



MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL SERVICES

COVID-19 UPDATE - RESPONSE EFFORT SCALED UP

Training is now underway for additional contact tracing teams as part of a Government-wide effort to ensure Fiji's preparedness in the face of the COVID-19 pandemic.

As of Wednesday, March 18, Fiji remains free of COVID-19.

The Fijian Ministry of Health and Medical Services says all tests conducted on suspected COVID-19 cases in Fiji have returned a negative result.

The WHO says there are now at least 184,976 cases with 7,529 cases from 159 countries or territories.

While Fiji remains COVID-19 free, extensive Government-wide efforts are continuing to ensure the country's resilience.

As part of this response, 50 members of the RFMF will join medical staff in teams to work on tracing contacts of a patient if they return a positive COVID-19 test in Fiji.

Training for this contingent began this week.

Secure isolation facilities are already up and running throughout Fiji. More of these facilities will be added as needed as part of the response plan.

Another key part of the Government-wide response to COVID-19 is encouraging the public to take extra hygiene steps now to practice limiting the spread of disease and help protect those most vulnerable to COVID-19.

You should wash your hands regularly with soap for 20 seconds or with alcohol sanitiser and stop touching your face. Cover your mouth with an elbow or tissue before sneezing or coughing and throw away tissue afterwards.

It is also time to practice social distancing - stop shaking hands or hugging others.

These are vital steps we can all take to stop the spread of COVID-19 and other infectious diseases.

The MHMS also urges the public not to share rumours and misinformation. We will tell you as soon as possible once we have a confirmed case. Use credible sources such as the MHMS website (<http://www.health.gov.fj/>) or official Facebook page, or the WHO website (www.who.int).

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.

If you need to see a doctor please call ahead, using the following phone numbers, before visiting to reduce the risk of infecting other patients.

- Central 2219905
- Eastern 2219906
- Western 2219907
- Northern 2219908