

## **Update re Social Gatherings 19 August 2021**

Kia Orana

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

Under Section 8 of the COVID-19 Act 2020 a Ministerial Order affecting indoor and outdoor events and social gatherings is in place, whether they be organised or spontaneous.

The organiser or host of **ANY** indoor or outdoor events or social gatherings, which will have 10 or more people in attendance, **must** notify Te Marae Ora of their event prior to the event taking place.

The host will be required to have contact tracing facilities such as a CookSafe tag-in station or a manual register of attendees, which shows names and contact details.

“We are social people. We value family and enjoy nothing more than getting together for a good laugh, fellowship and some kai, but, for now we need to play it safe and re-think the way we interact and host social gatherings” says Secretary of Health Bob Williams.

The organiser or host of **ANY** indoor or outdoor event or social gathering, which will have over 100 people in attendance, **must** receive an exemption from the Secretary of Health prior to the event taking place.

All bars, nightclubs, restaurants, and cafes (including those within resorts) must have CookSafe tag-in station or a manual register of attendees, which shows names, contact details and the time patrons arrived).

Bars, nightclubs, cafes, and restaurants are restricted to 100 patrons at any one time.

The above requirements are in place as from today and under this Ministerial Order will remain in place until 11.59pm on Monday 23 August, 2021.

Some examples of organised or spontaneous indoor and outdoor events and social gatherings are parties, markets, fundraiser, church, team sports training and games, other sporting events, funerals, wedding, live shows, the cinema, family land meetings.

“We recognise that taking the recommended and necessary precautions to halt the spread of COVID-19 has invaded many aspects of our lives, but this is the cost of keeping our communities, our people, our families, safe. Best prepared is best protected” Mr Williams concluded.

To that end, everyone should be practicing public health measures – hand hygiene, cough and sneeze into your elbow, physical distance – keep 2m apart or wear masks where that is not practical.

Anyone wanting to host an event which involves 10 or more guests, should in the first instance contact: Maryann Pirake on email [maryann.pirake@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:maryann.pirake@cookislands.gov.ck) or Howard Tangimetua on email [howard.tangimetua@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:howard.tangimetua@cookislands.gov.ck) or contact telephone number 29664 and speak to either Maryann or Howard. Or you can call Howard on 74 323.

ENDS: For more information, please visit [www.health.gov.ck](http://www.health.gov.ck) or contact Jaewynn McKay; [jaewynn.mckay@cookislands.gov.ck](mailto:jaewynn.mckay@cookislands.gov.ck) +682 55486