



**DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

## Proactive Release

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**Noting Paper: COVID-19: Border Measures Update**

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# Noting Paper: COVID-19

## Border Measures Update

**To:** Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response

**From:** National Crisis Management Centre

**Date:** 25 March 2020

**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE

### Purpose

1. This paper provides an update on the operational implementation and compliance approach to isolation measures for international arrivals into New Zealand.

### Comment

2. On 25 March 2020 the CVD Committee considered advice on additional border control measures for self-isolation of international arrivals. In addition to ceasing the ability to transit through New Zealand, it agreed to implement a highly managed process where arriving passengers are all screened on arrival from 0200 Thursday 26 March 2020. Those passengers:
  - a. with an adequate self-isolation and travel arrangements are able to self-isolate at that location, but with Police compliance checks within 72 hours, and quarantine if they have not complied
  - b. who are unwell on arrival with a suspected case of COVID are quarantined in a hospital or managed isolation facility under s70 of the Health Act
  - c. with inadequate self-isolation plans are placed in an approved isolation facility for 14 days, or
  - d. with adequate self-isolation arrangements but inadequate travel will be securely transported to their place of isolation, or placed in an approved isolation facility for 14 days.
3. The Committee sought an update on the implementation of these controls.

#### *Implementation*

4. An overview of the proposed approach to this enhanced approach is set out in Appendix 1. Key points of implementation and risks are discussed below.

#### *Approach for key scenarios*

5. Based on the overview at Appendix 1, the table below sets out the high-level approach to each of the arrival scenarios in paragraph 2 above:

Arrival	Approach to the arrival
2.a	a symptomatic passenger will be removed from the airport with secure transport, and placed into quarantine in hospital or a managed facility under s70 of the Health Act

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2.b	a passenger assessed to have an inadequate self-isolation plans would be removed on provided transport and taken to a managed facility (e.g hotel) for 14 days self-isolation.
2.c	a passenger assessed to have with adequate self-isolation arrangements and adequate travel (i.e a private car at the airport) would be escorted to the vehicle and able to depart. Police would undertake an self-isolation arrangements assessment within 72hours, and if found to be insufficient this person would be removed to managed self- isolation.
2.d	a passenger with adequate self-isolation arrangements but inadequate travel will be securely transported to their required location, if within a reasonable distance of their port of entry. If significant travel is required (for example to another region), this arrival would be required to go into a managed self-isolation facility. After 14 days they would be able to return home using any available public or private transport (including domestic air travel).

*Overview of arrival numbers*

6. Airlines have indicated a maximum of 2,900 people are expected to arrive in New Zealand on Thursday 26 March. This number is expected to drop due to no-shows, people unable to reach their departure airport, and people who would transit through New Zealand no longer traveling (as transit has been revoked).
7. The first flight is expected to arrive a 0245hrs, with flights staggered throughout the day. Most flights are into Auckland, with the exception of a small handful of flights into Wellington and Queenstown.
8. Agencies are working with airlines in a rapidly changing international environment to obtain an up to date picture of arrivals expected over the next week, and will adapt planning as these figures become available.
9. The following flights are arriving in New Zealand on Thursday 26 March:

Date	Day	Time	Flight	Departure Port	Departure region
26/03/2020	Thu	2:45	NZ959	APW	Pacific
26/03/2020	Thu	3:10	QF7523	SYD	Non Commercial
26/03/2020	Thu	3:40	HJ2	SYD	Non Commercial
26/03/2020	Thu	4:00	AWK2	SYD	Non Commercial
26/03/2020	Thu	4:45	NZ78	TPE	Asia
26/03/2020	Thu	4:50	QR920	DOH	Middle East
26/03/2020	Thu	5:45	NZ7	SFO	North America
26/03/2020	Thu	7:20	SQ7290	MEL	Non Commercial
26/03/2020	Thu	9:05	NZ90	NRT	Asia
26/03/2020	Thu	10:05	AC51	YVR	North America
26/03/2020	Thu	11:05	EK448	DXB	Middle East
26/03/2020	Thu	11:40	OL731	APW	Pacific
26/03/2020	Thu	13:20	SQ285	SIN	Asia
26/03/2020	Thu	13:30	CX113	HKG	Asia
26/03/2020	Thu	14:25	TN101	PPT	Pacific

