

## **Preparing for Friday's arrivals 13 August 2020**

The people arriving on the flight from New Zealand on Friday 14th August, must have undertaken a COVID-19 test before they leave, and undergo supervised quarantine in their homes for 14 days when they get here. Any household members sharing their accommodation will have to quarantine with the arriving passengers as well.

Family members intending to meet the flight are being told not to, because the returnees will undergo checking and arrival procedures inside the terminal, and will be taken from there directly to their homes or accommodation. Transport will be provided.

That's how serious the government is taking matters since the new outbreak of coronavirus in New Zealand earlier this week.

If the returnees are able to keep separated from other household members already here – for example in a separate unit – that may be permitted. Otherwise the entire family including children must separate themselves from the rest of the community. That means children can't go to school and people cannot go to work.

Te Marae Ora, Cook Islands Ministry of Health will be leading the supervised quarantine process supported by the Puna and community. The COVID-19 Act 2020 gives the Secretary of Health the legal power to order and enforce this supervised quarantine.

The Prime Minister – Henry Puna – says, “We are taking these very serious measures in order to protect our people and to control and keep this deadly disease away from our shores.

“It is in the interests of all of us to play by the rules to keep all of us safe. I know we have been feeling a little relaxed lately in our COVID-free paradise. But this disease has re-emerged in the NZ community. I'm asking us all to double our efforts to keep the coronavirus at bay. Step up our hygiene practices, maintain physical distances and avoid crowded places; and be kind to each other, remember we're all in this together.”

“These are our families coming home. Let's welcome them home and continue to demonstrate aroa to everyone”.

Families who will need to go into supervised quarantine with passengers arriving on Friday, need to use the time before they arrive, to prepare for the supervised quarantine, making sure you have access to adequate food and household supplies, medication and school work for children.

It is understood 41 passengers (26 family groups) have been booked on the returning flight. After being here for six days the returnees will be given another covid test.

For up to date information visit [www.covid19.gov.ck](http://www.covid19.gov.ck)

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