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). You only submit the necessary documents for Health Assessment to the MHMS when your flight is confirmed.

24. Applicants are advised that it take 4 weeks from receipt of applications to the publishing of the Gazette for those that are approved to enter the country. All applicants will be notified of the outcome of their applications within the six-week period. **DO NOT** call for results unless you do not receive a response by end of 6 weeks of submitting your application. If companies or individuals have issues with Foreign Investment regarding their business operations or investments in the country or visas or work permits, they are strongly advised to see relevant authorities to address and deal with their issues. Otherwise, this will adversely affect their applications for exemptions to enter the country during this period.

E. 2 - Travel Plans

25. The government no longer lists countries by differential risk categories. The National Health Emergency Operation Centre [NHEOC] of the Ministry of Health and Medical Services will undertake risk-assessments of each intending traveler to determine whether they can travel and whether to accord the traveler as coming from a Covid free or Covid affected country, which will determine their pre-departure and post arrival requirements.
26. The Border Opening Committee will try to ensure all intending travelers for each flight as determined [see paragraphs 2 & 3] are informed well in advance of their travel to ensure they are informed of their pre-departure testing requirements.

E. 4 –Quarantine stations and payment for quarantine costs

27. Incoming passengers, nationals or foreign nationals are allowed to do their own bookings at any of the approved quarantine hotels and pay for their own quarantine costs in full. Hotels are responsible to manage the quarantine stations in liaising with Camp Management and Health for purposes of coordination and undertaking Covid tests during the quarantine period.

28. Apart from meeting quarantine costs, all foreign nationals apart from those agreed to by the government will meet COVID-19 tests fees. All payments must be made to the Ministry of Finance and Treasury before the end of quarantine period. 'Proof of payment' of the COVID-19 tests will trigger release from quarantine at the completion of quarantine.
29. The government will continue to meet quarantine costs for returning students and their dependents including quarantine costs of dependents of students sponsored under third country scholarship awards. The third country scholarship provider is expected to meet the full quarantine cost for the students they sponsor.
30. The government will also meet quarantine costs for returning SIG officials on approved trips and citizens returning from self-funded medical travel. Other returning citizens will meet some quarantine costs at subsidized rates.
31. Home quarantine is allowed post-arrival in Solomon Islands but in order to qualify for home quarantine, the traveler have to submit an application to the Incident Controller, MHMS for home quarantine. The incident controller will take a final decision for home quarantine but this is limited based on the capacity of health to manage home quarantine. Otherwise, all are expected to be quarantine at approved quarantine hotels and designated quarantine stations by the government.

E.5 – Precautionary measures to be observed by all intending travelers to Solomon Islands

32. All intending travelers to Solomon Islands must self –isolate or quarantine at least 7 days before their travel to Solomon Islands and strictly observe quarantine protocols.

E. 6 – Entry into the country by legal spouses and children of Solomon Island nationals

33. Citizens returning with their legal spouses and dependents must comply with the advice in this travel advisory.

E. 7 - Mandatory Pre-departure Questionnaire [PDQ] & Compliance Forms

34. All intending travelers to Solomon Islands must fill and send the Pre-departure questionnaire (PDQ) and a signed agreement to comply with our instructions on quarantine to NHEOC at

NHEOC_REPAT@moh.gov.sb at least 5 days before departure. These forms are available from NHEOC, Solomon Island Diplomatic Missions overseas and Solomon Airlines.

Compliance to the Travel Advisory

35. The Solomon Islands Government welcomes all intending travelers to Solomon Islands. We appreciate many of you are travelling to assist the country in its journey to economic recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic.
36. The Solomon Islands Government seeks the full understanding and cooperation of everyone entering Solomon Islands during this challenging time to abide by the measures outlined in this Advisory.

Thank you and welcome to Solomon Islands

The image shows a circular official stamp of the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands. The text around the perimeter of the stamp reads "OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER" at the top and "SOLOMON ISLANDS" at the bottom. In the center of the stamp is the national coat of arms of Solomon Islands. Overlaid on the stamp is a handwritten signature in blue ink.

Mr James Remobatu
Secretary to Cabinet and Chairman of the COVID-19 Oversight Committee