

# GOVERNMENT PRESS SECRETARIAT

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### NEW MANDATES FOR REPATRIATION FLIGHTS – 27 NOVEMBER 2020

(GOVT. PRESS SECRETARIAT); Cabinet today approved new compulsory regulations for residents returning from overseas on repatriation flights.

Effective immediately, it is compulsory for all returning resident to sign a declaration to verify if he or she had contracted the COVID-19 or not, before they are allowed into the country.

Compulsory medical tests and health requirements prescribed by the Travel Advisory are also re-enforced.

Also, today Cabinet approved changes to conditions for passengers to be allowed for the two flights from New Zealand in early December per recent Cabinet Directive. The flights will be restricted only to returning Samoan residents from New Zealand. Also Samoan students from Australia who have completed their studies and will be transiting through Auckland on their way home are included.

The transit privilege is for the Samoan students from Australia only, and does not include Samoans living outside of New Zealand planning to transit home through Auckland.

The two flights are scheduled for the 4<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> of December.

Repatriation flights for Samoans in Fiji including scholarship students, missionary workers, etc. are being organized with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, taking the lead as the implementing agency.