



TECHNICAL AND COMPLIANCE COMMITTEE
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23 – 29 September 2020

COVID-19 RELATED INTERSESSIONAL DECISIONS

WCPFC-TCC16-2020-14
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Paper by the Secretariat

Purpose

1. This paper responds to the tasking in the COVID-19 Decision contained in Circular No. 2020/71 that the Secretariat prepare a note for the consideration of TCC particularly on the measures taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 on fishing vessels and on travel and port entry restrictions in CCMs.
2. The paper is divided into three sections. The first contains the context and objectives for the three decisions. The second provides a snapshot as of 1 September 2020 of the travel and other restrictions that CCMs have been imposed in order to address the COVID-19 pandemic. The third section provides a synthesis of relevant information set out in other Secretariat papers relating to the implementation of the WCPFC COVID-19 Decisions.

Context and Objectives of the COVID-19 Decisions

3. COVID-19 was declared a global pandemic by the World Health Organisation (WHO) on March 11, 2020. As it was apparent that COVID-19 was being spread from one country to another through international travel, Governments adopted a range of travel and other restrictions in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The evidence showed that COVID-19 more adversely affected elderly people and people with underlying health conditions, such as diabetes and heart disease, of which there is a high incidence in the Pacific. There was therefore concern that the populations of Pacific Islands would be particularly adversely affected by the pandemic and that COVID-19 posed a threat to public health and could overwhelm Pacific public health systems. Some of the most strict travel and other restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19 have therefore been implemented in Pacific Island countries.
4. Concern over the potential impact of COVID-19 on the health and safety of observers and of Pacific Island populations led the FFA to adopt measures with respect to observers. This was the initial catalyst for the intersessional decision of the Commission to temporarily suspend certain provisions of CMMs relating to observer coverage on purse seine vessels (Circular 2020/24). This Decision was aimed at ensuring the health and safety of observers through their repatriation to

their home countries and at preventing the spread of COVID-19 through contact in circumstances where it was difficult to use other measures such as physical distancing.

5. The decision relating to observers on purse seine vessels was then followed by decisions to temporarily suspend certain provisions relating to at-sea transshipment for purse seine vessels (Circular No. 2020/28) and at-sea transshipment observers (Circular No. 2020/38). In each case the suspensions were accompanied by additional conditions and understandings relating to implementation and MCS measures.

6. The three decisions were in effect until 31 May 2020 and were then extended through an intersessional decision of the Commission until 31 July 2020 (Circular 2020/46) and then 31 October 2020 (Circular 2020/71). The full text of the most recent COVID-19 Decision is contained in Circular 2020/71.

7. The most recent Decision is subject to review by the Commission in advance of its expiry on 31 October 2020. In undertaking such review, the Commission should take into consideration Article 30 of the Convention and the safety and livelihoods of ROP observers, in particular SIDS observers. The Chair of the Commission suggested that an item be included in the agenda for TCC16 to discuss the status and future of the three intersessional decisions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is expected that CCMs will wish to consider information on the COVID-19 restrictions in place in advance of this review. Although the Secretariat established a dedicated webpage for COVID-19 restrictions and related measures, few CCMs have contributed information on their restrictions and related measures. The Decision set out in Circular No. 2020/71 therefore also tasked the Secretariat to prepare a note, in close coordination with observer providers and port States, for consideration of the TCC on the evolution of conditions related to the COVID-19 pandemic that triggered the adoption of the three interim Commission decisions, particularly on the measures taken to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 on fishing vessels and on travel and port entry restrictions. This is considered in the following section.

COVID Cases and Restrictions in CCMs

8. Annex 1 provides a list of the total number of COVID-19 cases and deaths relating to COVID-19 which have been notified to the WHO as at 1 September 2020. There are known to be 15 CCMs with no COVID-19 cases: American Samoa, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Kiribati, Nauru, Niue, Republic of Marshall Islands, Palau, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna.

9. Many countries in the Western Pacific region of the WHO, which covers much of the WCPFC area, experienced a resurgence of COVID-19 in July and August 2020. This has included increased incidents of community transmission of COVID-19 in Australia, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Indonesia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, and the Philippines. This has impacted on the travel and other restrictions imposed in some CCMs.

