PACIFIC ISLANDS FORUM

PACIFIC HUMANITARIAN PATHWAY ON COVID-19 (PHP-C)

COMMON PROTOCOLS FOR THE REPATRIATION OF FORUM NATIONALS

Purpose

1.   To provide **guidance** on a common and consistent approach under the PHP-C for the repatriation of Forum Member nationals present in other Forum Countries.

Application and Scope

2.   These protocols are:
  (a)   subject to, and intended to be applied only to the extent permissible under, the laws and policies of Members;
  (b)   applicable only to the repatriation, undertaken through PHP-C, of Forum Member nationals who are currently located in other Forum countries, to their home countries during the period of the COVID-19 pandemic; and
  (c)   adapted from WHO guidance on key considerations for repatriation of travelers in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Guidance to Members

3.   Advanced bilateral communication, coordination, and planning that takes place between the *sending* Forum country's and the *receiving* Forum country's responsible authorities before departure should include the following actions:
  (a)   pre-identification of nationals who wish to be repatriated is to be jointly coordinated between the *sending* and *receiving* countries;
  (b)   all pre-identified nationals to be repatriated are subject to any national quarantine/isolation requirements in the *sending* and *receiving* countries;
  (c)   the *sending* and *receiving* countries should coordinate and collaborate on a preferred or suitable modality for repatriation;
  (d)   the aircraft or ship to be utilised is to meet the health (COVID-19 measures), safety and operational requirements of both *sending* and *receiving* countries;
  (e)   the *sending* and *receiving* countries will cooperate to ensure that all clearances are in place, including those that require other Forum Members' approval such as transit clearances;
  (f)   exit screening, for example temperature measurement and a questionnaire, should be conducted by relevant national health professionals before departure for the early detection of symptoms and the results should be shared with the *receiving* country and any Forum country that will be a transit point;
  (g)   Forum nationals pre-identified for repatriation who have been identified by relevant national health professionals as suspected of being ill or who do not meet the exit screening will not be allowed to travel, and will be referred for further evaluation and if required, treatment in the *sending* country; and

(h)   Forum nationals being repatriated and transiting through another Forum country who are required to disembark, are subject to the applicable screening and self-isolation requirements of the transit Forum country until their re-entry to the aircraft or ship.

4.   Upon arrival in the *receiving* country, the Forum nationals will undergo entry screening, quarantine/isolation and evaluation measures as per the *receiving* country's national health requirements with respect to COVID-19.

5.   If a repatriated national tests positive for COVID-19 , all known passengers of the aircraft, including its crew, and the *sending* country will be notified immediately by the *receiving* country, to enable contact tracing and any other health measures required.

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