

Policy Statement

This Policy reflects the Cook Islands national response to COVID-19 and is a critical strategy to protect and prevent the seeding of COVID-19 in the Cook Islands.

This Policy clarifies the process for supervised quarantine and medical clearance in New Zealand and outlines eligibility criteria for those requiring financial assistance from the Government of the Cook Islands.

Cook Islanders and persons in New Zealand intending to travel to the Cook Islands must undergo 14 days supervised quarantine in New Zealand. This includes being tested for Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) in order to receive a medical clearance to travel and enter the Cook Islands.

All intending travellers must register with Te Marae Ora Cook Islands Ministry of Health (TMO). TMO will arrange contact with the New Zealand Health Quarantine Manager.

The Health Quarantine Manager will organise accommodation for supervised quarantine with meals and services, as well as access to health providers.

Prior to travel to the Cook Islands, all persons must be tested for COVID-19 and only those with negative results will receive medical clearance to travel to the Cook Islands.

Persons with existing chronic medical conditions will require medical assessment by a health provider to determine the level of health care required in the Cook Islands.

Travel within Auckland to and from the accommodation will be the individual's responsibility. Travel to the airport will be organised by the Health Quarantine Manager.

Scope

This policy applies to all persons intending to travel to the Cook Islands.

Exclusions:

- Any person who does not abide by this policy will be refused entry in the Cook Islands
- It is strongly recommended that any person with a chronic medical condition NOT TRAVEL as health services in the Cook Islands cannot be guaranteed

Legislation and Regulations

Ministry of Health Act 2013, COVID19 Act 2020, Supervised Quarantine on Arrival in Rarotonga Regulations 2020, Domestic Travel Restrictions Regulations 2020.

Definitions

- **Cook Islander** means a person belonging to the part of the Polynesian race indigenous to the Cook Islands; and includes any person descended from a Cook Islander or person with Cook Islands permanent residence status, or their immediate family. Immediate family includes a spouse, parent, child, grandchild, niece, nephew, dependent parents of a spouse, as recognised under customary law
- **Child** means a person aged under 18 years
- **Cleaning** removes germs, dirt and impurities from surfaces or objects
- **COVID-19** means Coronavirus Disease 2019
- **Health provider** is a New Zealand registered health care provider approved by TMO

- **Health Quarantine Manager** is a contractor engaged by TMO to manage this process in New Zealand
- **Physical distancing** maintaining physical distance (minimum two metres) between oneself and others to avoid the spread of infection
- **Supervised quarantine** means the quarantine of persons or classes of persons in respect of COVID-19 according to rules or directions made by the Te Marae Ora Ministry of Health

Supervised quarantine rules

General protocols

- The place of supervised quarantine will be determined by TMO
- The duration of the supervised quarantine will be 14 days (and may be extended by TMO)
- All persons must adhere to specific requirements during the supervised quarantine period

Registration

All intending travellers must register with TMO. Registration information required:

- Full passport name
- Passport details (with any applicable permit details)
- Address and contact details (including phone, email)
- Cook Islands residency status
- Health status (including existing chronic medical conditions)

All persons must be in a position to travel with minimal assistance.

Accommodation, meals and airport transfers

All eligible persons must enter 14 days supervised quarantine at an assigned facility approved by TMO. Persons in supervised quarantine must:

- Comply with strict quarantine rules

All meals, land transportation to Auckland International Airport prior to departure to Rarotonga, will be organised by the Health Quarantine Manager.

Specific protocols

Room assignments

- Single persons will be assigned a single room
- Couples will be assigned a double-room
- Families will be assigned appropriate rooms to ensure physical distancing

All persons in supervised quarantine must

- Stay in their assigned room and keep the door closed
- Eat meals by themselves in their assigned room. Meals will be delivered to the room.
- Use the bathroom and toilet facilities assigned to their room and keep these clean
- Air or ventilate the room regularly by opening windows
- Not share clothes, towels or bed linen with others
- Not make physical contact with any other guests at the assigned premises
- Stay well and adhere to medical advice provided to maintain health and wellbeing
- Keep a distance of at least two meters from other persons they come into contact with
- Consent to COVID-19 test

All persons in supervised quarantine

- Exercise in their room pr

All persons must practise personal hygiene

- Wash their hands regularly, for at least 20 seconds with soap and water rubbing the liquid thoroughly into hands until they are dry
- Always wash their hands before and after eating, and after using to the toilet/bathroom
- Cover their mouth and nose with a paper tissue when coughing or sneezing
- Throw used paper tissues into a separate bin in their assigned room
- Ensure any waste soiled with bodily fluids (faeces, blood, discharge) be disposed of in a separate bin in their room before being disposed of with other waste
- Clean and disinfect any surfaces (using disinfectants supplied) touched such as bedside tables, bedframes and other bedroom furniture, including the bath, basin and toilet after use

Children

- If a child is in supervised quarantine, a person must be appointed to look after the child.

Funding assistance

Cook Islands Government financial assistance is available to the following persons:

- Cook Islanders over 60 years of age collecting a pension from an approved fund
- Cook Islands scholarship students
- Cook Islands children who are attending school and have parents residing in the Cook Islands
- Cook Islanders who have resided in the Cook Islands over the past two years*
- Cook Islands Permanent Residents who have resided in the Cook Islands over the past two years*
- Cook Islands Work Permit holders who have resided in the Cook Islands over the past two years*
- Cook Islands Resident Permit holders who have resided in the Cook Islands over the past two years*
- TMO patient referrals to New Zealand

*Must have resided in the Cook Islands continuously in the six months prior.

Other provisions

All records relating to the administration of this Policy must be kept for at least seven years and are only accessible by the authorised staff. After the required seven year period, the Ministry will destroy the documentation in adherence with government official information management policies.

Associated Documents

Ministry of Health Patient Referral Policy

Other information

For queries contact the Planning and Funding Directorate in Tupapa on 29664 or visit www.health.gov.ck