

Pacific Repatriations – Country Overview

Last updated: Friday 28 August 2020

Green – generally unrestricted pathway home

Yellow – pathways but some restrictions (demand outstrips seats)

Red – no pathways home at present

Country	Overview
Cook Islands Last updated: 28 August	<p><i>Revised settings under Akld lvl 3/NZ lvl 2:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> All travellers wishing to enter Cook Islands must undertake 14 days of supervised isolation in New Zealand in order for approval to enter the Cook Islands to be considered. Contact the Cook Islands High Commission in NZ for further information. Pre-departure supervised isolation <i>will not</i> take place in NZ MIQ facilities unless the Cook Islands traveller is entering NZ from a third country. Travellers must also undertake a pre-departure COVID test within 72 hours of departure and provide a medical clearance verifying a negative result. From 15 August, all travellers to the Cook Islands are required to undergo monitored self-isolation on arrival for 14 days, as well as undertake medical clearance screening and a COVID-19 testing regime. The next passenger flight to Cook Islands is planned for Saturday 5 September NZT. <p><i>Settings under lvl 1:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cook Islanders are New Zealand citizens and do not participate in the RSE scheme. Borders are open to nationals and Permit Holders travelling from New Zealand provided that the person travelling has not been outside of New Zealand/Cook Islands in the 30 days prior to travel. One weekly flight enables repatriation of Cook Island nationals from New Zealand. A COVID test is required to be undertaken within 72 hours of departure. Cook Islanders wishing to return home should purchase a ticket from Air NZ.
French Polynesia Last updated: 21 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> French Polynesia's border is open to all nationals and visitors. There are no direct commercial flights – travellers originating from New Zealand will need to transit through Europe or the US. The AKL-LAX-PPE route remains open. Travellers are required to: complete pre-departure testing and provision of a negative test result within 3 days prior to arrival; complete of a medical information sheet; compulsory travel insurance for non-residents. Visitors are required to self-administer a COVID-19 test between 4 and 7 days after arrival and required to quarantine if positive.
Fiji Last updated:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 5 August there were 10,499 Fijian nationals on temporary visas in New Zealand. Of these, 58 are RSE workers, none requiring urgent repatriation. Inbound passengers to Fiji are restricted to Fijian citizens/passport holders only (with some case-by-case exceptions for diplomats, New Zealand and Australian

