

**Office of
THE MINISTER FOR HEALTH**



**HON. POASI MATAELE TEI
ACTING MINISTER FOR HEALTH**

PO Box 59, Nuku'alofa
Kingdom of Tonga

**TRAVEL ADVISORY NO. 3 FOR TRAVELERS ARRIVING IN OR INTENDING TO
TRAVEL TO TONGA**

PROTECTION AGAINST NOVEL CORONAVIRUS IMPORTATION INTO TONGA.

The Ministry of Health of Tonga hereby issues this Travel Advisory due to the current global outbreaks of novel coronavirus (COVID-19). The Ministry of Health is closely monitoring this outbreak of respiratory illness caused by a novel (new) coronavirus (termed "COVID-19") that was first detected in Wuhan City, Hubei Province, China and which continues to expand. To date, no confirmed cases have been reported in the Pacific Island Countries.

The Ministry of Health is highly concerned about the risk of importation of this infection into Tonga. There is a likelihood of an outbreak which will not only cause high morbidity, mortality but also has the potential to cause a big economic loss to the country.

In exercise of the powers stipulated under the Public Health Act, the following travel advisory is issued and will apply to all ports of entry¹ in the Kingdom of Tonga.

1. All travelers arriving in Tonga, must complete the Traveler's Arrival Health Declaration Card, and provide it to the Ministry of Health Border Control Team upon arrival.
2. All international travelers, **originating from or transiting through China**² must spend at least 14 days self-quarantine outside of China³. Upon the completion of this period, the international travelers must obtain medical clearance (confirming travelers are free of symptoms of acute respiratory illness) at least 3 days prior to departure from the last port prior to entry into Tonga. This restriction will not apply to the following categories of persons:
 - (a) Tongan citizens, permanent residents and their immediate (nuclear⁴) family members;

¹ Land and Sea

² including Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Taipei

³ including Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Taipei

⁴ Nuclear family in this context refers to mothers, fathers, sons, and/or daughters of travelers.

- (b) International travelers who have not been in China⁵ in the past 14 days of arriving in Tonga.
3. Those exempted under Article 2(a) above, who have been in China⁶ within 14 days of their arrival in Tonga, are required to report to the Ministry of Health Border Control Team for health quarantine measures.
 4. All international travelers, who upon arrival in Tonga, reflect symptoms of COVID-19 as determined by the Ministry of Health Border Control Team, will undergo health quarantine measures. The Ministry of Health will then notify and work with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to liaise, if needed, with the relevant authorities of the country of citizenship of such traveler.
 5. The vessel operators and airlines operating in Tonga are mandated to report to the Ministry of Health⁷, the presence of any sick person on board as per requirements under the International Health Regulations (2005).
 6. It is strongly recommended that all persons intending to travel to China⁸ or any country affected by the COVID-19, postpone their travel arrangements unless necessary.
 7. All international flights and vessels entering Tonga will be required to use Tongatapu as the first port of entry for border screening prior to re-routing to outer islands.⁹

This Travel Advisory is issued, with immediate effect¹⁰, by the Ministry of Health and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and may be further reviewed and updated as required.

Respectfully,



.....
Hon. Poasi Mataele Tei
Acting Minister for Health

Date: 15.02.2020

⁵ including Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Taipei

⁶ including Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Taipei

⁷ The Ministry of Health Border Control Team at all ports of entry in Tonga.

⁸ including Hong Kong SAR, Macao SAR, Taipei

⁹ This includes Tongan vessels operating internationally.

¹⁰ This travel advisory is effective from 15.02.2020