

COVID-19 Border Advisory (19) – 24 April 2020

Dear Colleagues

This is the nineteenth border advisory relating to COVID-19. These Border Advisories are available on the Ministry of Health's website, along with guidance, fact sheets and updates. We encourage you to keep checking the Ministry's website for updated information at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Summary:

This Border Advisory includes the following information:

- Update on the current situation - update on numbers
- New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Level - note move to level 3
- Current border measures - note Health Act order has been renewed
- Entry and exit screening at international airports – no change
- Exemptions to managed isolation – new information
- Advice to persons transiting through New Zealand to another country – new information
- Advice for air and marine crew – no change
- Yachts and pleasure craft – new information

Current situation

On 11 March, the Director-General of the World Health Organization declared COVID-19 to be a pandemic. The first reported cases of COVID-19 were reported from Hubei Province, China in late December 2019. Since then cases have continued to be reported in many countries.

As reported by the WHO on 22 April 2020, globally there have been 73,920 new confirmed cases (2,471,136 confirmed cases in total) and 6,058 new deaths reported (169,006 deaths in total). For further details see: <https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/situation-reports/>

Given the global pandemic and the numbers of COVID-19 cases being brought into New Zealand by arriving passengers, New Zealand has implemented enhanced border measures.

New Zealand COVID-19 Alert level

New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 4– Eliminate. At 11.59 pm on Monday 27 April New Zealand will move back to Alert Level 3 - Restrict. Further information on the all of Government response and New Zealand COVID-19 Alert Levels can be found here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/#new-zealand-covid-19-alert-levels>

Current Border measures

The current border measures, listed below, continue. These are:

- Only New Zealand residents and citizens (and their children and partners) are permitted to enter New Zealand. This includes the Realm countries (the Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau), Australian citizens and permanent residents ordinarily resident in New Zealand, airline and marine crew.
- There are some exceptions, on a case by case basis, for example for essential health workers, humanitarian reasons, and others.
- Cruise vessels are not permitted to enter New Zealand's territorial waters on public health grounds until 30 June 2020.
- Every traveller arriving into New Zealand on a flight will either enter a managed isolation or quarantine facility for a minimum period of 14 days from their time of arrival, unless they are exempt as provided for in the Health Act 1956 Order Section 70(1)(e), (ea) and (f) dated 9 April.
- The Health Act Order Section 70(1)(e), (ea) and (f) dated 9 April has been extended until 11 May 2020 and amended to include an exemption for marine crew (immediately transferring to a vessel) from 14 days of managed isolation or quarantine.

Entry and exit processes at international airports

Health officials supported by former Air New Zealand staff are undertaking entry and exit screening. Every traveller entering New Zealand via the aviation pathway will be screened for COVID-19 on arrival. Travellers will be disembarked in small groups and met by Government officials at the gate. If travellers have a domestic transit flight, they will not be allowed to connect to that flight. If a traveller is symptomatic on arrival, they will be placed in a quarantine facility for 14 days and tested for COVID-19. If a traveller is not symptomatic on arrival, they will be placed in an approved managed isolation facility for 14 days.

Exit screening is currently limited to travellers and flights departing to the Pacific.

Exemptions from managed isolation

A small number of people will be eligible for an exemption from managed isolation. These include medical transfers, and those with serious medical conditions that cannot be managed in the accommodation provided. Exemptions from managed isolation are granted centrally through the email address MI_Exemptions@health.govt.nz.

If a traveller does not hold an exemption before they fly, they will be placed in managed isolation. No exemptions will be granted at the border.

Once in isolation requests for exemption can be discussed with facility management team who will send information through to the MI exemptions team. A person with an exemption will still need to pass the health screening check prior to leaving for self-isolation. No exemptions can be granted from quarantine

Advice for persons transiting through New Zealand to another country

The New Zealand Government has entered into transit arrangements with a range of countries to make it easier for each other's citizens to get home. Transit agreements that detail who may transit New Zealand are published by Immigration NZ and available on their website at <https://www.immigration.govt.nz/about-us/covid-19/coronavirus-update-inz-response>

Advice for air and marine crew

The Health Act Order Section 70(1)(e), (ea) and (f) order excludes aircraft pilots, flight crew members, maritime crew (immediately transferring to a vessel), and medical attendants assisting with medical air transfers from 14 days of managed isolation or quarantine.

Aircrew (including repositioning crew) are expected to strictly adhere to the Ministry of Health advice for aircrew: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-advice-airline-crew>

Marine crew arriving by air to join a vessel are to travel immediately and directly by private transport to the vessel where they will complete 14 days of self-isolation. Advice on self-isolation is available on Ministry of Health website. <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-self-isolation-close-contacts>.

Marine crew arriving by sea must self-isolate on the vessel for 14 days until they departed from after overseas port OR took on new crew (ie 14 days from the last day of possible exposure to a case). Shore leave is not permitted during the self-isolation period. During level 4 (and level 3) crew will need to follow the same requirements as everyone else in New Zealand so will not be taking shore leave. If the crew or border staff need to interact, vessel and border staff should follow the advice on personal protection for border staff.

On the rare occasion a marine crew needs to depart a vessel recently arrived in New Zealand the crew will be required to go immediately into self-isolation for 14 days from the date the vessel departed the last international port of call OR took on new crew (ie 14 days from the last day of possible exposure to a case).

