

COVID-19 Border Advisory (14) – 16 March 2020

Dear Colleagues

This Border Advisory includes a series of frequently asked questions and answers arising from the border measures implemented over the weekends. We will continue to provide FAQs. Please send us any questions not answered in these Border Advisories and we will endeavour to answer them as quickly as possible and provide further Border Advisories so everyone has the same information.

[Air crew \(including grooms travelling with horses\)](#)

Are positioning crew and passenging crew exempt, same as other crew? Yes, the same exceptions and conditions apply to these crew.

Are grooms travelling with horses on cargo-only planes treated as crew? The purpose of the grooms is to take care of the horses in flight, they then put them on trucks on arrival and then travel back on the outbound cargo flight (often looking after outbound horses on that flight). If the grooms do not spend any time in the country and do not leave the airport environment, they would not need to self-isolate on return to New Zealand. If they need to interact with grooms, border or other people in the overseas country, they should follow the same advice as provided for air crew.

[Close contacts on aircraft](#)

Who is a close contact of a COVID-19 case on an aircraft? In economy seats, this is being interpreted in economy class as anyone sitting within two seats in any direction from the case including beside the case, across the aisle, in front and behind (other classes would require further assessment). (Note, this used to be anyone on the same row, and two rows in front and behind the case). For air crew who may have been exposed to a case, a risk assessment is conducted to identify which crew should be managed as close contacts.

[Personal Protective Equipment](#)

What is the new advice for PPE for border staff? The distance for close contact has been increased from 1 metre to 2 metres as a precautionary approach in line with other comparable countries. The risk remains greatest within 1 metre, with the risk decreasing the further away you are, However the time criterion for close contact is still 15 minutes or longer. The new advice is that border staff who are working in situations that meet all three of the below requirements should wear a mask and gloves. A surgical/medical mask is acceptable:

- any passengers/crew who are coughing, sneezing, or visibly sweating **and**
- you are going to be with the passenger/crew longer than 15 minutes **and**
- you are within 2 metres of the passenger/crew.

In addition, border staff should wear a mask and gloves for all personal searches.

Will the PPE advice for aircrew be updated? Yes, this is being updated and will then be placed on the Ministry's website. The previous outdated advice has been removed in the meantime.

[Maritime Border](#)

Do crew on vessels (other than cruise vessels) need to self-isolate? Can they take shore leave? The PM's announcement applied to cruise vessels and was that cruise ships have been directed not to come to New Zealand as of 23:59 on 14 March 2020 until 23:59 on 30 June 2020. For commercial vessels, the general requirements for all travellers arriving in NZ will apply. If the vessel has come from an overseas port within 14 days (eg Australia) the crew will need to self-isolate on board until the 14 days has expired. If the vessel has been at sea for longer than 14 days or travelled between New Zealand ports, the crew don't need to self-isolate and can come ashore.

If crew need to disembark (for example if the vessel is being fumigated) do they need to remain in isolation? If the crew are required to disembark for the fumigation, they should self-isolate. If they cannot find accommodation to enable them to do this, the vessel may need to delay the

fumigation until it reaches its next off-shore port, if this is possible.

Are ships crew who are arriving in New Zealand for crew changes on board foreign vessels exempt and can crew changes can still take place without any need to self-isolate? If the crew is moving directly from the aircraft to the vessel, then they can self-isolate on the vessel while in port (this would be the same as someone moving to self-isolate within the community after arriving in NZ).

Should shore leave for ships crews be cancelled? The general requirements for all travellers arriving in NZ will apply. If the vessel has come from an overseas port within 14 days (eg Australia) the crew will need to self-isolate on board until the 14 days has expired.

If border staff (MPI, Customs, Health, port staff) need to go onto a vessel when crew are self-isolating, what do they do? For border officials and port staff going on to vessels where the crew need to self-isolate, the officers and staff should practice the usual respiratory (precautionary) measures. If they need to have close contact with a crew member (ie within two metres and more than 15 minutes), they should use the same PPE as other border staff (as in the ill traveller framework or border advisories) ie a surgical mask and gloves. The crew should do the same.

Are cargo ship crew able to take shore leave? Crew on the vessel, if it was in NZ waters prior to 23.59 Sunday 15 March are not included in the new measures (but must meet the old measures). If they arrive after the new measures take effect, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days so will not be able to take shore leave during that period. When they have been within New Zealand waters for 14 days or longer they may travel freely within New Zealand. Crew may also leave the vessel to travel directly to an airport to depart, even if this is within the 14 day self-isolation period.

