

Pohnpei State Governor's Office Press Release

FAQ's on Constitutional Emergency Order and Advisories Frequently asked questions about Constitutional Emergency Order No. 20-01 and advisories on travel and cultural gatherings

Peilapalap, March 12, 2020 - Yesterday, March 11, 2020, TH Reed B. Oliver issued

Constitutional Emergency Order No. 20-01, declaring a state of emergency for the State of Pohnpei in response to the imminent threat of COVID-19 or coronavirus.

Since then, there have been many questions concerning the quarantine requirements, specifically relating to paragraph 5 of the order:

"All incoming passengers on flights and vessels will be required to have a medical certificate and will be quarantined at the Dekehtik isolation area for a mandatory 14 days; provided, however, the period of quarantine may be reduced as determined by the Department of Health services based on required medical protocols and health measures. With regards to the crew of the vessels, the existing requirements and procedures will remain the same."

To help with others who may have the same questions, here are frequently asked questions:

Q: If I am coming from Chuuk, will I be quarantined? From Kosrae? From the Marshall Islands?

A: Yes, all incoming passengers, as stated in the emergency order will be quarantined for up to 14 days. Screening by the Department of Health will take place to determine how long a person must stay in quarantine, but the maximum number of days is 14.

Q: What if I don't have a medical certificate? Will I be sent back to Guam?

A: No, you will be quarantined for the maximum number of days (14) in Pohnpei at our isolation centers.

Q: What if I completed the 14-day requirement and have a medical certificate from Guam? Will I still be quarantined?

A: Yes, all incoming passengers will be required to have a medical certificate and will be quarantined for the maximum 14 days; provided, however, the period of quarantine may be reduced as determined by the Department of Health Services based on required medical protocols and health measures.

Q: Why is Pohnpei contradicting the FSM Congress resolution lifting the travel restrictions?

A: Pohnpei State was already working on this declaration when FSM Congress passed their resolution, lifting the travel restrictions. The Governor of Pohnpei has a responsibility to the people of Pohnpei to do all that is possible to ensure their safety and well-being. This emergency declaration is meant to give the Department of Health more time to prepare for the COVID-19 virus before it enters Pohnpei.

Q: When will this declaration be over?

A: Unless revoked or amended sooner, this Constitutional Emergency Order is valid for a period of 30 days counting from March 11, 2020.

Q: Does Pohnpei State have the authority to restrict travel?

A: Travel outside of Pohnpei is the National Government's responsibility. This order is not restricting travel, but quarantining all incoming passengers into Pohnpei.

TRAVEL ADVISORY

There is no restriction on travel to or from Pohnpei, except from Mainland China. We do advise that you consider the mandatory 14-day quarantine for all incoming passengers into Pohnpei.

This period may be reduced if you have a medical certificate and as determined by the Department of Health Services based on required medical protocols and measures.

Government travel by Pohnpei State Employees is hereby suspended until further notice for the further duration of this emergency declaration.

Please check with the Governor's office for the latest information if you or any of your family is planning on traveling to or from Pohnpei. You can call us at 320-2570, visit our official Facebook page: Pohnpei State Enginkehlap or email: pohnpeipublicinformation@gmail.com

CULTURAL GATHERING ADVISORY

- Pohnpei State Government discourages any large gatherings that may call for travel between municipalities.
- We discourage people who are sick from attending these gatherings.
- Please stay home when you are sick. Cover your coughs and sneezes • Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds • If you do have a large gathering, please provide soap and water and encourage everyone to wash their hands