10. All CCMs have travel and other restrictions to prevent the spread of COVID-19. The restrictions change frequently either as they are relaxed in response to the lack of community transmission, or as they tighten in response to COVID-19 outbreaks. The Secretariat has sought

to take a snapshot of COVID-19 restrictions in place in WCPFC Members and Participating Territories as at 1 September 2020. The information is based on publicly available sources and has been summarised for convenience. While all attempts have been made to ensure the information provided is accurate, the summary does not purport to be an authoritative statement of COVID-19 restrictions. Further detailed information can be sought from official government sources in CCMs. Where possible links have been provided to official sources for this purpose.

11. CCMs which have imposed COVID-19 travel restrictions can generally be categorised into the following three categories:

- Countries which have suspended scheduled airline traffic and closed borders.
- Countries which have essentially closed their borders, except for certain exemptions and subject to conditions.
- Countries which allow limited inward travel.

12. Annex 2 contains detailed information on the travel restrictions in place as at 1 September 2020. The travel restrictions as categorised into the three categories is explained as follow:

- The following CCMs have very tight restrictions in place on their borders: American Samoa, Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna. These countries have suspended scheduled inbound airline services. Some of these countries allow citizens and residents to be repatriated on chartered flights, subject to conditions. Outbound travel is either prohibited or strongly discouraged because of restrictions on return. All of these CCMs are free of COVID-19.
- A second group of CCMs have tight controls on travel to their countries: Australia, Canada, China, Chinese Taipei, Cook Islands, Fiji, Indonesia, Japan, Kiribati, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Republic of Korea, and the USA. Some of these CCMs also have no cases of COVID-19, namely Cook Islands, Kiribati, Nauru, and Niue. In the main in-bound travel is limited to nationals and permanent residents, although in some cases exemptions may be granted for essential workers. In the majority of these countries, a 14-day mandatory quarantine is in place and must be undertaken in government-managed designated facilities. Testing for COVID-19 is also required by most of these CCMs, typically after arrival, but also prior to arrival in some countries. Advisories are in place to strongly discourage out-bound travel. In one case specific approval for outbound travel must be sought.
- A third (and much smaller) group of CCMs allow limited inward travel from certain countries, including by non-residents, which may also be for tourism purposes: Commonwealth of Northern Marianas, European Union, French Polynesia and Guam.

13. The travel restrictions of most countries apply whether a person is arriving by air or by sea. A number of CCMs have also imposed special requirements at their ports in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Restrictions on the access of fishing vessels to port are sometimes detailed in the State's emergency COVID-19 regulations. However, they also appear to be adopted as part

of administrative arrangements consistent with and within the framework of the State's overall COVID-19 response plan. Some CCMs have specific measures applicable to fishing vessels.

14. Annex 2 contains available information on the restrictions imposed on fishing vessels entering ports. A few CCMs have closed their ports to fishing vessels wishing to unload or tranship catch. A couple of CCMs have designated areas outside their ports where transhipments may take place. Some CCMs allow fishing vessels to enter ports, but subject to approval and strict conditions, including prohibition of shore visits. Many CCMs prohibit crew replacement. The [guidance from the WHO](#) on promoting public health measures in response to COVID-19 on cargo ships and fishing vessels, dated 24 August 2020, suggests pre-boarding screening of all persons boarding a vessel, as well as controls on shoreside visits and interaction with shore personnel.

Synthesis of Information in WCPFC Annual Reports on the Implementation of COVID-19 Decisions

15. TCC16 provides an opportunity for CCMs to review the implementation of the COVID-19 Decisions. This section provides a synthesis of the relevant information included in the Annual Reports on related WCPFC Compliance and MCS Tools.

Purse Seine Observer Coverage

16. The Decision of the Commission temporarily suspends the requirement for all purse seine vessels to carry observers. The suspension applies to new trips after a vessel operator has met any requirement for repatriation of observers currently on board a vessel.

17. The Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme ([WCPFC-TCC16-2020-RP02](#)) sets out the results of a survey of observer providers into the number of ROP observers repatriated and awaiting repatriation following the introduction of the COVID-19 decisions and the status of their current employment.

