

**Update as at 6.00pm
30 August 2021**

Kia Orana

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

The Cook Islands remains COVID-19 free.

Cabinet today agreed to extend Alert Level 2 to 11.59pm Monday 13 September 2021.

A new Ministerial Order that takes effect from 11.59pm tonight allows for gatherings of over 100 people, with no exemption required from TMO. These gatherings must be registered with TMO, and it is now compulsory for everyone attending these gatherings to tag-in or manually register their attendance. The onus for ensuring attendees register is on the event / gathering organiser.

The same Ministerial Order allows for sea and air travel between the Pa Enua and Rarotonga to resume tomorrow and health screening is being reintroduced on departure in Rarotonga.

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

Meanwhile over 3060 passengers have left since 16 August.

Testing locations were operating in Rarotonga and Aitutaki today. These testing locations were also administering influenza vaccinations.

Over 1200 people on Rarotonga have had the government funded flu shot since the announcement last Thursday. The flu vaccine will be available, at no cost, to everyone from age 6-months, up until and including this Friday – 3 September, 2021

Tomorrow, drive-through testing and flu vaccination locations will be operating at Constitution Park and at Tupapa Public Health from 9am and 3pm.

Over the last 2 weeks, 2901 swabs from Rarotonga, Aitutaki and Mauke were processed at Rarotonga Hospital and returned negative results.

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