

# QFT

## QUARANTINE FREE TRAVEL



JANUARY 19, 2021

INFORMATION VALID AS AT TIME OF PRINT

### WHAT DOES ONE WAY QUARANTINE FREE TRAVEL (QFT) MEAN?

All travellers originating from the Cook Islands can now travel to New Zealand without the need to enter a managed isolation and quarantine facility for two weeks as previously required by the New Zealand government.

This enables the resumption of access for travellers from the Cook Islands to New Zealand for varied reasons such as, to enrol or re-enrol at school and universities, to ensure continued linkages between our respective private sectors and to allow access to health services in New Zealand.

Since July 2020, both the Cook Islands and New Zealand governments have been working diligently towards resumption of one-way quarantine-free travel from the Cook Islands to New Zealand, as the first step

towards a full two-way quarantine-free travel arrangement (to include New Zealand visitors to the Cook Islands) to commence this first quarter of 2021.

“The two-way quarantine-free travel arrangement will be subject to the shared confidence of both Governments in the systems, procedures and materials demonstrating readiness of both sides, including contingency response and health resourcing plans to allow safe two-way travel”.

Prime Minister Brown stated “I want to reassure our Cook Islands people that maintaining our COVID-19 free status continues to be paramount. Both countries are carefully managing our travel processes to ensure the ongoing safety of our people”.

**For full release visit [www.covid-19.gov.ck](http://www.covid-19.gov.ck)**

### AIR NEW ZEALAND SCHEDULE

Air New Zealand now have 2 scheduled weekly flights out of Rarotonga.

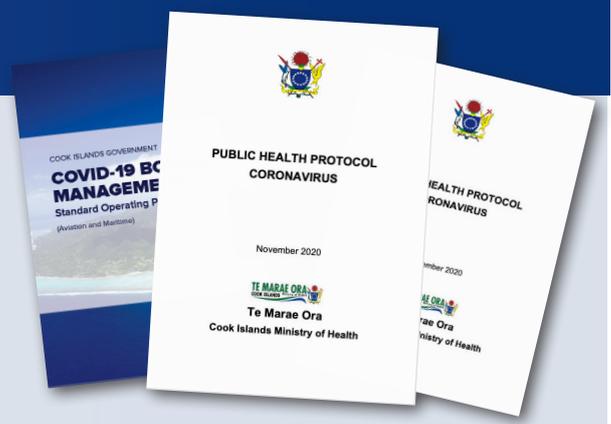
Aircrafts will arrive from Auckland on Tuesdays and Fridays and overnight before departing on Wednesdays and Saturdays. **For the full schedule visit [www.airnewzealand.co.nz](http://www.airnewzealand.co.nz)**

DATE	FLIGHT	ARRIVAL	DEPARTURE
Tue 19 & 26 Jan	NZ940	2:10PM	Overnight
Wed 20 & 27 Jan	NZ941		7:30AM
Fri 21 & 28 Jan	NZ940	2:10PM	Overnight
Sat 22 & 29 Jan	NZ941		4:15PM



### BORDER PROTOCOLS

Cook Islands Government, through relevant agencies, continue to work on protocols to strengthen the security of Cook Islanders across many frontlines: Border, Public Health Measures and Travellers who present as ill/sick. These are called Standard Operating Procedures (SOP's). More information will be released shortly.



Te Kauono Tutara e te Mana Tiaki  
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration



# TRAVELLING TO NEW ZEALAND? HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.



## 1. Who is eligible for quarantine-free entry into New Zealand (NZ)?

To be eligible for travel a person must:

- Meet the normal NZ immigration criteria for entry;
- Not having been overseas outside of the Cook Islands or New Zealand in the past 14 days;
- Having maintained physical distancing (to the greatest extent practicable) from any person, at the airport at which they arrive, who did not arrive from the Cook Islands;
- Having worn a face covering while in the airport at which they arrived in New Zealand; and
- There are no reasonable grounds (as determined by a suitably qualified health practitioner) to suspect that the person may have COVID-19. That might include, among other things:
  - Having had contact with a confirmed COVID-19 case within the past 14 days;
  - Having any COVID-19 symptoms; and
  - Be awaiting a COVID-19 test result

## 2. Do I need to do any health checks in the Cook Islands before travelling to NZ?

Yes,

- This will be carried out by Te Marae Ora (TMO) staff at the check in and departures area of the Rarotonga International Airport
- This will include a series of COVID-19 related questions/temperature checks physical observations by the TMO Personnel
- Clearance for travel will be authorized by TMO based on these checks
- The Airline has the authority not to board anyone who does not comply with these requirements.