Yachts and pleasure craft

All superyachts, yachts and other pleasure craft wishing to come to New Zealand during the current border restrictions will be assessed by border agencies on a case-by-case basis. Vessels given approval to arrive will be required to provide information about the health of those on board and potential exposures to COVID-19. If the craft arrives within 14 days of departure from the last port of call health officers will meet the craft on arrival, along with other border agencies. The persons on board will complete 14 days of self-isolation on board the craft either at anchor or a secure berth. The process being followed is:

Prior to arrival

Yacht/small craft will be requested to declare the following to Customs via yachts@customs.govt.nz at the time the Customs Advance of arrival is submitted.

- I. Has the vessel departed or transited through any country other than New Zealand in the last 14 days?
- II. Are there any passengers or crew on board who have departed or transited through any country other than New Zealand in the last 14 days?
- III. Are there any passengers or crew on board who have had contact with a person who has been a confirmed or suspected case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- IV. Is there any person on board who has an acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, coryza (head cold e.g. runny nose, sneezing, post-nasal drip), anosmia (loss of sense of smell) with or without fever.

On arrival

If the answers to the above are all **NO** and it has been 14 days since the yacht/small craft departed the last port of call the process is as follows:

- Upon arrival, the craft will be directed to berth.
- MPI and Customs staff will board and complete arrival procedures.
- Persons on board will complete the passenger arrival card completed by arriving air travellers. This includes the COVID-19 risk factor questions. Customs will confirm card has been completed and if there are no symptoms the travellers will be permitted to depart the craft.
- Persons departing the craft will be subject to the current alert level restrictions as detailed on the <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/#new-zealand-covid-19-alert-levels>

If it has been less than 14 days since the yacht/small craft departed the last port of call the process is

- Upon arrival, the craft will be directed to berth.
- MPI and Customs staff will board and complete arrival procedures.
- Health staff will be present when the vessel arrives. Persons on board will complete the passenger arrival card completed by arriving air travellers. This includes the COVID-19 risk factor questions. Health staff will confirm card has been completed, take the temperature of all arriving travellers and confirm they do not have any of the following symptoms - cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, coryza, anosmia with or without fever.
- If the temperature is <38°C, and there are no symptoms the travellers will be required to self-isolate on the vessel until 14 days have passed.
- Persons departing the craft will be subject to the current alert level restrictions as detailed on the <https://covid19.govt.nz/government-actions/covid-19-alert-system/#new-zealand-covid-19-alert-levels>

If ill health on board

If anyone on board has symptoms and/or a temperature of ≥38°C none of the travellers will be permitted to depart the craft. All travellers on board will be required to remain on the craft until cleared to depart or given further instruction from health officials. Health officials will seek advice from the Medical Officer of Health.

Travelling around New Zealand

Vessels are prohibited from travelling around or within NZ under the s70(1)(f) Order. A vessel is required to adhere to NZ law, including the s70(1)(f) order ("lockdown order") and therefore will not be allowed any non-essential travel or movement.

Departing New Zealand

All superyachts and pleasure craft looking to depart New Zealand during the current border restrictions will be assessed on a case-by-case basis. Vessels may leave New Zealand if they do not have COVID-19, or a reasonable suspicion of COVID-19, on board, are adequately prepared for their journey and do not pose a high threat to public health (e.g. by requiring search and rescue assistance by NZ). The assessment will include the following questions:

- Have you had contact with a suspected case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Have you had contact with a confirmed case of COVID-19 in the last 14 days?
- Do you have an acute respiratory infection with at least one of the following symptoms: cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, coryza (head cold e.g. runny nose, sneezing, post-nasal drip), anosmia (loss of sense of smell) with or without fever.
- Have you travelled overseas in the last 14 days? If yes, where?

Further information and resources

The COVID-19 webpages are updated daily: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus> and <https://covid19.govt.nz>

Advice for airline crew <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-advice-airline-crew>

Advice on cleaning <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/general-cleaning-information-covid-19>

Advice for hotel operators and staff <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-hotels-and-hotel-staff>

Advice on personal protective measures <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-essential-workers/personal-protective-equipment-use-non-health-essential-workers>

Advice for travellers <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-advice-travellers>

Advice on self isolation <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-self-isolation>

Advice on caring for yourself and others who have, or may have, COVID-19 at home <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/caring-yourself-and-others-who-have-or-may-have-covid-19-home>

All of Government Factsheet for Welfare Support: information on what welfare support is available for people who may be self-isolating or are not sure what assistance may be is available here <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-resources> or phone the 0800 Government Helpline on 0800 779 997 (9am–5pm, seven days/week). For health specific questions, please call Healthline directly on 0800 611 116 (24 hours/day, seven days/week).

Border advisories <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-resources-border-sector>

Border Controls <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-current-situation/covid-19-border-controls>

Current case definition <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-resources-health-professionals/case-definition-covid-19-infection>

Factsheets for close contacts with a confirmed case, close contacts of a suspected case and people who have been on an aircraft with an unwell person: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public/contact-tracing-covid-19>

General information about COVID-19 <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public>

Information for the border sector <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-resources-border-sector>

Public events and mass gatherings <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-public-events-and-mass-gatherings>

World Health Organization situation updates and advice: <https://www.who.int/health-topics/coronavirus> and <https://www.who.int/csr/don/en>(updates only).

World Health Organization guidance: Operational considerations for managing COVID-19 cases/outbreak on board ships <https://www.who.int/publications-detail/operational-considerations-for-managing-covid-19-cases-outbreak-on-board-ships>

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