

Pacific Repatriations – Country Overview

Last updated: Wednesday 24 June 1pm

Country	Overview
<p>Cook Islands</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Jonathan Muliaga</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 travelling from New Zealand. • One weekly flight enables repatriation of Cook Island nationals from New Zealand. The next flight is scheduled for 20 June, planned to repatriate approximately 125 Cook Island nationals. • The Cook Islands do not currently have any special pre-departure requirements for travellers to Cook Islands. • From 19 June, those who have been present in NZ for at least 30 days prior to travel, and whose main purpose of travel is to return home, or to take up or resume employment will not be required to undergo quarantine on arrival. • Cook Islanders wishing to return home should purchase a ticket from Air NZ.
<p>Fiji</p> <p>Last updated: 24 June</p> <p>POC: Ella Risati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 11,541 Fijian nationals on temporary visas in New Zealand. Of these, 461 are RSE workers. Approximately 70 have been identified as needing urgent repatriation. • Inbound passengers to Fiji are restricted to Fijian citizens/passport holders only. • An Air NZ flight approved by the Government of Fiji departed Auckland on 12 June. Subsequent cargo/passenger flights have been confirmed for 19 and 26 June. Flights are limited to 150 passengers. • From 22 June, Fijian citizens, residents and permit holders in New Zealand seeking to return home will need to either: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Present a medical certificate from a recognised medical institution certifying 14 days quarantine in their home country before departure, along with proof of a negative test result within 48 hours of travel. A further seven days in home quarantine in Fiji will follow, or; ○ If no quarantine has been completed in New Zealand, but have proof of a negative Covid-19 test result within 48 hours of travel, travellers will spend 14 days in a government-designated quarantine centre and then may go home if symptom free. • Government of Fiji has confirmed to Air NZ (via Air NZ Country Manager in Suva) that the requirement for pre-departure testing within 48 hours of arrival <u>will not be implemented</u> for the flight on 26 June. Air NZ will handle on-boarding the same way they had been prior to the 22 June change to Fiji's entry requirements. • Incoming passengers are required to isolate for 28 days on arrival (14 days in a quarantine facility; 14 days in self-isolation). • Fijians wishing to return home should contact Air NZ and the Fijian High Commission.
<p>Kiribati</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 561 i-Kiribati nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 158 are RSE workers, at least 100 require urgent repatriation. • Kiribati's border closure will be in place at least until the end of June. • Fiji Airways is not operating any commercial Nadi-Tarawa flights until at least the end of July. There are currently no commercial pathways home for i-Kiribati.

<p>POC: Ella Risati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • It is not clear whether Kiribati will have special entry requirements when their border reopens. • Kiribati has capacity to quarantine 80-90 people at any one time. When the border opens, people arriving into Kiribati will be required to quarantine for 14 days. • Kiribati is providing a daily allowance and paying for accommodation to stranded I-Kiribati. No I-Kiribati in New Zealand have applied for this assistance. Stranded i-Kiribati should contact the Honorary-Consul of Kiribati, Ben Otang (ben.otang@xtra.co.nz).
<p>Nauru</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Ella Risati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 23 Nauru nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 5 are RSE workers, none require urgent 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. Australia's current transit policy allows Pacific Islanders returning to the Pacific to transit up to 72 hours. • All nationals departing from Brisbane to Nauru are temperature-screened before boarding. • 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
<p>Niue</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Ella Risati</p>	<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 New Zealand. The Government of Niue prioritises entry for Niuean, New Zealand or Australian nationals usually resident in Niue. Australia-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. The next passenger flight to Niue is scheduled for Monday 29 June. • There are no pre-departure requirements for Niue. • All returning travellers are required to undertake 14 days of mandatory quarantine upon arrival in Niue. In-country quarantine capacities mean • 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.
<p>PNG</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Ella Risati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 581 PNG nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 131 are RSE workers, at least 20 are urgently requiring repatriation. • Borders are open to nationals, with some exceptions. The current SOE orders expired on 16 June, at which point they will be reviewed by Government of PNG. Border measures are expected to be largely maintained after the expiration of the SOE. • Commercial flight options, though reduced, are currently operating from Brisbane, Cairns and Singapore. Nationals in New Zealand would need to transit Australia to access these flights. Australia's current transit policy allows Pacific Islanders returning to the Pacific to transit up to 72 hours. Transit approval from Queensland border/health authorities may be required. • At check-in, passengers must show:

