



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

P.O. Box 16 ~ Majuro ~ Marshall Islands ~ 96960
Tel. No. (692) 625-5327 Email: sechhs.rmi@gmail.com



5 December 2019

**Measles International Travel Advisory
Protection Against Measles Importation to RMI**

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) hereby issues this **revised** International Travel Advisory due to the current measles outbreaks now occurring in many countries. RMI is highly susceptible to measles introduction due to low immunity coverage of less than 90%, Vitamin A deficiency and stunting in 35% of children under 5. Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily from person to person through the air, via breathing, coughing and sneezing and impacts both children and adults. Every case of measles on average infects 12 to 18 non-immune people exposed to those infected individuals.

If the measles virus is imported to RMI, transmission of measles will spread immediately and rapidly. Therefore, the Ministry is requiring all persons traveling to and from the Republic of the Marshall Islands to abide by the following requirements:

RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents Traveling From RMI – Effective Immediately

- Infants of RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents (6 months of age up to 11 months) travelling internationally are required to be vaccinated against measles two weeks prior to travel. This is called a “zero dose” and is given in addition to two doses of measles containing vaccine at 12 months and 13 months of age to acquire long term protection of 97%. The measles containing vaccine used in the RMI is the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. A copy of the infant’s travel document/E-ticket is required to receive this vaccination from Public Health. No exceptions unless contraindicated by a doctor in writing.
- RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents (children 12 months of age up to adults born after 1957) traveling internationally must be vaccinated and up-to-date against measles two weeks prior to travel. A copy of the traveller’s E-ticket is required to receive this vaccination from Public Health. Failure to comply will result in exit refusal. No exceptions unless contraindicated by a doctor in writing.

All Incoming Travellers to RMI – Effective December 10th, 2019

- Non-RMI Citizens (6 months of age up to adults born after 1957) must show an official and sealed up-to-date measles vaccination certificate from health provider upon entry to

- RMI ports. This will be an entry requirement for getting into the RMI. Failure to comply will result in entry refusal. No exceptions unless contraindicated by a doctor in writing.
- RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents who do not have evidence of up-to-date measles vaccination or evidence of measles infection in the past will be required to undergo strict home quarantine for 14 days and will be required to be vaccinated by MoHHS. MoHHS will issue medical sick leave forms as needed. No exceptions unless contraindicated by a doctor in writing.
 - Persons suffering from contagious disease, and persons who have been exposed to such disease, may be isolated and quarantined in accordance with regulations issued pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Marshall Islands Revised Code Chapter 1 Section 106 of the Public Health and Sanitation.
 - All up-to-date vaccinated persons entering RMI will need to “watch and monitor” their own health for 3 weeks upon arrival/return. Measles symptoms typically include:
 - high fever (may spike to more than 104° F)
 - cough
 - coryza or runny nose
 - conjunctivitis or red, watery eyes
 - rash (develops 3-5 days after symptoms begin)
 - Any travellers who develop these symptoms must seek medical care immediately. Public Health officials contact information will be distributed at the ports of entry. These officials will require the ill patients to inform them of their recent travels to measles affected areas, and these officials will need to know whether or not the travellers received a measles vaccination.

The most effective protection from measles is getting vaccinated. Protect yourself and your loved ones from measles. For further information, please contact the following:

Majuro

Dr. Tom Jack – 456-0964
Dr. Aina Garstang – 455-4031
ER – 625-4144

Ebeye

Dr. Cho Cho Thein – 235-7289
Dr. Jake Nasa – 235-4503
ER – 329-8029/8030

Outer Islands

Nearest Health Center
Mx. Arata Nathan – 455-5817

Respectfully,



Jack Niedenthal
Secretary of Health and Human Services