27 August	<p>permit holders, and some other permit holders. Applications must be made to the Immigration Permanent Secretary).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weekly passenger flights operated on Thursdays by Air NZ have been confirmed for the foreseeable future. Flights are limited to 150 passengers. • There are no pre-departure requirements for Fijian citizens, residents, and other permit holders returning from New Zealand. • Non-Fijian nationals, including New Zealand and Australia citizens, are required to return a negative COVID-19 test at least 72 hours before departure. • All returning nationals are required to undergo 14 days quarantine on arrival.
Kiribati Last updated: 13 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 5 August there were 499 i-Kiribati nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 280 are RSE workers, at least 82 were reported in July to require urgent repatriation. 7 scholarship students including dependents also require urgent repatriation (and 1 stranded in Fiji). • There are currently no commercial pathways home for i-Kiribati. • Kiribati has 20 rooms available for quarantine/treatment and 60 beds for group isolation. When the border opens to nationals, people arriving into Kiribati will be required to quarantine for 14 days. • Stranded i-Kiribati should contact Director of Labour at Kiribati's Ministry of Employment and Human Resources if they need support and assistance: Mrs Batetaake Tatoa (director@employment.gov.ki) and/or Tekotaake Keariki (slo.eu@employment.gov.ki).
Nauru Last updated: 27 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 5 August there were 23 Nauru nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 5 are RSE workers and require repatriation. • The Nauru border remains open to nationals. • There are limited flights to Nauru operated by Air Nauru out of Brisbane. • Nationals in New Zealand need to transit Australia to access these flights. Please check Australia Home Office for the most up to date information on transiting Australia: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/transit-771/travellers-eligible-to-transit-without-visa • All nationals departing from Brisbane to Nauru are temperature-screened before boarding. • All nationals returning to Nauru need to ensure they spend 14 days prior to entry to Nauru in a safe country, currently considered as Australia (with the exception of State of Victoria), Cook Islands, Fiji, French Polynesia, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, FSM, New Caledonia, NZ, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Taiwan, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. • Nauruans in New Zealand requiring consular or other assistance should contact Masau Detudamo at the Nauru Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade: detudamo@gmail.com
Niue Last updated: 28 August	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Niueans are New Zealand citizens and do not participate in the RSE scheme. • Borders are open to travellers from Niuean nationals usually resident in Niue, other permanent residents of Niue and those classified by the Government as essential workers. Government of Niue prioritises entry for Niuean and other nationals usually resident in Niue. Australia and other third country based travellers must undertake 14-days quarantine in New Zealand prior to departing for Niue. • Fortnightly passenger flights to Niue are scheduled until August 2020, at this stage and only 26 passengers are able to return per fortnight.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no pre-departure requirements for Niue, however GoN is encouraging passengers to take a COVID-19 test before departure. • All returning travellers are required to undertake 14 days of mandatory quarantine upon arrival in Niue. • Individuals interested in a flight to Niue must register interest with the in-country travel agency Peleni's Travel (info@pelenistravel.com). Niue's Department of External Affairs coordinates closely with Peleni's Travel on the final approved passenger list for each flight. Travellers should also register their interest in future flights with Air NZ. • Cabinet will consider a new policy regarding repatriation, NIU will shortly send an update by FM.
<p>PNG</p> <p>Last updated: 21 August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 5 August there were 429 PNG nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 79 are RSE workers, none require urgent repatriation according to July reporting. • All potential travellers are required to liaise with a local High Commission/Embassy, or to contact the Department of Foreign Affairs and Internal Trade (dfait20@gmail.com) in order to register details and seek authorisation to return to PNG. • Commercial flight options, though reduced, are currently operating from Brisbane, Cairns and Singapore. It is currently difficult to get seats from Auckland to Brisbane. • Nationals in New Zealand need to transit Australia to access these flights. Australia's current transit policy allow Pacific Islanders returning to the Pacific to transit without a visa provided they stay airside and their connecting flight is in under 8 hours (only possible on Tuesday). Transit approval/visas will be required for those that require a transit window greater than 8 hours, or if travellers need to cross the border (e.g. picking up bags and checking into flights). Please check Australia Home Office for the most up to date information on transiting Australia: https://immi.homeaffairs.gov.au/visas/getting-a-visa/visa-listing/transit-771/travellers-eligible-to-transit-without-visa • At check-in, passengers must show: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of a COVID-19 test done within 7 days of travel to PNG, indicating a result that the person does not have detectable levels of COVID-19. (PNG specifies that only a 'Real time Reverse Transcription Polymerase Chain Reaction' test result will be accepted. This poses no issues for travellers from NZ as this is the type of test that is provided nation-wide). - A passport - Confirmed ticket - Approval from DFAIT and/or PNG's SOE Emergency Controller; and - Evidence of a booking in an approved location for 14 days' mandatory quarantine on arrival. • From 21 July, all incoming self-funded quarantine applications for authorisation to enter PNG will only be required to present the following when submitting an application: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ A letter of request containing full name of traveller consistent with passport, date of birth, nationality, passport type, visa number, visa expiry date, intended arrival date in PNG and preferred quarantine location.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ An air passenger travel form completed with factual information. Reliable contact number, temporary address must be quarantine location/address. ● Further information of the process, including a copy of the Direction, can be obtained by sending your request to emails covid19-travel@police.gov.pg and covid19-travelapprover@police.gov.pg ● RSE workers will be provided PNG government-funded quarantine (currently: Hideaway Hotel, Lamana Hotel, Gateway Hotel). ● New measure: for individuals who have spent at least the past 7 days in Queensland, self-isolation in PNG is only required for 7 days (subject to written approval).
