



Office of the Prime Minister  
Press Release

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

**31 March 2020**

### **Prime Minister: The Cook Islands continues to have zero COVID-19 confirmed cases**

In his latest address to the nation, Prime Minister Henry Puna announced the Cook Islands remains COVID-19 free. All 275 swabs sent for testing in the past month have come back negative.

People must remain vigilant and maintain good hygiene practices, he said in a live-streamed address yesterday.

The Prime Minister May acknowledged the work of Punas in keeping the community safe and engaged with COVID-19 measures.

“People that are in supervised quarantine, please remain in your homes and respect the procedures put in place by the Punas. We can only fight this virus if we work together, and follow the advice given to us by our Health professionals.”

In recent days the Punas have been stepping up communication efforts to educate the public on the colour-coded flag system and Personal Protective Equipment, known as PPE. They have also been working alongside the Creative Centre, Red Cross and the New Zealand High Commission, to get food and hygiene packs to our most vulnerable people, he said.

The Prime Minister’s speech carried a strong message of faith. “To our people, I encourage you all to be strong, as our Lord is faithful, and he will continue to strengthen and protect us from harm. It is bestowed upon us the spirit of power, love and self-discipline. As a strong community, we will endure these difficult times.”

Health officials are continuing to test people displaying COVID-like symptoms. The next batch of swabs will be dispatched on the next flight to New Zealand.

## **ENDS**

For Health-related questions or concerns please visit [www.covid19.gov.ck](http://www.covid19.gov.ck) or contact the Healthline on 0800 1800; 0800 1801; 0800 1802 or as listed below to go direct to your Puna. These are all free calling numbers.

Tupapa-Maraerenga 0800 1803

Takuvaine-Tutakimoa 0800 1804

Rapa 0800 1805

Nikao-Panama 0800 1806

Ruaau 1800 1807

Akhoa 0800 1808

Murienua 0800 1809

Titikaveka 0800 1810

Ngatangia 0800 1812

Matavera 0800 1813