

## Marshall Islands

### Policy responses

#### Containment

- February 7<sup>th</sup>: Declaration of state of emergency<sup>1</sup>
- Border Closure<sup>2</sup>
- Port Screening<sup>3</sup>
- Travel bans<sup>4</sup>
- Social distancing rules
- School closure
- 4<sup>th</sup> June: To ensure continuity of transshipment services, a limited number of carrier vessels and purse seiners can enter RMI for transshipment, after spending 14 days at sea and only after clearance by corresponding agencies. Container vessels and fuel tankers that have a history of entering Majuro and Ebeye ports with same crew and corresponding health records can enter ports (no disembarkation) without 14-day quarantine.
- March 8<sup>th</sup>: Entry of all international travelers by commercial flight was suspended and only resumed in June limited to essential personnel for the US Army Garrison in Kwajalein Atoll (subjected to a 3-week quarantine).
- 7<sup>th</sup> July: The Marshall Islands has extended its ban on inbound travel to the country until the end of August 5<sup>th</sup>.
- 20<sup>th</sup> July: The Marshall Islands government is preparing a phased return of hundreds of citizens stranded abroad by Covid-19 under an agreement that will see the returned citizens quarantined for 21 days at the US missile testing site at Kwajalein.
- 26<sup>th</sup> August: Cabinet approval of temporary suspension of non-essential travel for RMI citizens in light of cases spike in Guam and Hawaii
- October 29, 2020: Marshall Islands recorded its first confirmed coronavirus cases.<sup>5</sup>
- As of February 23, 2021, 9749 people have been vaccinated with the first dose and 3199 received the second dose.<sup>6</sup>
- March 19, 2021:<sup>7</sup>
  - Traveller banned
  - Masks are not required
  - Quarantine for 21 days required for all countries
  - Test not required
  - No lockdown in effect
  - Events allowed
  - Transport operational with restrictions
  - All shops open
  - Tourist attractions are open

<sup>1</sup><https://www.adb.org/news/adb-announces-6-million-grant-help-marshall-islands-combat-covid-19>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.looppng.com/coronavirus/covid-19-pacific-community-updates-91215>

<sup>3</sup><https://www.livemint.com/news/india/marshall-islands-bars-all-air-travellers-for-two-weeks-to-prevent-coronavirus-11583726846073.html>

<sup>4</sup><https://www.rnz.co.nz/international/pacific-news/411999/coronavirus-two-more-cases-confirmed-in-guam>

<sup>5</sup><https://www.npr.org/sections/coronavirus-live-updates/2020/10/29/929110650/remote-marshall-islands-record-first-coronavirus-cases>

<sup>6</sup><https://www.imf.org/en/Topics/imf-and-covid19/Policy-Responses-to-COVID-19#K>

<sup>7</sup><https://covidcontrols.co/restrictions/marshall-islands>

	-Restaurants and bars are open with restrictions
Fiscal	<p>As of 13<sup>th</sup> August: Total stimulus: USD 42 million (equivalent to 20% of GDP)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Health:</b> construction of quarantine and isolation units, purchases of medical equipment, installment of washing stations, and funding for overtime of health workers.</li> </ul> <p>As of 13<sup>th</sup> August, the government has spent around \$ 9.5 million for medical equipment and supplies, personal protection equipment, surge capacity and major infrastructure projects such as the new isolation and quarantine buildings in both Majuro and Ebeye.</p> <p>Federal Covid-19 response package, Office of Insular Areas</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• US\$3.9 part of CARES Act of OIA technical assistance program</li> <li>• US\$2.0 from Department of Education</li> <li>• US\$2.0 from Department of Health and Human Services</li> </ul>
Monetary	Not applicable, given the adoption of U.S. dollar as legal tender
Financial	-
SME measures (last update 22 January 2021)	<p><b>Other fiscal support:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In April 2020, the Cabinet approved an initial USD 6 Million Economic Relief package to support local businesses who are currently affected by COVID-19 impacts.</li> </ul>
Other policy measures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• April 18, 2020: World Bank \$2.5 million emergency grant (IDA) to aid community prevention resources<sup>8</sup></li> <li>• May 26, 2020: USAID allocated US\$9.9 million towards covid-19 efforts in Pacific Island regions of FSM, Fiji, Nauru, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. (individual breakdown unavailable)</li> <li>• June 12, 2020: USD 3 million under Government of Japan Economic and Social Development Program for medical supplies during Covid-19 pandemic<sup>9</sup></li> <li>• June 25, 2020: USD1 million from Taipei, China, part of the RMI Coronavirus Preparedness and Response Plan<sup>10</sup></li> <li>• July 30, 2020: The Asian Development Bank (ADB) announced more than \$13 million in grants to help 10 developing members in the Pacific finance their responses to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, among which \$63,000 is for the Republic of the Marshall Islands with a primarily focus on the health sector.<sup>11</sup> (agreed Aug-19, 2020)<sup>12</sup></li> <li>• September 1, 2020: The US Department of Labor announced USD100,000 in funding to support state efforts to combat fraud and recover improper payments in the Unemployment Insurance (UI) program, including those programs created under the Coronavirus Aid, Relief and Economic Security (CARES) Act;</li> </ul>

<sup>8</sup> <https://www.worldbank.org/en/news/press-release/2020/04/20/world-bank-support-for-marshall-islands-covid-19-response>

<sup>9</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>10</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>11</sup> <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-announces-more-13-million-grants-help-pacific-combat-covid-19>.

<sup>12</sup> [https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/54135/54135-003-grj-en\\_5.pdf](https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/project-documents/54135/54135-003-grj-en_5.pdf)

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• September 5, 2020: USD666,666 is awarded as airport safety and infrastructure grants through the US Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) under the Airport Improvement Program (AIP).<sup>13</sup></li> <li>• November 5, 2020: The ADB approved a \$3 million grant to improve access to safe water and sanitation and reduce waterborne diseases in Ebeye, the second-largest urban center of the Marshall Islands.<sup>14</sup></li> <li>• November 24, 2020: 24 November 2020, USD6 million under the Pacific Disaster Resilience Program (Phase 3).<sup>15</sup></li> <li>• December 1, 2020: ADB approved \$16 million grant to help Marshall Islands fight COVID-19.<sup>16</sup></li> <li>• December 8, 2020: USD1.5 million under the Ebeye Solid Waste Management Project in the Marshall Islands.<sup>17</sup></li> <li>• December 11, 2020, USD16 million under the Health Expenditure and Livelihood Support Program.<sup>18</sup></li> <li>• December 17, 2020, USD0.13 million under the Supporting Recovery by Micro, Small and Medium-sized Enterprises in the Pacific from the Effects of the COVID-19 Pandemic<sup>19</sup></li> <li>• December 18, 2020, USD0.17 million under the Assessing and Improving COVID-response Capacity in the North Pacific<sup>20</sup></li> <li>• As of 29 January 2021: The National Disaster Committee (NDC) will submit a recommendation to the Cabinet for the extension of State of Emergency (SOE), including an updated RMI National Pandemic Response Plan and Budget, and Travel Advisory, as it expires on 7 February 2021.<sup>21</sup></li> </ul>
--	---

*Source:* IMF, Policy Responses to COVID-19, if not specified.

<sup>13</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>14</sup> <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-provides-additional-financing-support-water-supply-sanitation-ebeye>

<sup>15</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>16</sup> <https://www.adb.org/news/adb-approves-16-million-grant-help-marshall-islands-fight-covid-19>

<sup>17</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>18</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>19</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>20</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/RMI>

<sup>21</sup> <https://covid19policy.adb.org/index.php/policy-measures/RMI>