<p>Samoa</p> <p>Last updated: 28 August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As of 5 August, there were 4,024 Samoan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 1,399 are RSE workers and around 202 are reported to require urgent repatriation. There are 3 scholarship students including dependents, who also require urgent repatriation. ● From 24 August, passenger flights to Samoa have been suspended indefinitely while Auckland remains at COVID Alert Level 3 (or higher). The planned RSE repatriation flight scheduled for Friday 28 August has been cancelled. No passengers will be allowed on the weekly cargo flights until further advised. <p><i>Settings under Level 2 or below:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The Government of Samoa prioritises entry for (in order) returning residents with returning tickets; returning resident students; individuals whose travel permits or visas for New Zealand have expired; essential workers; medical transfer patients; families with children and/or persons over the age of 60 years; sports teams and seasonal employees with expired contracts; general returning residents; and those with any other special and relevant grounds for essential travel to Samoa. ● On arrival, all incoming air passengers to Samoa, including Air New Zealand, NZDF and Air Ambulance staff, must: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Present hard-copy evidence of a negative COVID test result received within three days before departure to Samoa (a lab test result is required; a note or text message from a physician will be insufficient); - Present hard-copy evidence of a medical clearance letter from a registered GP confirming they do not show signs or symptoms of flu or respiratory illness (which is different from clearance of being fit to travel); and - Enter into 14 days' managed isolation.
<p>Solomon Islands</p> <p>Last updated: 21 August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● As of 5 August there were 575 Solomon Island nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 378 are RSE workers, 88 were reported in July as requiring urgent repatriation. 1 scholarship student also requires urgent repatriation. ● Solomon Islands borders are currently closed, but approved repatriation flights (non-scheduled and chartered) have occurred for nationals. ● There are no regular, scheduled commercial passenger flights between Honiara and NZ or Australia. ● Solomon Islanders needing to return home should contact the Solomon Islands High Commission.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All people entering Solomon Islands from a COVID affected country will be required to provide two negative COVID tests 14 days prior to travel and to undergo 14 days isolation in an approved facility from arrival. • All persons entering Solomon Islands from a high risk COVID affected country will be required to provide 3 negative test results 21 days prior to arrival and to undergo 21 days isolation in an approved facility from arrival.
<p>Tokelau</p> <p>Last updated: 21 August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Tokelauans are New Zealand citizens and do not participate in the RSE scheme. • Passenger services to Tokelau are suspended, and the border remains closed. • There are currently no commercial pathways home for Tokelauans. Those seeking an exemption to the border closure must be pre-approved by Tokelau government prior to departure from New Zealand. Exemptions are likely to be considered only for Tokelau nationals usually resident in Tokelau or Tokelau government officials. Where exemptions are granted, the traveller would need medical clearance (within 3 days) prior to travel and will be screened on arrival. • Returning Tokelauans would need to complete 14 days in managed isolation on their home atoll • From 7 August, Samoa will permit returning Tokelauan Residents to transit home in certain circumstances. • Tokelauans seeking to return to Tokelau are advised to contact the Government of Tokelau in the first instance to seek an exemption to the border closure. • There are currently 3 scholarship students (incl dependents) needing urgent repatriation.
<p>Tonga</p> <p>Last updated: 21 August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 5 August there were 4,600 Tongan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 1,557 are RSE workers, with around 487 requiring urgent repatriation, as reported in July. 22 scholarship students including dependents also require urgent repatriation. • Repatriation flights from New Zealand commenced on 4 August. The repatriation flight for 25 August has been suspended until further notice, due to the change in the NZ alert levels. • Tongan nationals returning to Tonga will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain a negative C-19 test within 4 working days prior to departure; and - Undergo 14 days of quarantine on arrival in Tonga. • Current quarantine capacity is around 150 people. • Tongan nationals stranded in New Zealand should register at https://citizensregistration.gov.to/wp/?fbclid=IwAR0Q1Yixu3JnAjwnEYFcxAJJryuBnlgd9yCIFv2ONJJa2Y2HQsLXPPdyc as well as contacting Air New Zealand to register their interest in flights.
<p>Tuvalu</p> <p>Last updated: 28 August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 5 August there were 291 Tuvaluan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 99 are RSE workers, around 14 require urgent repatriation. There are also 4 scholarship students (incl dependents) requiring urgent repatriation. • There are currently no commercial pathways home for stranded Tuvaluans in New Zealand. • Tuvalu's COVID Taskforce has proposed repatriation flights from New Zealand from mid-September. • Tuvalu has announced 5 charter flights from Fiji to Tuvalu commencing 2 September to repatriate Tuvaluans stranded in Fiji. • Tuvalu's entry requirements include 14 days quarantine on arrival, and potentially pre-departure testing.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Under Tuvalu’s State of Emergency, the border is closed to any aircraft, vessel or ship until March 2021. The Prime Minister may grant exemptions for various humanitarian and medical reasons, such as for monthly cargo vessels from Fiji. • Tuvalu nationals stranded in New Zealand should contact the Tuvalu High Commission on (04) 472 1001 or info@tuvaluhc.org.nz
<p>Vanuatu</p> <p>Last updated: 28 August</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 5 August, 3,024 Vanuatu nationals on temporary visas in New Zealand. Of these, 2,897 are RSE workers, and around 763 were reported to require urgent repatriation in July. 1 scholarship student requires urgent repatriation. • Vanuatu borders are closed. All flights require exemptions. • There are currently no regular commercial flights between Vanuatu and NZ or Australia. • Air Vanuatu is working on plans for a schedule of fortnightly freight flights, potentially starting in mid-september which RSE workers may be able to be booked on. • If confirmed, these flights could accommodate up to 160 passengers each, and the process for booking places on these flights is under development by the Vanuatu National Disaster Management Office and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. • RSE employers may wish to liaise directly with Air Vanuatu and the Vanuatu High Commission noting that these flights are still pending confirmation. • Vanuatu does not require any special pre-departure measures. • Planning for charter flights can still continue but please get in touch if you have plans or proposals in place – approval in Vanuatu given quarantine capacity could be a potential constraint. • Everyone entering Vanuatu is required to enter government approved quarantine for 14 days. • Ni-Vanuatu stranded in New Zealand and wishing to return home should contact the Vanuatu High Commission in New Zealand.