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26/03/2020	Thu	15:05	NZ102	SYD	Tasman
26/03/2020	Thu	15:45	VA153	BNE	Tasman
26/03/2020	Thu	16:55	NZ104	SYD	Tasman
26/03/2020	Thu	17:25	NZ136	BNE	Tasman
26/03/2020	Thu	17:45	NZ124	MEL	Tasman
26/03/2020	Thu	18:10	VA145	SYD	Tasman
26/03/2020	Thu	18:20	NZ45	RAR	Pacific
26/03/2020	Thu	20:55	NZ112	SYD	Tasman
26/03/2020	Thu	21:50	PR218	MNL	Asia

*Communications to passengers and airlines*

10. AirNZ and BARNZ have communicated out key information to all airlines with arrivals scheduled into New Zealand. Communications have been provided to airlines for their crew to read out to any flights currently in the air, as passengers will be unaware of the changes to their arrival process. Similar messages will be pushed out through border alerts and Safe Travel.
11. We are working with airlines for air crew to notify ground staff of any passengers who already know they have no plans in place, so arrangements can be made to minimise confusion on arrival.

*Process on arrival*

12. When planes land, they will be met at the arrival gate by a Customs-led team, with Police and Health officials. Small groups will be disembarked (around 10 people each), and their plans for self-isolation assessed.
13. Any symptomatic passengers will be separated from other passengers, assessed, and as appropriate quarantined and tested. They will be sent to a separate quarantine facility. At all times they will be escorted through to quarantine facility.
14. Passengers who are asymptomatic will have their plans for self-isolation and transport assessed. They will be triaged and escorted through to transport, either to home self-isolation and private transport, to secure transport if they have none, or transported to a managed isolation facility.

*Accommodation, food and welfare*

15. Officials have to date secured over 3,300 rooms at a range of self-contained hotels as quarantine and self-isolation across the key main centres (and a further 1,400 campervans for use if required). 1,991 of these rooms across 19 facilities have been secured in Auckland (and 1,000). This is expected to be able to accommodate the arrivals into Auckland for Thursday and Friday, on the basis not all travellers will be single individuals and many are likely to have adequate self-isolation plans in the Auckland area.
16. Work to arrange food and welfare services for those quarantined and or placed in managed isolation is underway as of 1800 hours 25 March.
17. Passengers who have completed their 14 days in quarantine or isolation, and are well, will be clear of COVID-19. They should then be able to take public transport, including domestic air transit flights, to their final destination in New Zealand to see out the remainder of any lock down.

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18. This is important as many of the remaining flights to New Zealand were to Auckland and there will be a number of people who when finishing 14 days will need to get home including travelling between islands.
19. People who have finished self-isolation or quarantine for 14 days will be given clear identification, which will enable them to use public transport or domestic air travel to return home for the rest of the lock down.

### *Transport and logistics*

20. Transport and logistics for the various arrival scenarios are being arranged by NCMC. For example, those who live in Auckland or who are being taken to hotels, are expected to be transported by buses or available hotel shuttles in small groups.
21. Buses are similar to the aeroplanes that the passengers would have been on, and the risk to the driver may be able to be managed through the existing requirement for the driver to wear PPE and distance from passengers.

### *Key risks*

22. The rapid implementation of the approach will entail some risk given the speed, and key personal and resourcing constraints. The staggered approach of flights throughout the 26 will enable ongoing improvement and refinement of processing of passengers through the day. We do not expect the first few arrivals will be a seamless experience given there is no time for a trial run.

### *Key agency roles*

23. The following agencies/organisations are key to delivery of these improved border controls:
  - a. Ministry of Transport is providing the additional information to airlines;
  - b. BARNZ and airlines are communicating the measures to passengers (in addition to Safe Travel communications from MFAT);
  - c. Immigration NZ and Customs NZ will have oversight of implementation at the airport;
  - d. The Temporary Accommodation Service (TAS) will be involved in providing approved isolation facilities, including eg hotels and other accommodation providers with clear information and guidelines around what their role is;
  - e. Transport is being managed by NCMC
  - f. Food, welfare and wellbeing is being managed by the Ministry of Social Development (this is TBC)
  - g. The Police will deliver self isolation compliance checks within 72 hours, undertake enforcement as appropriate relating to any non-compliance identified, and will also be stationed at all managed isolation facilities on a 24/7 basis. Police will also be present at key points from arrivals gate through to transport.

