



## GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

**MEDIA RELEASE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **NIUE MOVES TO COVID ALERT CODE RED WITH NO LOCKDOWN**

**Alofi, Niue – 29 July 2022** – Tonight, the Government of Niue (GON) announced that in the past 24 hours 9 positive cases of COVID-19 has been detected. This bring the total active case numbers to 14.

The Minister of Health and Acting Premier Hon. Sauni Tongatule stated, “These cases are from different households and four of the cases are not linked to the border. This indicates the possibility of community transmission of COVID-19.”

“Following the Niue National COVID Emergency Response Plan, where there are local cases that exist in the community, and with the high possibility of community transmission, we will move to Covid Alert Code RED. This will take effect immediately. However, there will be no lockdown in place as we take action to mitigate or minimise the impact of the disease in our communities as much as possible.”

Tongatule says that as each new piece of information is gathered and confirmed, our priority is to keep our people informed.

“This weekend, we strongly advise the public to limit interactions and movements outside their households. This also means that for this weekend, indoor dances or similar social gatherings are on hold.”

For other gatherings, additional safety measures are encouraged.

Tongatule said, “We encourage people to host these outside, as much as possible. People attending gatherings are recommended to continue wearing masks, practice social distancing and hand hygiene. In addition, we are advising that you limit your duration at these gatherings, limit the number of people in your household attending these gatherings or don’t attend if you don’t need to.”

“For gatherings that can only be held indoors, those attending should also follow the same guidelines, and the host must limit the number of people based on the ability to social distance.”

Close contacts and persons of interest (POI) associated with positive cases have been informed to get tested.

Director-General for Social Services Gaylene Tasmania said, “Anyone who has symptoms, should come to the Drive-Thru testing service at the Niue Fook Hospital. The testing service will be open 9 am - 6 pm tomorrow (Saturday).”

The Niue Public Service including all essential government services, will continue and all staff are expected to follow their respective Covid response plans.

In closing, Tongatule reminded the public, “As we all know, the best defence against this virus is to work together and use all the health and safety precautions that we know make a real difference in protecting us all from Covid-19. Be Kind. Be Considerate and Stay Safe.”

Niue’s National COVID Response is now on Alert Level Red because local cases exist in Niue, and there is a high possibility of community transmission. There is no lockdown in place. Gatherings can take place with precautionary measures in place.

As always, the public needs to be prepared for rapid changes in alert levels and stay tuned to official government announcements.

GON reminds all residents that we need to work together to protect each other from COVID-19. There are measures we can all take to keep each other safe:

- Practice good hygiene – regularly wash your hands or use hand sanitiser and cough or sneeze into your elbows
- Use RockSafe or some other form of contact tracing
- Wear a mask in indoor public space and maintain physical distancing
- If you start to develop any COVID-19 symptoms, please stay home, and call Niue Fook Hospital on 4100
- Stock up on PPE and other resources in preparation for any alert level change
- Information on how to self-isolate and other useful resources are available on the government’s official website: <https://covid19.gov.nu/index.php/how-to-self-isolate/>.

## **ENDS**

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).

Follow the official GON COVID-19 Website: [www.covid19.gov.nu](http://www.covid19.gov.nu) and the Official GON Facebook for information: <https://www.facebook.com/niue.secgov>

## **COVID-19 SYMPTOMS:**

Common symptoms of COVID-19 are like those found with illnesses such as a cold or influenza. They include:

- new or worsening cough
- sneezing and runny nose
- fever
- temporary loss of smell or altered sense of taste

- sore throat
- shortness of breath
- fatigue/feeling of tiredness.

Less common symptoms of COVID-19 may include diarrhoea, headache, muscle aches, nausea, vomiting, malaise, chest pain, abdominal pain, joint pain or confusion/irritability. These almost always occur with one or more of the common symptoms.