

# COVID-19

## COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Act (No 2) 2021

November 2021

### Fact Sheet 7: Managed Isolation and Quarantine – charging liability and information collection for invoicing

Previously, for managed isolation charges to be payable, a person had to fall into one of the categories set in the Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) Charges Regulations. If they were not a person described in the Regulations, then they were not liable for fees.

People undertaking managed isolation are asked for information during their stay, including onwards contact information to support invoicing. However, MIQ has not had any ability to compel people staying in MIQ to provide accurate information, and in many cases the information provided is inaccurate or insufficient to support invoicing. This contributes to a backlog of people that have not been issued an invoice, which has the potential to result in a significant cost of those people's MIQ stay being borne by the Government.

#### What has changed?

The Amendment Act reverses the starting point for MIQ charges, meaning everyone who enters MIQ is liable to pay fees by default, unless they are exempt in the Regulations. This will reduce the need to update the Regulations each time the settings of our border change and allow new groups into the country. It better reflects the position that most people are liable to pay. We are also shifting the exemptions for diplomats and their families from the Act into Regulations so all exemptions can be found in one place. These new provisions will not come into effect until we are ready to introduce new Regulations that align with this new starting point.

The Amendment Act also introduces a requirement that people who enter an MIQF must provide the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) with contact information for invoicing purposes. Failing to provide information and keep it up to date is an infringement offence, the penalty for which is set out in the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Infringement Offences) Regulations 2021.

## How will this impact you?

Neither of these changes are likely to impact you. The changes to default liability for charges will not alter who is required to pay. However, MBIE officials are simultaneously undertaking a review of the Charges Regulations. This review may result in further changes to who is exempt from fees under the regulations.

The information collection proposal will only impact you if you refuse to provide information at MIQ or provide false information. It may also mean that you receive your invoice sooner after leaving an MIQ facility.

## Want to know more?

For further information about the **COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Act** visit the Ministry of Health website.

Read the [Regulatory Impact Statement](#).

To get a copy of the Act please visit the [Legislation website](#).