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Proof of a negative Covid-19 test done within 14 days of travel to PNG - 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. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All travellers are required 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. • We are following up with the PNG Government on the question of funding for mandatory in-country quarantine. We will provide further advice shortly.
<p>Samoa</p> <p>Last updated: 24 June</p> <p>POC: Ella Risati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As at 16 June, there are approximately 5,150 Samoan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 2,253 are RSE workers, around 700 require urgent repatriation. • Borders are open to allow fortnightly repatriation flights from New Zealand until the end of June at this stage. • The next repatriation flight to Samoa is scheduled for Saturday 27 June (300 pax, with 150 dedicated for RSE only). • 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, travellers to Samoa 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; - Present hard-copy evidence of a medical clearance letter from a registered GP confirming they are fit to travel; and - Enter into 14 days’ managed isolation. • A 14-day pre-departure quarantine requirement has been included on Samoa’s entry requirements since its State of Emergency Orders were announced on 20 March. However, it has not been actively enforced or checked at departure from New Zealand or on entry to Samoa. • We have received confirmation from Air New Zealand that proof of 14-days pre-departure quarantine is <u>not a requirement for boarding</u>. Samoa has separately clarified with Air NZ that this requirement is <u>not mandatory</u> for entry, though it continues to be included on SOE Orders. Similar advice is being communicated by New Zealand-based Samoan missions, who maintain the negative Covid-19 test and medical certificate issued within three days of travel are the only entry requirements that are being enforced at arrival and departure. • We advise employers to continue preparations already under way for the Covid-19 test and medical certificate for your workers, and for you to discount any advice on the 14-day pre-departure quarantine period. We will ensure industry is provided with the latest up-to-date information on Samoa’s border settings on a regular basis.

<p>Solomon Islands</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Jonathan Muliaga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 948 Solomon Island nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 717 are RSE workers, at least 260 require urgent repatriation. • Solomon Islands borders are currently closed. • There are no scheduled commercial flights between Honiara and NZ or Australia. There are some possibilities being looked at for repatriations directly from New Zealand over the coming weeks. A one off Brisbane-Honiara flight is scheduled for 30 June, operated by Solomon Airlines. Nationals in New Zealand need to transit Australia to access these flights. Australia’s current transit policy allows Pacific Islanders returning to the Pacific to transit up to 72 hours. • Solomon Islands currently requires evidence of a negative Covid test 10 days before arrival to Solomon Islands. • Solomon Islands currently require 28 day quarantine on arrival for all travellers. • Stranded Solomon Islanders needing to return home should contact the Solomon Islands High Commission.
<p>Tokelau</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Ella Risati</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 until at least 30 June. • 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. • Managed isolation is also required on arrival. Quarantine facilities are not operational in Tokelau, so exemptions are not available at present. • Returning nationals are advised to contact Air NZ directly for information on securing a seat on a flight to Samoa.
<p>Tonga</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Jonathan Muliaga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently around 4,900 Tongan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 1610 are RSE workers, with at least 421 needing to return home urgently. • Borders remain closed for incoming passengers. The current flight diversion order is in place until 12 September, meaning any incoming flight until then requires an exemption. • There are currently no commercial pathways to Tonga for Tongans stranded in New Zealand. Repatriations are expected to commence on 1 July at 50 people per fortnight. • Tongan nationals returning to Tonga will be required to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Obtain a negative C-19 test prior to departure; and - Undergo 14 days of quarantine on arrival in Tonga. • Current quarantine capacity is around 50 people. • Tongan nationals stranded in New Zealand should register at https://citizensregistration.gov.to/wp/?fbclid=IwAR0Q1Yixu3JnAjwnEYFcxAJJryuBnIgd9yCIFv2ONJJa2Y2HQsLXPpPdyC as well as contacting Air NZ to register their interest in future flights.
<p>Tuvalu</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently around 355 Tuvaluan nationals in New Zealand on temporary visas. Of these, 113 are RSE workers, as far as we are aware, none require urgent repatriation.

<p>POC: Ella Risati</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Borders are closed to persons who have visited or transited through mainland China or any 'high risk' country within 14 days of their travel to Tuvalu. Borders remain open for Tuvaluans based in New Zealand. • There are currently no commercial pathways home for stranded Tuvaluans in New Zealand. Fiji Airways suspended international flights in May 2020. The only other airline to fly into Tuvalu (from Tarawa) is Air Kiribati which is currently non-operational. • All travellers must observe a stand-down period of 14 days in a non-Covid country immediately before they arrive in Tuvalu. We are not aware of any requirement for pre-departure testing. • Tuvalu nationals stranded in New Zealand should contact the Tuvalu High Commission on (04) 472 1001 or mailto:info@tuvaluhc.org.nz
<p>Vanuatu</p> <p>Last updated: 19 June</p> <p>POC: Jonathan Muliaga</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are currently 4,128 Vanuatu nationals on temporary visas in New Zealand. Of these, 3,845 are RSE workers, around 1000 of whom require urgent repatriation. Between 19-23 June, NZDF will be repatriating up to 1000 stranded Vanuatu nationals. • Vanuatu borders are closed. All flights require exemptions. • There are currently no regular commercial flights between Vanuatu and NZ or Australia, and therefore no commercial pathway home for stranded ni-Vanuatu in New Zealand. Vanuatu has advised that no repatriations will occur between 23 June and 2nd week of August as a result of 40th Independence Anniversary celebrations. • Vanuatu does not require any special pre-departure measures. • Everyone entering Vanuatu is required to enter government approved quarantine for 14 days. Vanuatu has increased its quarantine capacity significantly over the last month to 1000+. • Ni-Vanuatu stranded in New Zealand and wishing to return home should contact the Vanuatu High Commission in New Zealand.

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