



President

REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS

Proclamation Declaring State of Health Emergency due to the Global Public Health Emergency of International Concern on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the Novel Coronavirus outbreak as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC);

WHEREAS, the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) has not been identified in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI); however, the threat of this new coronavirus being imported into Republic of the Marshall Islands continues to heighten. The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) and border control agencies have been implementing health screenings at the Amata Kabua International Airport and Majuro Seaport since January 24, 2020. Meanwhile, over 28,292 confirmed cases have been identified worldwide, and the virus has claimed over 565 lives in the People's Republic of China (PRC);

WHEREAS, there has been one coronavirus death outside of PRC that occurred in the Philippines on a 44-year old visitor from the city of Wuhan where the virus was first reported;

WHEREAS, there is no confirmed treatment for nCoV except supportive care and isolation;

WHEREAS, nCoV is considered to be highly contagious with prolonged contact and, to date, all of the exact modes of transmission are unknown;

WHEREAS, healthcare providers, first responders and immediate contacts are at risk of contracting nCoV;

WHEREAS, immune-compromised persons are the most vulnerable populations to develop severe complications and or death;

WHEREAS, the MoHHS health infrastructure is limited and does not have sufficient resources to respond to an outbreak. Therefore, it is extremely important to halt the spread of nCoV virus within the RMI;

WHEREAS, the RMI is home to more than 53,000 people living on 70 square miles of land spanning an area of more than 750,000 square meters of ocean in the Western Pacific and the transmission of nCoV can be extensive;

WHEREAS, to implement an effective and efficient response against this nCoV, there is an urgent need for the whole of government and whole of society to cooperate and adhere to relevant instructions and protocols to prevent entry of the nCoV to RMI;



WHEREAS, the RMI has been under a State of Health Emergency since August of 2019 because of a severe outbreak of dengue 3 which continues to be a major health issue to this day and that has devastated both the human and financial resources of the RMI;

NOW THEREFORE, the Cabinet has been briefed and, at their meeting on February 7, 2020, do hereby approve this Proclamation.

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on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus**

BY THIS PROCLAMATION, the Cabinet has invoked its emergency powers under the *Emergencies Act 1979*, and as such, I, DAVID KABUA, have heretofore, and on behalf of the Cabinet, signed and caused the issuance of the ORDERS necessary to protect and safeguard the lives and health in the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

THIS PROCLAMATION and all emergency ORDERS issued hereunder, shall remain in effect until the expiry of 10 days from the date hereof, or unless extended by Cabinet, or extended by a Nitijela Resolution.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED THAT:

- I. All Government Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Private Sector and Stakeholders are hereby directed to work in unison, to plan and coordinate a national preparedness and immediate response through the National Disaster Committee (NDC) along with MoHHS as the technical advisor, with reference to the Communicable Disease Response Plan (CDRP).
- II. Travel Restrictions and Requirements:
 - Suspension of all air and sea travel **FROM and TO** People's Republic of China (PRC), Hong Kong and Macau as deemed appropriate and necessary to prevent the introduction of 2019 Novel Coronavirus (nCoV) to Republic of the Marshall Islands.
 - Sea vessels transporting containers of food and essential commodities to the RMI shall change their boarding ports from PRC, Hong Kong and Macau or other restricted countries listed in the travel advisory.