



OFFICE OF THE MINISTER OF SOCIAL SERVICES

STATEMENT TO THE NATION COVID-19 UPDATE: NIUE MOVES TO ALERT LEVEL RED

Alofi, Niue – 29 July 2022 - Yesterday, Niue recorded its first community cases, that were members of the same household. In the past 24 hours, we have recorded a further 9 positive cases of COVID-19. 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 our National Emergency COVID Response Plan; where we have local cases that exist in Niue, with community transmission, we will move to Alert Code RED. This will take effect immediately.

What this means is that we take action to mitigate or minimise the impact of the disease on our society as much as possible, without resorting to a Lockdown. Most activities can continue as planned similar to conditions under Alert Code YELLOW.

However, for this initial period, specifically this weekend, we strongly advise the public to limit your interactions and movements outside your household. This also means that for this weekend, indoor dances or similar social gatherings are on hold.

For other gatherings, 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.

All close contacts and persons-of-interest associated with the new cases, have been informed to get tested. Anyone who has symptoms, should come to the Drive-Thru testing service at the Niue Ffoo Hospital. The testing service will be open 9am -6pm tomorrow (Saturday).

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

In summary, we are now on COVID Alert - Code RED, with no lockdown.

Please go to www.covid19.gov.nu website for more information including COVID-19 symptoms, definitions of close contacts or persons of interest.

Be Kind, Be Considerate and Stay Safe.