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TOURISM TRAVEL ADVICE

29TH FEBRUARY 2020

Frequency of Flights to Samoa to be reduced as New Zealand confirms first case of CoronaVirus

With the rapid global widespread of the Novel CoronaVirus (COVID-19), and the confirmation of its first case in Auckland, **New Zealand** - Health Officials have advised that the subsequent additional measures will COME into EFFECT at 12am on Monday morning, 2nd March 2020.

Due to New Zealand's close proximity to Samoa, the increased risk of COVID-19 entering the country has elevated from High to Very High and its possible impact on Samoa's population remains catastrophic.

REQUIREMENTS: COME into EFFECT 12am on Monday morning, 2nd March 2020.

The frequency of all International Flights to Samoa will be reduced in ongoing efforts to strengthen prevention of the COVID-19 entering Samoa.

ALL Airlines:

Samoa Airways flights from;

- Australia remains as 3 flights per week (Sydney 2 and Brisbane 1)
- New Zealand reduce from 5 flights to 3 flights per week
- Tafuna, American Samoa reduce to 4 flights per day

Talofa Airways flights from:

- Tonga remains as 1 flight per week
- Tafuna, American Samoa reduce to 4 flights per day

Air New Zealand Flights from;

- New Zealand reduce from 6 flights to 3 flights per week

Fiji Airways Flights from;

- Fiji reduce from 5 flights to 2 flights per week
- Honolulu remains as 1 flight weekly

Virgin Australia Flights from;

- Australia remain as 2 flights per week (Sydney 1 and Brisbane 1)

Airlines are advised to make appropriate Changes for Flights into Samoa. Airlines will be advised within 7 days for any new changes.

All Travelers entering Samoa FROM or TRANSITING through all ports (**New Zealand, Australia, Fiji, American Samoa, Hawaii and Tonga**) are REQUIRED to **undergo medical examination** by a Registered Medical Practitioner **within (3) days before ARRIVAL**. This medical clearance report is required for check-in prior to issuing of boarding passes.

Other countries added to the list of countries required to undergo medical examination by a Registered Medical Practitioner within (3) days before ARRIVAL are **Spain and Bahrain**.

All other health measures remain, including:

1. A Special Health Declaration Form being required to be filled out by all travelling passengers inflight or on arrival;
2. **Compulsory screening of all arriving passengers to Samoa is still in effect at all ports;**
3. All Travellers originating **FROM or TRANSITING** through:

a. Mainland CHINA	g. SOUTH KOREA
b. HONG KONG	h. ITALY
c. MACAU	i. Iran
d. JAPAN	j. Kuwait
e. SINGAPORE	k. Taiwan
f. THAILAND	

Must spend at least **14 days self-quarantine at country of last port** that is free of the Coronavirus and must undergo medical clearance within (3) days prior to final route to Samoa. This must be their final stop before travelling to Samoa.

In the event traveller arrives within the 14-day period as noted above, **he or she will be returned** to the country of last Port before arrival into Samoa.

4. All Travellers Originating **From or Transiting** through the listed countries and States in the table below are required to **undergo medical examination** by a Registered Medical Practitioner **within (3) days before ARRIVAL**.

This medical clearance is required for check-in prior to issuing of boarding passes.

Malaysia	United Arab Emirates
Australia	France
Vietnam	Germany
USA - California	Canada
Spain	Bahrain

5. Updated list will be available every week on the Government of Samoa and Ministry of Health websites <http://www.samoagovt.ws> and <https://www.health.gov.ws> depending on New Information available.
6. It is now advised Cruise Ships are not be granted entry into Samoa until further notice.
7. All sea port entries will be screened at the quarantine buoy before the vessel docks at the wharf.

All Travellers out of Samoa:

All persons intending to travel to China and any country affected by the Coronavirus are strongly recommended to postpone travel arrangements unless necessary.

Preventive measures should be adhered to and all are to be aware of the signs and symptoms of the Coronavirus which include: fever, cough, shortness of breath and breathing difficulties.

A detailed '**TRAVELLER MEDICAL ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENT**' has also been published on the abovementioned websites <http://www.samoagovt.ws>, <https://www.health.gov.ws>.

For more information - contact Tagaloa Dr. Robert Thomsen of the Ministry of Health on Phones: (+685) 665-03 and (+685) 767-6015 or Email: robertt@health.gov.ws.

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