

**Only food, fruit and vege stalls to be open at
Punanganui Market from this Saturday**

25 March 2020

The threat of COVID-19 is causing partial closure of the Rarotonga's iconic Punanganui market from this Saturday.

There will still be a market on Saturday, but only food and fresh produce vendors will be allowed to take part and strict conditions will apply to them; for example they will need to maintain separation of at least two metres between stalls.

Secretary of Health Dr Aumea Herman says. "we recognise that providing fresh foods are an essential service at the market."

Although there are not yet any confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Rarotonga, more than 80 people have been tested; and while 11 test results were negative, health authorities believe we should be behaving as if the virus is here and take all the precautions outlined by Te Marae Ora. That includes regular hand washing, maintaining physical distances of two metres from each other, no kissing, hand shakes, and most of all stay home unless it is absolutely essential to go out.

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