18. Most ROP observers have been repatriated. There are 9 observer providers plus the IATTC who together have a total of 72 observers who have not been repatriated. Of these, the majority of observers remain on board vessels, including carrier vessels, either to continue their duties, or pending suitable arrangements for repatriation. Most other observers are awaiting repatriation in another country and a few have been there for lengthy periods.

At-sea Transhipment for Purse Seine Vessels

19. The Decision on at-sea transshipment for purse seine vessels, provides that “without prejudice to the provision that ‘transshipment at sea by purse seine vessels shall be prohibited’ as stipulated by paragraph 25 of CMM 2009-06, if it is not feasible for a purse seine vessel to tranship in port despite its best efforts due to port closures and relevant access restrictions related to the prevention of COVID-19, that particular vessel may transship at sea in an area under the jurisdiction of a Port State”. It also provides that the flag State CCM of any such authorised purse seine vessel is to notify the Executive Director that the vessel is authorised to engage in transshipment outside of port.

20. The Annual Report on WCPFC Transshipment Reporting ([WCPFC-TCC16-2020-RP03](#) of 31 August 2020) and the Annual Report for the WCPFC Record of Fishing Vessels (RFV) ([WCPFC-TCC16-2020-RP05](#) of 31 August 2020) show that CCMs have implemented the authorisation of at-sea transhipment for purse seine vessels in different ways:

- Two CCMs have updated the relevant field in the RFV for their purse seine vessels. One of these also provided a list of the purse seine vessels subject to the exemption and an explanation of the arrangements in place for such transhipments.
- One CCM provided a list of the purse seine vessels subject to the exemption.
- Two CCMs have submitted notifications of purse seine at-sea transhipment exemptions on an individual event basis.

21. As only five CCMs have notified the Executive Director of their vessels which are authorised to tranship outside of port, it is assumed that other flag CCMs are continuing to tranship in port.

At-sea Transhipment Observers

22. The requirement to have an observer on board either the carrier vessel or the fishing vessel to observe transhipments has been temporarily suspended as a result of the COVID-19 related decisions. The Secretariat is to provide to TCC16 a summary of at-sea transhipments without observers under this temporary suspension.

23. The Annual Report on WCPFC Transshipment Reporting ([WCPFC-TCC16-2020-RP03](#)) indicates that of the 409 reported transhipments that took place between 1 April and 18 August 2020, only 11 (around 3 %) were not observed on any of the vessels engaged in the transhipment. This may be due in part to the information from observer providers, and summarized in the Annual Report on the Regional Observer Programme, that some observers on carrier vessels have not yet been repatriated. As repatriations continue, there are likely to be fewer observed transhipments until such time as observers can be redeployed.

Other MCS measures

24. The COVID-19 related Decisions relating to at-sea transhipments also provide for applicable MCS measures. Where at-sea transhipments by purse seine vessels take place, they are to comply with binding requirements using all MCS tools available. CCMs are also encouraged to implement additional MCS measures and to follow-up transhipments through inspections, observation or electronic monitoring if available during the application of these arrangements.

25. The Annual Report on WCPFC High Seas Boarding and Inspection (HSBI) Scheme ([WCPFC-TCC16-2020-RP04](#) of 31 August 2020) noted that the number of HSBI activities to 31 July 2020 were fewer than the previous year. Some of the more recent HSBI activities in 2020 are reported as “interrogations”, as compared with the boarding of vessels. This suggests that some adjustment is being made to standard HSBI procedures in response to COVID-19.

26. The Annual Report on Port Inspections and Implementation of Minimum Standards for Port State Measures ([WCPFC-TCC16-2020-RP07](#) of 31 August 2020) has also noted that the

suspension of purse seine observer coverage and the requirement for transshipments to be observed may increase the risk of IUU fishing. The exemption enabling purse seine vessels to tranship at-sea may also mean that fewer vessels will seek entry to ports and are therefore less readily available for inspection. Port inspections are also likely to be impacted as a result of standard operating procedures for preventing the spread of COVID-19 through person-to-person contact.

