



REPUBLIC OF NAURU  
Government Information Office

**CORONAVIRUS UPDATE**  
**by**  
**His Excellency President Lionel Aingimea**

Thursday, 7 May 2020

Nauru remains coronavirus-free and while the government's capture & contain strategy is proving effective, President Lionel Aingimea says we still need to work together and follow the advice of medical professionals, police and security.

The health department is conducting in-house workshops for nurses and doctors while Nauru Emergency Services, Nauru Police and other ministries are working together on multi-stakeholder strategic planning, in readiness of a confirmed case of coronavirus on Nauru.

There has been a breakthrough in medical referrals with Australia granting special travel exemption for Nauruans who require urgent critical medical care to enter Australia for treatment.

President Aingimea thanks the Government of Australia for this positive news, highlighting that although Australia still does not allow non-citizens entry during this time of coronavirus, it has exempted Nauruans under special medical circumstances.

The Ministry of Health will go through the usual procedure of securing doctors and other medical staff and a hospital for the medical treatments; and as Nauru still has no cases of coronavirus the health ministry and the Nauru Coronavirus Taskforce are seeking advice from the Queensland government in regards to the necessity of the two weeks quarantine for the patients on arrival into Brisbane.

Nauru maintains air and sea travel ensuring relatively normal activity and supplies for the island. The next Brisbane flight is due in next week Friday 15 May, and its passengers will go into two weeks quarantine with another fisheries observer who is scheduled to come ashore at the same time.

A second raft by port contractors, CHEC, is due this weekend to bring in materials and equipment required for the port development, while a shipment of heavy machinery for Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation is due in at the end of May.

The fuel and cargo ships are due 15 and 20 May respectively, while a phosphate ship is scheduled for June.

As a reminder, all arriving crew by sea either spend 14 days isolation at sea and then a rapid test taken to test for coronavirus; or a lab test is conducted. Lab testing on island may be available as early as the next shipment's arrival.

Nauru's High Commission in Fiji is still in discussions with the Fiji Department of Foreign Affairs on the subject of repatriating Nauru students from Fiji.

President Aingimea says Fiji DFAT has taken up the matter with Prime Minister Bainimarama who is however currently visiting Fiji's outer islands. Nauru will pursue the request upon his return to the capital Suva.

Of note is that the overall coronavirus landscape in Fiji has changed from what it was two months ago. The Suva lockdown was lifted, schools will resume on 16 June, the country is recovering from coronavirus and the Fiji government is considering re-opening its borders and if this does happen before the Fiji PM returns to Suva, then Nauru's request for repatriation may be voided, President Aingimea said.

Since the start of the coronavirus pandemic Nauru has received support from numerous donors and partners in the form of financial assistance, equipment and supplies.

The latest assistance comes from Australia with \$4 million to be signed in agreement tomorrow; India confirmed US\$1 million which will be filtered through the UN agencies; Japan offered medical equipment worth AU\$1.5 million; and Taiwan will give AU\$1.65 million in direct budget support for COVID measures.

So far, the Nauru Government has spent AU\$2.2 million: \$1.4M (65%) on clinical and medical supplies; \$570,000 (26%) on quarantine needs; and almost \$200,000 on other items (8% on repatriation, 1% on Taskforce work).

President Aingimea says there are still residents staying at the Meneñ Hotel quarantine facility and any support that the public can offer to the residents, is welcomed.

The President reminds the public that the fight against coronavirus is ongoing and "we still have to be on high alert."

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