



COVID Safe Protocols for Special Approved Businesses

CRITERIA FOR ASSESSMENT

The Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS) in consultation with the Ministry of Commerce of Trade, Tourism and Transport (MCTTT) have outlined an assessment criteria to allow special approved businesses to start operations under strict COVID Safe protocols.

The criteria for assessment includes economic impact, such as creation of employment, exports and supply of essential goods.

Above all, the special approved business must satisfactorily demonstrate the ability to implement COVID Safe protocols.

SPECIAL APPROVED BUSINESSES

In addition to the non-negotiable protocols mentioned in the Protocols for COVID-Safe Business Operations <https://www.mcttt.gov.fj/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/Protocols-for-Business-Operation-1.pdf> special approved businesses shall adhere to the following:

Workplace Bubble for Special Approved Businesses

1. Businesses shall ensure that all employees form a bubble and the bubble remains intact throughout the work period. The bubble to be further divided into smaller operational bubbles. All employees must stay on-site for a minimum of 14 days.
2. All employees rostered for the bubble period must not leave the premises unless and until cleared by the Ministry of Health and Medical Services (MHMS). For compliance, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) team will ensure that no one leaves or enters the premises during the period to ensure the bubble remains intact.
3. All costs related to managing the bubble, that is, accommodation, meals, logistical cost of monitoring by RFMF, including costs related to security shall be borne by the businesses.
4. All employees shall undergo daily symptom and temperature checks. Individuals showing symptoms will be isolated and if positive, decision will be made for treatment at MHMS hospital.
5. Should there be a positive case in the bubble, the entire bubble shall be considered primary/secondary contact of the positive case and shall enter mandatory quarantine at a Government designated facility. The MHMS shall make the final determination to release the employees from the bubble conditions.



Note: In the event the special approved business proves beyond reasonable doubt that a workplace bubble cannot be maintained, the business will have to create safe travel pathway to and from the special approved business as per details below.

Safe Travel Pathway to and from the Place of Business

1. Businesses shall ensure that all employees form an operational bubble and these bubbles to remain intact. All employees rostered for the bubble period must only travel to and from the safe pathway created. For compliance, the Republic of Fiji Military Forces (RFMF) team will provide surveillance to ensure the bubble remains intact.
2. Businesses shall provide accommodation at an approved facility to all employees which will be the starting point of the safe travel pathway. The safe travel pathway will only include movement to and from the accommodation facility and place of business.
3. All costs related to managing the bubble, that is, accommodation, meals, logistical cost of monitoring by RFMF, including costs related to security shall be borne by the businesses.
4. All employees shall undergo daily symptom and temperature checks. Individuals showing symptoms will be isolated and if positive, decision will be made for treatment at MHMS hospital.
5. Should there be a positive case in the bubble, the entire bubble shall be considered primary/ secondary contact of the positive case and must enter mandatory quarantine at a Government designated facility. The MHMS shall make the final determination to release the employees from the bubble conditions.

Furthermore, in order to be considered as a special approved business, the business must:

1. Agree and sign-off to Fijian Government's Protocol for COVID Safe Business Operations; and
2. Provide a detailed Standard Operating Procedure as to how the Fijian Government's Protocol will be implemented at their workplace.