Recommendation

27. TCC16 is invited to note and discuss this paper.
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Annex 1: Reported Cases and Deaths Related to COVID-19 Sourced from [WHO](#)

Location	Total Cases	Deaths as at 1 Sept 2020
United States	5,936,572	182,162
Philippines	220,819	3,558
Indonesia	174,796	2,743
Canada	127,940	9,117
China	94,402	4,730
Japan	68,392	1,296
Australia	25,746	733
Korea (Republic of)	20,182	324
New Zealand	1,401	22
Guam	1,387	10
French Polynesia	573	0
Chinese Taipei	489	7
Papua New Guinea	459	5
French Polynesia	349	0
Northern Mariana Islands	56	2
Fiji	28	2
New Caledonia	23	0

Annex 2: Categories of CCMs According to Travel Restrictions

A. Borders are closed to scheduled airline traffic

American Samoa: American Samoa has suspended international flights to Honolulu until at least 1 October and other scheduled flights are suspended. Only nationals and residents will be permitted entry. Any arriving passengers must undergo 14 days of quarantine and have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours prior to arrival. Cargo and fishing vessels are permitted entry subject to conditions including notification and the requirement that personnel wear full protective gear when unloading. Crew members are not permitted to disembark. See <https://www.americansamoa.gov/>

Federated States of Micronesia: FSM prohibits any travellers from any COVID-19 affected country, territory or area from entering FSM for as long as the COVID-19 pandemic persists. Work is underway on plans to repatriate FSM citizens. This would be accompanied by a 14 day pre-quarantine in Guam with two tests, followed by quarantine on arrival at designated facilities for an additional 14 days and COVID-19 testing done at the end of the quarantine before being discharged. For fishing vessels, all transshipment from purse seine vessels is to take place at designated areas in the territorial sea beyond 3 miles from the baselines. Longline vessels are permitted to enter ports to tranship subject to restrictions. In the case of fresh longline vessels, this includes no contact prior to transshipping. In the case of frozen longline vessel, this includes 14 days of quarantine at sea prior to arrival, and no crew members disembarking. Subject to certain exemptions, FSM citizens are not permitted to travel to a COVID-affected country. See <https://gov.fm/index.php/public-info/fsm-pio> and <https://www.wcpfc.int/covid19>

Palau: All commercial air travel to Palau is temporarily suspended. Any repatriated resident traveling from COVID-19 affected areas is required to show proof of a negative COVID-19 test result taken at least 72 hours prior to arriving in Palau. Passengers arriving from non-high risk areas will be placed in 7-day mandatory quarantine in a designated government facility, and tested for COVID-19 on days 1, 7, and 14. Passengers arriving from high-risk areas will be placed under mandatory quarantine for 14 days, and tested on days 1, 7, 14, and 21. Health screening at Malakal seaport takes place for incoming vessels. See <https://www.palau.gov.pw/covid-19-advisory/>

Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI): There is a total suspension of all international travellers coming into RMI by air. Any person entering RMI without approval will be removed or placed under quarantine in a government approved facility for at least 21 days. All fishing vessels that have transited through or departed from COVID-infected areas are suspended from entering RMI ports. To ensure continuity of transshipment a limited number of carrier vessels are exempt, but must comply with conditions including spending 14 days at sea prior to arrival and fishing companies must have policies implementing the travel advice and maritime policies such as no human-to-human contact. Citizens and residents are strongly advised not to travel overseas. See <https://ndmo.gov.mh/resource-library/>

Samoa: From 26 March, all international travel to and from Samoa has been suspended except as provided in exceptional circumstances approved by Cabinet. Restrictions are in place on the entry of all vessels and any permitted entry is subject to conditions. Fishing boats may be approved for

offloading, refuelling and the restock of necessary supplies only. Approval is subject to conditions including: notice of arrival date must be provided 5 days in advance; no crew member is to leave the boat; the date of departure from the last port, or the exchange of any crew members whilst at sea, must not be less than 28 days, before arrival at the Apia wharf; and there is to be no exchange of crew members whilst at sea. See <https://www.samoagovt.ws/category/novel-coronavirus-covid-19/>

