

MEDIA RELEASE: QUARANTINE MEASURES FOR PASSENGERS ARRIVING FROM AUSTRALIA ON SATURDAY, 28 MARCH

There are currently 5 cases of COVID-19 confirmed in Fiji. The Government will advise the public as soon as possible should this change.

A Virgin Airways flight (F70/VHNKQ) from Brisbane, Australia with 21 Fijian citizens and cargo containing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) and other equipment will arrive at the Nadi International Airport at 3pm this afternoon.

Any passengers showing symptoms of COVID-19 on arrival will be transferred to an isolation facility.

The Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services with relevant government agencies will place all passengers without symptoms from this flight under a strict 14-day quarantine period at designated sites near the Nadi International Airport. They will be assessed and monitored daily by a medical team.

During their time in quarantine, the passengers will not be permitted to leave their rooms and meals will be delivered by room service. They will not receive any visitors.

Staff at the designated sites have received training on COVID-19 prevention and will be provided with appropriate PPE. Measures have been taken to ensure there will be minimal interaction between the passengers and site staff.

The same measures will be applied to passengers who are expected on a flight from New Zealand tomorrow (29 March 2020).

The Fijian Ministry of Health acknowledges the assistance by the Australian Government in providing PPE and equipment that will be used in the response to COVID-19. This will be distributed for use at health facilities throughout Fiji.

The Symptoms of COVID-19 include:

- fever
- flu-like symptoms such as coughing, sore throat or headaches; or
- difficulty breathing.

The Government of Fiji remains on the highest level of alert in response to this global pandemic. We know that finding cases early and isolating them quickly is key to containing this disease. As the symptoms of COVID-19 are very similar to many other respiratory illnesses (including the common cold and influenza) it is expected that the Ministry will continue to investigate more persons with relevant travel history and symptoms related to COVID-19.

What can you do?

The Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services wishes to strongly urge the public to not share rumours and misinformation, and to use credible sources for information on COVID-19:

Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services website:

www.health.gov.fj

Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services Facebook page:

www.facebook.com/MoHFiji/

World Health Organization (WHO) website:

www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/advice-for-public

If you have been to a COVID-19 affected country in the last 14 days and develop a fever, cough or difficulty breathing immediately contact one of the numbers listed below:

Central 2219905

Eastern 2219906

Western 2219907

Northern 2219908

The Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services is monitoring the developing situation and will provide updates regularly to the public.