

Update as at 6.00pm 23 August 2021

Kia Orana

Te Marae Ora (TMO) wishes to provide the following update:

The Cook Islands remains COVID-19 free.

Alert Level 2 has been extended to 11.59pm Monday 30th August 2021.

While Air New Zealand flights have been flying into Rarotonga, they have not carried any inwards passengers since Monday 16th August.

Meanwhile over 2500 passengers have left in the last week.

A Ministerial Order that requires flights, and maritime travel to the Pa Enua to be cargo (and crew) only flights/sailings, with returning flights able to transport passengers and cargo to Rarotonga remains in place.

This same Ministerial Order (which expires at 11.59 on Monday 30th August) requires all indoor or outdoor events and social gatherings, whether in a private or public setting to be restricted to a maximum of 100 people. For larger events (over 100 people) an exemption must be obtained from the Secretary of Health. All events at which **25-100** people will be in attendance must be registered with Te Marae Ora.

Two testing locations were operating in Rarotonga today with over 350 people swabbed.

Tomorrow, drive-through testing locations at Te Marae Ora in Tupapa and at Constitution Park will be operating between 9am and 4pm today.

Please remember, if you get tested, you are required to self-isolate until you get a negative test result.

Over the last seven days, 2287 swabs have taken, 2020 have been processed as at 4.30pm this afternoon, all returning negative results.

A reminder, that, in line with New Zealand extending the dates around Locations of Interest ([locations of interest on the Ministry of Health website](#)) and in the interests of taking a precautionary approach, Te Marae Ora would like all passengers who arrived in the Cook Islands between 2-16 August 2021, and have not already done so to get a COVID-19 test. For those who arrived 15-16 August, and have already been tested a second is required.

The Te Marae Ora the numbers are: 57481, 57482, 57486, 56199 – and 29 664 and 29 110 extn 717.

We do want to hear from you and appreciate your patience if your call doesn't get answered straight away.

ENDS: For more information, please visit www.health.gov.ck or contact Jaewynn McKay;
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