Solomon Islands: Scheduled international flights are suspended. Repatriation flights may be scheduled. All persons entering Solomon Islands will undergo mandatory quarantine at a Government identified quarantine station for a specified period (typically 14 days). Persons entering the country from COVID-19 affected areas must provide two negative test results from their country of origin 14 days before departure. Persons entering the country from very high risk COVID-19 affected countries are subject to additional requirements. See <http://www.mfaet.gov.sb/media-center/press-releases.html>

Tokelau: Tokelau has closed its border, with the exception of essential supplies, specialist medical personnel and services. A repatriation service via ferry was scheduled in late July. See <https://www.tokelau.org.nz/Bulletin>

Tonga: The entry of all scheduled passenger aircraft is suspended. Returning Tongans and persons holding valid working visas may enter with approval on repatriation flights. All travellers are required to have undertaken a COVID-19 test and a Medical Report done within three (3) days before arrival in Tonga and undergo 14 days of quarantine in Tongatapu. International cruise ships and yachts are banned from entering. The entry of other vessels is subject to certain restrictions, including no shore leave. Ten foreign fishing vessels fishing in Tonga water are not allowed to conduct a crew replacement until further notice. See <http://www.gov.to/>

Tuvalu: Tuvalu has restrictions prohibiting entry to Tuvalu of anyone who has been in China within 30 days of arrival in Tuvalu. This restriction includes entry to seafarers from foreign vessels that have been in China or “a high-risk country” (understood to be countries where coronavirus is present) in the last 30 days. Travellers who have been in a “high-risk country” must obtain a medical clearance three days prior to entering Tuvalu and must remain in a country other than those listed as “high-risk” for at least five days before re-entering Tuvalu. Health screening will be conducted at Funafuti airport and seaport, and may also be conducted at Nausori (Fiji) Airport and Tarawa (Kiribati) Airport. See <https://fj.usembassy.gov/u-s-citizen-services/covid-19-information/>

Vanuatu: All Vanuatu ports of entry are closed. Special considerations are provided for diplomats and medical personnel, as well as some repatriation flights for Vanuatu nationals. Only general cargo boats, oil, gas and fuel tankers are allowed to enter the country but under special conditions for crews not to come ashore. All private, naval and scientific research vessels are suspended from entering Vanuatu waters with the exception for vessels with missions related to COVID-19. Vanuatu nationals arriving on repatriation flights are subject to medical screening and quarantine for 14 days in government designated facilities. See <https://covid19.gov.vu/>

Wallis and Futuna: Incoming flights to Wallis and Futuna have been curtailed, except for those delivering essential supplies. Wallis and Futuna is repatriating its residents, subject to approval and restrictions. See <http://www.wallis-et-futuna.gouv.fr/>

Closed Borders with limited exemptions and conditions

Australia: Australia’s borders are closed except for Australian citizens, residents and immediate family members. All travellers arriving in Australia by air or sea must go into government approved mandatory quarantine for 14 days from arrival. COVID-19 testing may also be required. Individual states have their own restrictions in place for domestic travel. See <https://www.healthdirect.gov.au/covid19-restriction-checker> for up to date information of restrictions by State. There is a ban on all overseas travel, unless granted an exemption. See <https://www.health.gov.au/news/health-alerts/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-health-alert/coronavirus-covid-19-restrictions>

Canada: Most foreign nationals are banned from entering Canada. Exemptions include Canadian citizens, permanent residents, or their immediate families, temporary foreign workers, and some international students. Persons with COVID-19 symptoms may not enter Canada. Arrivals must provide contact information, undergo screening by a border official, and quarantine or self-isolate for 14 days. The United States – Canada border remains closed to non-essential travel until 21 September. Canadian citizens and permanent residents are advised to avoid non-essential travel outside Canada. See <https://www.canada.ca/en/public-health/services/diseases/2019-novel-coronavirus-infection/latest-travel-health-advice.html>

