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| **What plans and emergency laws might be required to facilitate successful rapid border closure for island nations faced with severe pandemic threats?** |
| **Background/Objectives**Issues around border closure for island nations faced with severe pandemic threats have been studied for New Zealand (NZ) eg, Boyd et al 2018; *Aust N Z J Public Health*) and for small islands with low travel volumes (Eichner et al 2009, *BMC Infect Dis*). But there has been no detailed thinking about the specifics in pandemic plans or emergency laws to facilitate border closure. Therefore, we aimed to identify such potential actions.**Methods**We extracted success and failure factors for previous island nation border closures from the literature (eg, for the 1918 influenza pandemic) and considered modern pandemic planning documents and related emergency laws (ie, for selected island nations in the Southern Hemisphere). **Results**Our examination of the literature suggests that plans need to outline the rapid and definitive steps to be taken by each of the relevant authorities (ie, by: the Prime Minister and Cabinet; aviation and maritime authorities; military; and health agencies). Updated emergency legislation might need to cover:* Protecting the political decision-makers from legal action so that they can make the difficult decisions without legal threats from the tourism industry or nationals travelling overseas and wanting to return.
* Facilitating ongoing trade via international crews of cargo planes and ships being appropriately managed (“protective sequestration” in port areas and airports). This may involve special additional roles for customs personnel, the military and police.
* Allowing for possible compensation during the weeks/months of any border closure to vulnerable industries eg, the tourist industry (to ensure these industries can survive and have rapid post-pandemic recovery). Alternatively, the government could mandate that vulnerable industries adopt appropriate insurance that covers such contingencies.

Pre-allocated financial and other resources may be needed to ensure mass media campaigns could be run (eg, to promote respiratory hygiene and social distancing), in case the border control efforts failed. **Discussion**Pandemic plans and emergency laws of island nations may need to be upgraded if border closure is to be a viable option in severe pandemic scenarios. Such efforts may facilitate successful border closure in the brief time window (perhaps of hours) that may be available to decision-makers. Such planning may also allow trade to continue with no significant risk of person-to-person contact.**Keywords**Pandemic planningBorder closureEmergency lawsInfluenzaBioweapons |