



**REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
MINISTRY OF HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**P.O. Box 16 ~ Majuro ~ Marshall Islands ~ 96960**  
Tel. No. (692) 625-5327 Email: [rmirmohreports@rmihealth.org](mailto:rmirmohreports@rmihealth.org)



9 May 2023

**Measles International Travel Advisory  
Protection Against Measles Importation to RMI  
Issuance 02: As of 9 May 2023**

The Ministry of Health and Human Services (MoHHS) in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) hereby issues this International Travel Advisory due to the current measles outbreaks now occurring in many countries, including all regions of the WHO and in some states of the United States. RMI is highly susceptible to measles introduction due to low immunity coverage of less than 90%, Vitamin A deficiency and stunting in 35% of children under 5. Measles is highly contagious and can spread easily from person to person through the air, via breathing, coughing and sneezing and impacts both children and adults. Every case of measles on average infects 12 to 18 non-immune people exposed to those infected individuals. In addition to the measures outlined herein, the MoHHS will also be conducting supplementary immunisation activities (SIA for measles) in the republic.

If the measles virus is imported to RMI, transmission of measles will spread immediately and rapidly. Therefore, the Ministry is requiring all persons traveling to (including domestic travel to the neighbouring islands) and from the Republic of the Marshall Islands to abide by the following requirements:

**Outbound International Travelers: – Effective Immediately**

- Infants of RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents (6 months of age up to 11 months) travelling internationally are ***strongly recommended (but not mandated)*** to be vaccinated against measles two weeks prior to travel. *This is called a “zero dose” and is given in addition to two doses of measles containing vaccine administered between 12 months and 15 months of age followed by a final dose at 5 years to acquire long term protection of 97%. The measles containing vaccine used in the RMI is the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine. A copy of the infant’s travel document/E-ticket is required to receive this vaccination from Public Health.*
- RMI Citizens and Foreign Residents (children 12 months of age up to 66 years of age or born after 1957) traveling internationally are strongly recommended (but not mandated) be vaccinated and up-to-date against measles two weeks prior to travel. A copy of the traveller’s E-ticket is required to receive this vaccination from Public Health.
- Teenagers and adults with no evidence of immunity (no documentary proof of immunization), are strongly recommended (but not mandated) for a first dose followed by the second dose 28 days later.
- ***All travellers planning to return to the RMI in the foreseeable future are encouraged to ensure that they meet the requirements of this TA and plan appropriately.***
- *In addition, kindly review the TA’s of planned destinations.*

**All Incoming Travellers to RMI & domestic travel to neighbouring islands – Effective immediately- (MANDATORY)**

- **All children less than 5 years must have their vaccinations for MMR (or Measles and Rubella) up-to date.** This includes immunization for infants aged between 6 months and 11 months. *This is called a “zero dose” and is given in addition to the two doses of measles vaccine administered between 12 months and 15 months of age followed by a final dose at 5 years to acquire long term protection of 95%. The measles vaccine used in the RMI is the MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccine.*
- **Proof of vaccination must be presented upon entry into the RMI or entry may be denied (entry can be granted with an undertaking to receive these vaccinations within 48 hours of arrival). Travellers to the RMI need to be aware of these requirements prior to planned departure.**
- Persons suffering from contagious disease, and persons who have been exposed to such disease, may be isolated and quarantined in accordance with regulations issued pursuant to Chapter 7 of the Marshall Islands Revised Code Chapter 1 Section 106 of the Public Health and Sanitation.
- All up-to-date vaccinated persons entering RMI will need to “watch and monitor” their own health for 3 weeks upon arrival/return. Measles symptoms typically include:
  - *high fever (may spike to more than 104° F)*
  - *cough*
  - *coryza or runny nose*
  - *conjunctivitis or red, watery eyes*
  - *rash (develops 3-5 days after symptoms begin)*
- Any travellers who develop these symptoms must seek medical care immediately. Public Health officials contact information will be distributed at the ports of entry. These officials will require the ill patients to inform them of their recent travels to measles affected areas, and these officials will need to know whether or not the travellers received a measles vaccination.
- Only a physicians recommendation will be accepted for exemptions to receiving the MMR vaccine.

The most effective protection from measles is getting vaccinated. Protect yourself and your loved ones from measles. For further information, please contact the following:

**Majuro**

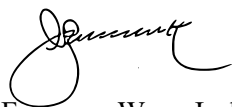
692-625-3632 (24-Hour Hotline)

**Ebeve**

692-329-9303 (24-Hour Hotline)

**Email enquiries: [funderwood@rmihealth.org](mailto:funderwood@rmihealth.org)**

Respectfully,



Francayne Wase-Jacklick  
Acting Secretary of Health and Human Services