China: Foreign nationals holding valid visas are not permitted to enter Mainland China. However, foreign nationals from certain European and Asian countries may apply for a visa to enter, provided they meet certain criteria. This includes those persons going to Mainland China for necessary economic, trade, scientific, technological reasons or for emergency humanitarian needs. Passengers flying into China must obtain a COVID-19 negative certificate issued at most 3 days prior to boarding from designated or accredited institutions. Travelers are subject to a 14-day mandatory quarantine in the first entry point city at a designated facility and must test negative for the virus. China has signed “fast-track” agreements with a few countries to allow nationals of those countries (eg Singapore and Korea) to travel without the mandated 14-day quarantine. See <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php> and <https://www.trip.com/travel-restrictions-covid-19/>

Chinese Taipei: Travellers who want to visit Taiwan for reasons other than tourism and regular social visits must apply for an entry permit. Approved travellers must produce a negative COVID-19 RT-PCR test result that is no older than 72 hours prior to arrival, and fill out a health declaration form detailing travel history for the previous 14 days. Specific travellers from low or medium risk countries may be eligible to apply for a shorter quarantine, instead of the required 14 days.

Cook Islands: Persons are denied entry into the Cook Islanders unless they are Cook Islanders, permanent residents, and work and residence permit holders, who have obtained an exemption in writing from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration. Arrivals must undergo a COVID-19 test within 96 hours of departure, which must be negative, and undertake supervised quarantine

in Rarotonga, for 14 days. See <https://cookislands.travel/news/novel-coronavirus-information-travellers-arriving-cook-islands>.

Fiji: Only returning nationals are permitted to enter, and must undergo 14 days of mandatory quarantine. Returning residents and citizens must present a certificate from a specified medical institution confirming that 14 days of quarantine has been undertaken in Australia or New Zealand, as well as proof of a negative COVID-19 test result within 48 hours of departure to Fiji. Upon arrival, they must spend another seven days self-isolating at home in Fiji. If a returning resident or citizen hasn't completed 14 days of quarantine in Australia or New Zealand, but does have a negative COVID-test result within 48 hours of travel, on arrival in Fiji they must spend 14 days in a government-designated quarantine facility. Fiji has established safe “blue lanes”, open to those yachts and pleasure craft sailing to Fiji. See <https://www.fiji.travel/covid-19>

Indonesia: Foreign nationals are banned from entering Indonesia. A person meeting the criteria for entry must present a negative COVID-19 PCR test result that is no older than 7 days, or will undergo a swab test and quarantine at the person's expense until the results are received (this could take up to 7 days). The person will also need to provide a personal statement that confirms he/she is ready to be quarantined for 14 days if required. See <https://www.iatatravelcentre.com/world.php>

Japan: Non-Japanese nationals who have stayed in certain countries (including China, Indonesia, Republic of Korea, the Philippines, Australia, New Zealand, Canada, US, and Belgium) within the 14 days prior to landing will be denied entry, except in exceptional circumstances. All nationals arriving from these countries are subject to a COVID-19 PCR test. All arrivals from all regions must self-isolate for 14 days at a location designated by the quarantine station chief. See <https://www.japan.travel/en/coronavirus/>

Kiribati: The Republic of Kiribati denies entry to any travellers who have been in or transited countries with confirmed local transmission within 14 days immediately prior to entering Kiribati. All travelers from countries with local transmission of COVID-19 (which includes Australia, New Zealand, the US, Guam, French Polynesia, and most of Asia and Europe), must spend 14 days in a country free of the COVID-2019, and to provide a medical clearance to confirm they are coronavirus free. All incoming international travellers are subjected to temperature check upon arrival to the international airports and seaports in Kiribati. Citizens and residents are advised to avoid non-essential travel. See <https://mhms.gov.ki/>

Nauru: The government has suspended all but one weekly flight to the country. Arrivals are accepted from countries considered “safe” and must undergo a 14-day quarantine at government designated facilities. See <http://www.naurugov.nr/>

New Caledonia: Foreign nationals who are not residents of New Caledonia are not permitted to enter, with some exceptions. Arriving passengers must undergo 14 days of mandatory quarantine in a government designated facility and COVID-19 testing before leaving the facility. See <https://gouv.nc/info-coronavirus-covid-19/infos-arrivees-se-rendre-en-nouvelle-caledonie>

New Zealand: All travellers, except for returning New Zealand citizens and permanent residents, are denied entry. Specific exemptions may apply and are listed in full by [New Zealand](#)

Immigration. All arrivals will be tested for COVID-19, and are subject to 14 days of government-supervised quarantine. Before entering the community, everyone must test negative for COVID-19. New Zealand citizens and residents are advised not to travel overseas at this time. See <https://covid19.govt.nz/travel-and-the-border/>

Niue: Arrival is restricted to repatriating residents of Niue and essential services people who have received advance approval from the Niue Government for travel. There is a limit on the number of people permitted to enter Niue every fortnight. All arriving travellers will undergo supervised quarantine for 14 days at government-appointed accommodation in Niue.

