



## GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **GON ADVISES THAT 51 EXPIRED PFIZER DOSES WERE ADMINISTERED IN MAY**

*Niue is Working Closely With NZ's Ministry of Health and Immunisation Advisory Centre*

**Alofi, Niue, 30 May 2022** – The Government of Niue's Health Officials today announced that 51 people received Pfizer vaccine doses in May, which had passed their expiry date.

Gaylene Tasmania, Niue's Director-General, Ministry of Social Services, says that on 24 May, as part of the rollout of COVID-19 booster doses to the population of Niue, 51 people were administered booster doses which had passed their expiry date under refrigerated storage conditions.

"As soon as we became aware of the misinterpretation on expiry dates, we notified the 51 people and their families. Of the 51 people, 48 were 16–17-year-olds, and 3 were adults. We are working closely with New Zealand's Ministry of Health and New Zealand's Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) on incident management and clinical advice," says Gaylene Tasmania.

The advice from IMAC Medical Advisors is that it is not generally recommended to revaccinate the healthy 16–17-year-old recipients because the vaccine is very likely to be still viable, and research has shown that protection is still provided as a booster. However, the three adults are likely to be revaccinated.

Niue's Health officials regularly communicate with the people who received the expired doses and also confirm that this isolated incident only affects this vaccine campaign.

GON also confirms that all passengers who arrived on Monday 30 May have all returned negative day one tests.

Niue remains on COVID-19 Alert Level Blue.

**ENDS**

#### **For further information or any questions, please contact:**

For further information or any questions, please contact the DG of the Ministry of Social Services, Gaylene Tasmania, [Gaylene.Tasmania@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Gaylene.Tasmania@mail.gov.nu) or the Secretary of Government at +683 4308 or email on [Niue.secgov@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Niue.secgov@mail.gov.nu).