

## FSM Information Services

### Press Release

#### **FSM National Government Instructs International Air Carriers to Check Outbound Travelers for Documentation Supporting Exemption from the Travel Ban**

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—In a April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2020, letter to international air carriers, the Honorable Carlson D. Apis, Secretary of the Department of Transportation, Communication, & Infrastructure, described the important role of “all international air carriers in implementing [the travel restrictions instated by His Excellency David W. Panuelo, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM)]...[to ensure] that the FSM remains COVID-19 free.” Secretary Apis instructed all international air carriers servicing the FSM to abide by both the incoming and outgoing travel restrictions, as all FSM citizens are banned from travel to COVID-19 affected jurisdictions until further notice and until such a time that a determination is made that the COVID-19 Pandemic is effectively contained.

“All international air carriers are instructed to abide by this travel restriction,” Secretary Apis wrote. “[Please] inform your [outbound] passengers as expeditiously as possible to be prepared to provide supporting documentation for exemption from the [outbound] travel ban.”

Examples of supporting documentation may include evidence of residency abroad (such as a driver’s license), evidence of returning to a place of employment (such as a letter from one’s employer, or documentation certifying one’s employment at a given business).

“The documentation may be required for presentation at the border during check-in and screening procedures,” Secretary Apis wrote.

For April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, FSM citizens are prohibited from departing to COVID-19 affected jurisdictions unless they meet the exemption requirements, such as returning to a place of employment or a medical necessity.

After these April 13<sup>th</sup> and April 14<sup>th</sup>, the only FSM citizens who will be allowed outbound travel to COVID-19 affected jurisdictions are individuals who have a doctor-certified note that they require specialized healthcare that can only be received abroad.

As of April 13<sup>th</sup>, 2020, the FSM remains free of any confirmed cases of COVID-19. No individual presently outside of the Nation’s borders is allowed entry until further notice, and until such a time that a determination is made that the COVID-19 Pandemic is effectively contained.