Papua New Guinea: No person may enter PNG except by aircraft. International visitors must have written approval. All arrivals must have a negative COVID-19 test within a 7 day period prior to boarding the aircraft. All arrivals are subject to 14 days of quarantine at a government designated facility or designated hotel and may be subject to testing. Vessels may enter four (4) designated ports of entry. A person on a vessel in port does not enter PNG unless they leave the vessel. Crew changes in PNG are suspended. All PNG flagged and locally based vessels which have fished exclusively in PNG waters and have not visited a foreign port for 4 months may continue to offload and tranship in their home ports. PNG vessels fishing in the waters of other countries are suspended from entering ports for landing or transhipment. Foreign flagged vessels are suspended from port calls in PNG. See <https://covid19.info.gov.pg/> and <https://www.wcpfc.int/covid19>

Philippines: Borders are closed to most foreign travellers. Filipino nationals, spouses or children of nationals, and residents may be subject to quarantine for a maximum of 14 days upon arrival or required to undergo COVID-19 testing. From 1 August, foreign nationals with existing long-term visas are allowed to enter the Philippines, subject to certain conditions. From 9 August, new categories of foreign nationals, such as a foreign spouse of a Filipino national, are eligible to enter provided a valid visa is secured. See <https://philippines.travel/safeph> and <https://www.doh.gov.ph/2019-ncov>

Republic of Korea: Passengers arriving in South Korea, regardless of where they are from or the length of stay, will undergo quarantine for 14 days. Some travellers may be tested for COVID-19 within 3 days of arrival depending on the country of origin (eg Europe, US), others will be tested within 14 days. Visa exemptions for citizens from a number of countries including countries in the Pacific have been suspended. See http://ncov.mohw.go.kr/en/baroView.do?brdId=11&brdGubun=111&dataGubun=&ncvContSeq=&contSeq=&board_id=&gubun=

United States: There are restrictions on who can enter or transit the US. With specific exceptions, foreign nationals who have been in certain countries during the past 14 days (including China, Europe (Schengen area, and UK) may not enter the United States. Anyone permitted to enter will be screened upon arrival, and asked to self-quarantine for 14 days. The borders are closed with Canada and Mexico to all non-essential travel until 21 September. See <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/travelers/from-other-countries.html>

Partially Open Borders

Commonwealth of Northern Marianas (CNMI): CNMI has point of entry screening processes in place. Any person entering the CNMI may be exempted from the CNMI Government approved quarantine facility provide they comply with certain requirements including COVID-19 testing prior to and after arrival. Non-residents must arrive with proof of a valid PCR test from a specimen collected at a minimum of three (3) days to a maximum of six (6) days prior to the individual's arrival on Saipan. Non-residents who are not approved for entry as an essential worker, will be subject to the minimum 5-day quarantine at the CNMI Government designated site and will be tested on day five (5) of their arrival. See <https://governor.gov.mp/>

European Union: From 1 July, [entry](#) to the EU by non-EU citizens is permitted for countries that are deemed safe by the EU Council. The list is reviewed and updated every 15 days. It is up to EU Member States to make the decision for their own borders.

French Polynesia: From 15 July, French Polynesia borders have reopened to international tourism. Travelers must show proof of a negative COVID-19 test result no older than 72 hours (3 days) before departure, and complete a health registration form. Visitors must obtain proper travel insurance, and self-test 4 days after arrival. <https://www.service-public.pf/dsp/>

Guam: All persons entering Guam must undergo 14 days of quarantine at a government qualified facility. See <http://dphss.guam.gov/covid-19-dphss-mandatory-quarantine-procedures/>