## 3. Can I travel to NZ quarantine-free for less than 14 days and return to Rarotonga?

Yes you can. However it is the responsibility of the traveller to ensure they meet the entry requirements for the Cook Islands on return.

#### **4. On arrival how will arriving quarantine-free Cook Islands travellers be separated from travellers arriving from countries with COVID-19?**

Initially flights are only from the Cook Islands to Auckland International Airport. Auckland Airport will use a streamlined Safe Travel Path to process passengers arriving quarantine-free from the Cook Islands.

The Safe Travel Path creates separation from other arriving passengers by giving Cook Islands flights exclusive use of the international terminal for arrivals processing. During the 90 minutes prior to the Cook Islands arrival, all parts of the Safe Travel Path will undergo a comprehensive clean to NZ Ministry of Health standards before being used by quarantine-free passengers arriving from the Cook Islands.

#### **5. What is the Safe Travel Path?**

The Safe Travel Path is created by:

- Using flight scheduling to ensure no other international flights arrive within 90 minutes of an arriving Cook Islands flight, to provide a time 'firebreak' for cleaning
- Rigorous cleaning of terminal areas along the Safe Travel Path between flights
- Escorting passengers off Cook Islands flights when terminal cleaning has concluded and following an arrivals path through the terminal marked out with stanchions and barriers
- Dedicated border processing lanes and facilities, which will be blocked off when not in use by Cook Islands passengers
- A baggage reclaim carousel and baggage trolleys used exclusively by travellers arriving quarantine-free from the Cook Islands. When not in use the carousel will be blocked off and trolleys will be sanitised and stored ready for the next Cook Islands flight
- A double-layer physical barrier in the public area of the arrivals hall blocking access to the terminal exit path used by travellers going into managed isolation or quarantine.



Customs will continue supporting the disembarkation process.

#### **6. How many flights are there a week to NZ?**

From the 20<sup>th</sup> of January 2021 there will be 2 flights scheduled per week arriving into Rarotonga. These will depart on Wednesday and Saturday.

#### **7. What if there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in NZ?**

Travel advice from both Governments is that travel is undertaken at the persons own risk. Travellers should be prepared for material changes to Cook Islands border restrictions as may arise, which may include additional costs for quarantine on re-entry if determined by Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health.

#### **8. Does the commencement of QFT from the Cook Islands have any impacts on the Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) system?**

No. Any people from the Cook Islands already in Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities when Quarantine-Free Travel commences, will need to complete their 14 days in managed isolation.

# TRAVELLING FROM NZ TO THE COOK ISLANDS HERE'S WHAT YOU NEED TO KNOW.



## 1. Who is allowed to travel?

- Cook Islanders (as verified via Cook Islands Status stamp)
- Permanent Residents of the Cook Islands
- Cook Islands work permit holders
- Cook Islands resident permit holders

## 2. What steps do I need to take to secure entry into the Cook Islands?

All requests for entry into the Cook Islands must be sought from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (Te Kauono Tutara e te Mana Tiaki) on email: [immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:immigration2@cookislands.gov.ck) by providing your passport bearing Cook Islands Status Stamp and or valid permit and copy of e-ticket.

**NOTE: Registration for entry to the Cook Islands closes 48 hours before departure of your flight from New Zealand. You will need to re-book for the next available flight should you miss this deadline.**

## 3. Do I need to do any health checks in New Zealand before travelling back to the Cook Islands?

Yes. It is your responsibility to get COVID-19 tested and obtain a negative COVID-19 test result within 96 hours before departure from New Zealand. All costs for testing are at your own expense. For a full list of testing sites please visit: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19>.

You must provide your negative COVID-19 test result taken **within 96 hours prior to departure** to Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health on email: [tmo.exemptions@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:tmo.exemptions@cookislands.gov.ck). Official verification of test result is provided by Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration, who issue final approval for entry to the Cook Islands.

## IMPORTANT NOTE FROM AIR NEW ZEALAND

It is mandatory for all passengers to wear face masks at all times while in flight.

**Face masks will be provided by flight attendants.**



### FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT:



Te Kauono Tutara e te Mana  
Tiaki - Ministry of Foreign  
Affairs and Immigration

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 +682 29 110

Healthline 0800 1800 or 0800 1801

**COVID-19**

COOK ISLANDS RESPONSE



[www.covid-19.gov.ck](http://www.covid-19.gov.ck)



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