



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER  
HON MARK BROWN  
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

MEDIA RELEASE

Cook Islands Cabinet Decision re Tuesday's Flight

21 FEBRUARY 2021

The Cook Islands Cabinet has just met and approved the recommendations of Te Marae Ora, Cook Islands Ministry of Health to resume incoming passenger travel from Auckland to Rarotonga. The usual entry requirements remain in place for Cook Islanders and work and residence permit holders.

Te Kauono Tutara e te Mana Tiaki – Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration will be amending the inwards travel advisory to allow entry from 12:00am Tuesday 23 February 2021 (CKT), for those who meet the above criteria and have been in New Zealand and/or the Cook Islands for the last 14 days. Further, all passengers will be required to obtain a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of departure from Auckland.

Prime Minister Mark Brown noted he had confidence in the New Zealand systems and testing and contact tracing regime. Cabinet noted the situation in Auckland regarding the latest outbreak and were encouraged by the latest test findings and were in full support of the Te Marae Ora recommendations.

Arriving passengers will also be required to undertake a COVID-19 test on day 6 after their return to the Cook Islands.

“The advice Te Marae Ora provided Cabinet compliments a statement from the NZ Ministry of Health this afternoon, “due to the steps already taken in identifying, testing, and tracing individuals linked to the February cases, ... the public health risk is considered very low.”

ENDS.

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