

MEDIA RELEASE

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NIUE IS EASING MIQ PROTOCOLS AFTER TWO YEARS OF DEALING WITH THE COVID-19 GLOBAL PANDEMIC

From 3 May (NZT), Limited Travellers & Essential Workers To Niue Will Now Complete Mandatory 7 Days Home Self-Isolation

Alofi, Niue – 8 April 2022 – The Government of Niue (GON) today announced that as of Monday 2 May Niue time (Tuesday 3 May New Zealand time), travellers to Niue will be required to self-isolate for seven days immediately on arrival, and complete testing protocols, before being allowed into the Community.

Premier of Niue Dalton Tagelagi says Niue is unique as one of the few countries globally that have managed to keep COVID-19 at the border since its first case in March 2022.

These changes will see passengers arrive at the Niue International Airport and go to their place of residence (or other accommodation). They must remain in self-isolation for seven days, complete testing as per protocols, and be released once cleared by the Niue Health Officials.

"Despite the rapid evolution of COVID-19 variants, and following response protocols and advice from health officials, we are now able to begin to safely open up Niue again with a staggered approach to allow us time to responsibly manage these changes that are inevitable and which are also integral for Niue's economic recovery," says Premier Tagelagi.

"Niue has always had rigorous border controls since the beginning of this global pandemic. We are now confident enough to ease our managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) as 99.4% of our over 12-year old population are vaccinated. Our paediatrics COVID-19 vaccination programme (5-year-old to 11-year-olds) will also be completed before we commence this new 7 Days Self-Isolation for all arrivals into Niue," Premier Tagelagi said.

"Niue's highly successful vaccination coverage is a huge accomplishment that we should be very proud of, and this protection is the best line of defence we have against COVID-19. Our Niue Foou Hospital will also be further resourced with the completion of a new Isolation wing, so if we have a positive case that requires hospitalisation, we will be well prepared before these new protocols begin."

Premier Dalton Tagelagi said, "Travellers from Niue to New Zealand have been able to travel to New Zealand without the need to quarantine in MIQ, and Niue is continuing its phased approach towards quarantine free travel. This current phase is sending arrivals home to isolate and no longer to MIQ as we know it here in Niue for the past two years." Premier Tagelagi adds that Niue will maintain its current border settings meaning that anyone who applies to travel to Niue will still need Government approval to enter Niue.

GON officials are working towards ensuring all safety protocols and response capabilities are in place as part of its phased approach toward two-way quarantine free travel between Niue and New Zealand.

ENDS

For more information, please contact:

For further information or any questions, please get in touch with the Secretary of Government at +683 4308 or email <u>Niue.secgov@mail.gov.nu</u>

For all the latest updates on COVID-19 Niue, visit our GON website: www.covid19.nu

ABOUT

Proposed timeline for Niue to Quarantine Free Travel

PROPOSED TIMELINE	
Dates	Details
18 April 2022	7 days MIQ + 3 days Home Self Isolation (HSI)
2 May 2022 – 27 June 2022	7 days HSI + 3 Days Restrictive Public Movement; Mandatory Mask Wearing in Public
11 July 2022	QFT – with Restricted Passenger Numbers, i.e. 50 pax
8 August 2022	Commencement of Weekly Passenger Flights - Restricted Passenger Numbers, i.e. 50 pax
10 October 2022	No Passenger flight restrictions