

FIJI COVID-19 BORDER CONTROL MEASURES



The Fijian COVID Safe Economic Recovery Framework outlines a three phased approach to a “COVID-Safe Economic Recovery”. It is based on the core principles of stopping importation of the virus, ensuring health system readiness, and COVID-proofing Fijian businesses and society at-large.

The goal of this framework is to break potential chains of viral transmission before they take hold, creating a “new normal” that allows economic activity to safely resume in a manner that protects against a large-scale viral outbreak. The measures within the framework call for basic hygiene and infection controls in places of work and communal activity, minimised social interactions, physical distancing, and adherence to COVID-safe operational plans in businesses, schools, houses of worship and other venues.

<i>Phase</i>	<i>Details</i>
Phase 1	First steps. Gradually opening up businesses and communities with COVID Safe Plans in place
Phase 2	Continuing to safely open more businesses, the education sector and communities with COVID Safe Plans in place
Phase 3	All businesses and communities open with minimum restrictions and COVID Safe Plans in place

Disclaimer on International Travel to Fiji

- International travellers will be restricted to two Ports of Entry, that is, Nadi International Airport and Denarau Marina, subject to bilateral or regional arrangements or specific protocols.
- There are strict border health quarantine processes and procedures that travellers must comply with

Who is permitted to Enter Fiji

- Only Fijian citizens and residents are permitted to enter Fiji at this time.
- People from any other countries cannot enter Fiji at this time, unless they have specific grounds for exemption. Those with current allowing work permit and investor permits still require approvals from Office of the Prime Minister (OPM). Visitors via the Blue lanes and those with significant economic value to Fiji need to apply via Department of Immigration and COVID Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) assessment. Applications are received and assessed by both OPM (Dept of Immigration) and CRMT.
- Assessments for permission to enter Fiji are undertaken on a risk-based approach and whether the individual travels from a country that has ongoing local transmission or not.
- All persons entering Fiji must download the careFIJI app. Where a person does not have a smart phone, they must provide alternate contact details for contact tracing purposes
- For further information please refer to the Fijian COVID Safe Economic Recovery Framework

The Health Processes for COVID-19 Quarantine

- Every person who arrives in Fiji must be isolated from other people in Fiji for a minimum period of 14 days. They must then test negative for COVID-19 before they can go into the community and their respective homes.
- There are certain entry requirements before departure: The Fiji Citizen(s)/ Fiji Resident(s)/ Other Permit Holder(s) must produce a recent negative COVID-19 RT-PCR or Cepheid GeneXpert (Xpert® Xpress SARS-CoV-2) test (for a nasopharyngeal sample taken not more than 72 hours before departure) following which approval will be granted to depart for Fiji
- Fijian Citizens entering Fiji must go immediately into government mandated quarantine facilities. Costs for accommodation and meals for Fijian Citizens are paid by the Fijian Government.
- Fijian Residents must also go immediately into government mandated quarantine facilities or a hotel approved by Ministry of Health & Medical Services (MoHMS) and the costs for accommodation and meals are paid by the resident.
- All persons quarantined will remain in their hotels for at least 14 days and need to test negative for COVID-19 before they can go into the community and/or their respective homes.
- Some people may apply for an exemption on the hotel-based quarantine, but they should apply in writing to the Chairperson of the COVID Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) on crmt@govnet.gov.fj
- Home-based quarantine will only be considered after careful assessment following a formal request for exemption of the hotel-based quarantine. If the home premises is not suitable, the individual will be required to be quarantined at the designated hotels.

What happens when you arrive (Airports)

- All people entering Fiji on a flight from another country must go into quarantine for at least 14 days.
- You will disembark in small groups and be met by Government officials at the gate. You will then be screened at the airport for COVID-19 symptoms on arrival. The screening consists of filling the supplementary health arrival card and Health Officials taking your temperature readings.
- You will be required to undergo normal immigration/customs processes at the airport.
- Your luggage will be disinfected and once you pick up your luggage, the Health and RFMF personnel will brief you on the quarantine procedures/rules. The passengers will be tagged – told which hotels they will be allocated.
- You will then be transported to the quarantine facility using a Government designated vehicle.

Quarantine Facilities

- The Fijian government has arranged for hotels to be used for quarantine for people arriving in the country.
- The quarantine requirements are managed and enforced by MoHMS support from the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF).
- Once you are in the hotel, the Health Quarantine Officers will assist you in arranging for sim cards and/or currency exchange if required.
- On the first day in quarantine, a medical officer will conduct health checks on each person under quarantine to assess medical and health conditions. The health teams will then conduct daily monitoring after this.
- Persons coming from Higher risk countries (where local transmission is occurring) will be swabbed for COVID-19 upon arrival
- There will be a MoHMS staff at the designated hotel at all times to conduct daily monitoring/screening of persons under quarantine.
- Persons requiring medication will be assisted by the medical staff. Emergency health and medical procedures will be facilitated by the MOHMS.
- In the event a person falls sick while under quarantine, they will be referred to the Nadi COVID-19 Isolation Facility at Nadi Hospital.
- No person may not leave a quarantine facility unless they have been cleared or provided an exemption from health officials.
- All people in quarantine will be provided with three meals a day.
- There is no cost to Fiji Citizens in these facilities for accommodation and meals. People may use room service or request additional items such as food or prescription medicines at their own cost.
- While in the quarantine hotel you will not be allowed to go to the dining area for meals. Meals will be delivered to your room.
- You will not be allowed to use the swimming pool, gym or gather at the bar.
- You will not be allowed to go out of the hotel until the mandatory 14-day quarantine period has been completed.
- While in quarantine, you will be allowed to walk around the designated area for exercise at certain times in the day under supervision while maintaining physical distancing. These will be done via a roster.
- You will be responsible for the upkeep of your room, however hotel staff will periodically clean room linen under strict health supervision. Personal laundry can be done in designated laundry areas under strict supervision.

- No alcohol and no kava may be consumed by any person under quarantine.
- You may receive parcels from your friends or family members. Parcels must be dropped off at reception or security check points. You will not be allowed to have direct physical contact with your friends or family members while under quarantine.
- No family members, friends or others will be allowed to visit any individual who is in quarantine.
- You will not be allowed to send any parcels outside of your hotel.
- The hotel premises will be under 24/7 surveillance and any breaches of quarantine will be seriously dealt with by the RFMF and may result in legal actions.
- Once the 14 days have been completed, you must be medically certified as having a negative COVID-19 test before you leave.
- Before leaving the quarantine facility, a final health check and swabbing for COVID-19 will be carried out confirming the person:
 - has not tested positive for COVID-19
 - does not have symptoms of COVID-19
 - has a temperature below 38 degrees Celsius.
- You will be issued a medical clearance letter after completing the 14-day quarantine and receiving a negative COVID-19 test result.
- Once cleared, you will be responsible for arranging your travel from the hotel to your respective destination.

Exemptions

There are very few exceptional circumstances in which people can apply for an exemption to leave quarantine such as:

- People who require a medical transfer or treatment
- People with medical or physical needs which can't be managed in the accommodation provided
- People in transit through Fiji

Assessments on these are made on a case by case basis and requests for exemptions must be made in writing to the COVID Risk Mitigation Taskforce (CRMT) on crmt@govnet.gov.fj