Is there a restriction on cruise crew being given shore leave or being able to leave the ship to depart NZ? Crew on the vessel, if it was in NZ waters prior to 23.59 Sunday 15 March are not included in the new measures (but must meet the old measures). If they arrive after the new measures take effect, they will need to self-isolate for 14 days so will not be able to take shore leave during that period. When they have been within New Zealand waters for 14 days or longer they may travel freely within New Zealand. Crew may also leave the vessel to travel directly to an airport to depart, even if this is within the 14 day self-isolation period.

Are cruise crew coming to NZ by air from overseas to join a ship as working crew in NZ exempt from self isolation? Crew arriving from overseas can travel to the vessel and self-isolate on the vessel.

Transit Passengers

What do the new border measures mean for transit passengers? Transit passengers are not included in the border measures as they do not arrive in New Zealand. Transit passengers who change airlines so need to go landside but do not leave the airport are not included. This also includes people departing a Category 2 country, who transit within the airport only of a category 1B country eg a non NZ citizen travelling Fiji- Brisbane-Auckland (staying within the terminal in Brisbane) is not required to isolate on arrival in NZ. Passengers who transit or travel through the Pacific (eg USA to Fiji to Auckland) will be required to self-isolate for 14 days from the day they departed the country prior to entering the Pacific.

Travellers in New Zealand for fewer than 14 days

What do the new border measures mean for travellers who were coming to NZ for a period of less than 14 days (say, an Australian citizen coming to NZ for a 5 day holiday)? These travellers are expected to self-isolate while in New Zealand but may leave New Zealand within the fourteen day period (if the airline will permit them to board and the country they are travelling to will accept them).

Self-isolation

Are the requirements retrospective? In other words if a traveller arrived in New Zealand from Australia (or anywhere other than the Pacific, mainland China, Iran Italy or the Republic of Korea) before midnight Sunday, do they need to self-isolate? No. The new measures applied

from 23:59 Sunday 15 March 2020. People who arrive after that time are requested to isolate themselves. People that have been in a Pacific Island country or territory should monitor their health and isolate if they are feeling symptomatic or concerned (except for French Polynesia which is a category 1B country so people should self-isolate). If someone has travelled and is symptomatic they should seek assistance. If anyone else is concerned they can self isolate but there is no direction to do so.

Is the health form that arriving passengers fill out in respect of self isolation a statutory declaration? No. The form is completed voluntarily. However, if a person is liable to quarantine under the Health Act 1956 (for example if a suspected or confirmed case of COVID-19 is on an aircraft or vessel), then the medical officer of health or a person authorised by the medical officer of health, may require the passenger to give any information necessary to enable the management of risks to public health including (but is not restricted to): name, recent travel history, recent activities, previous and present addresses, proposed routes, destinations, and symptoms of concern.

Do people have to self-isolate at the point they arrive in New Zealand? No, people may return home to self-isolate. These travellers may have been exposed to COVID-19 while overseas but are not close contacts of confirmed cases so are lower risk. They may travel home but once they reach home they should remain in self-isolation. If people are arriving international passengers who haven't been in close contact with a person who has a confirmed case of COVID-19, they can continue their journey home on a domestic flight. Once home they are required to self-isolate for 14 days. Self-isolation means they should avoid situations that could facilitate the transmission of the virus such as social gatherings and events where they come into contact with others; in particular child care/pre-school centres, primary and secondary schools (including staff and students), aged care, health care facilities, prisons, public gatherings.

If commercial accommodation is being used for self-isolation – who bears the cost of the accommodation cost, food cost etc and the additional costs imposed on the operator in terms of additional cleaning after room has been vacated and of course the additional costs of service delivery? If local health or other agencies request accommodation facilities be made available for people to self-isolate, arrangements for payment and any additional cleaning will be made with the accommodation provider. If necessary, this may include briefings for staff to help them understand COVID-19 and what they need to do to keep themselves safe.

Is there a definition of where someone can self-isolate? Can a visitor self-isolate in a camper van? Yes, people may self-isolate in a fully self-contained camper van but they cannot interact with other campers, for example using shared kitchens or ablution facilities.

Do visitors have to stay in one place to self-isolate? Once the person reaches their accommodation, they should remain in self-isolation and avoid any public transport including buses, trains, ferries, domestic flights.

We encourage you to keep checking the Ministry's website for updated information at:
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>