## Recommendations

It is recommended that the CVD committee:

24. **Note** that on 25 March 2020 the CVD Committee agreed to additional border control measures for self-isolation of international arrivals, where passengers
  - a. who are unwell with suspected case of COVID are quarantined in a hospital or managed facility under s70 of the Health Act
  - b. with inadequate self-isolation plans are accommodated at a designated facility

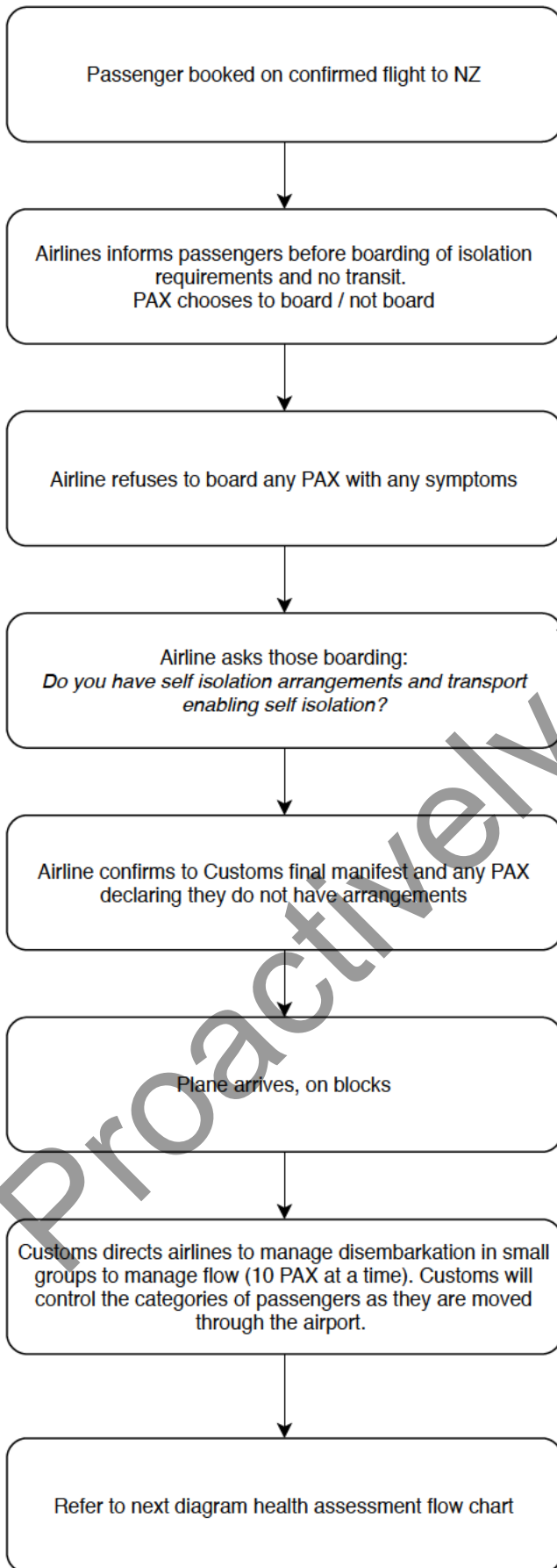
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- c. with adequate self-isolation arrangements (i.e home) and adequate travel are able to self-isolate (with compliance checks in 72 hours), and
  - d. Passengers with adequate self-isolation arrangements but inadequate travel will be securely transported to their required location.
25. **Note** that these additional controls were effective from 0200 hours Thursday 26<sup>h</sup> of March 2020.
26. **Note** that maximum of 2,900 people are expected to arrive in New Zealand on Thursday 26th March, but that this number is expected to decrease
27. **Note** that at this time over 3,300 rooms have been secured for use as quarantine and self-isolation across the key main centres, with 1,991 of these have been secured in Auckland, and this is considered sufficient at this time
28. **Note** that after 14 days these people will require to get back to their own homes
29. **Note** that the few remaining flights available were to Auckland, which means many people arriving will be far from their final destination, including some in the South Island, who are unlikely to have accommodation near Auckland for the remainder of the lockdown period
30. **Agree** that people ending mandatory quarantine or self-isolation in a managed facility are able to take available public and private transport, including domestic air travel to go to their final destination for the duration of the Level 4 Alert
31. **Agree** they will be issued with a form of identification confirming they have completed the 14 day isolation period and are allowed to transfer to their final destination for the lock down.
32. **Note** the rapid implementation of the approach will entail some risk given the speed, and key personal and resourcing constraints, but that arrivals processes will continue to be refined and improved

**ENDS**

**Mike Bush**  
**POLICE COMMISSIONER**

# Process for arrivals at NZ airports



Outside of airport

In airport  
(outside of NZ)

In NZ, plane on  
blocks,  
PAX still onboard

In NZ, after PAX  
have  
disembarked

Proactively Released

# In NZ airports, after PAX have disembarked

Customs to manage PAX flow as they move through airport.

