

Update as at 7pm 18 August 2021

Kia Orana

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

The two Air New Zealand flights that arrived this afternoon were not carrying passengers.

The flights departed with a combined number of 375 passengers.

A Ministerial order is in place that requires flights to the Pa Enea to be cargo only flights, with returning flights able to transport passengers and cargo to Rarotonga.

This Ministerial Order is in place until 11.59pm on Thursday 19th August 2021.

Four testing locations were again operating on Rarotonga and one on Aitutaki today, between 7am and 4pm today.

As at 5pm this evening, a total of 1411 people had been swabbed over the last two days, included in this number is 140 swabs from Aitutaki. The results from the first 633 swabs have all been negative and TMO is in the process of advising these people.

In line with New Zealand extending the dates around Locations of Interest (2-16 August CKT), any passengers who arrived in the Cook Islands between 2-16 August 2021 and who are symptomatic or have visited a Location of Interest before travelling to the Cook Islands are asked to self-isolate and to contact the Te Marae Ora Contact Tracing Lines if they have not already done so. These numbers are: 57481, 57482, 57486, 56199 – and 29 664 and 29 110 extn 717.

Te Marae Ora is conscious that calls may not get answered on the first attempt people call, but please do not give up. We do want to hear from you and appreciate your patience.

Once people have been tested they are required to self-isolate whilst they await their test result.

Te Marae Ora is encouraging all New Zealand visitors currently in the Cook Islands to register on www.safetravel.govt.nz or to contact the New Zealand High Commission on 22201 or by emailing nzhcraro@gmail.com

CookSafe and its partner CookSafe+ (an app you can download at no cost) when used together proved a complete contact tracing system.

Make sure you're registered for the QR Code Cook Safe card and downloaded the CookSafe+ app. Note, Bluetooth on your phone needs to be activated for the app to work.

ENDS: For more information, please visit www.health.gov.ck or contact Jaewynn McKay; jaewynn,mckay@cookislands.gov.ck +682 55486