



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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NIUE COVID UPDATE – CODE YELLOW REMAINS DESPITE ADDITIONAL POSITIVE HOUSEHOLDS

Ministry of Health Quickly Identifies and Works To Contain Another Outbreak of COVID-19

Alofi, Niue - 31 August 2022 – The Government of Niue (GON) has announced today that it will remain at CODE Yellow having linked the current outbreak to a possible breach of Border requirements to enter Niue.

On Friday 26 August an initial two cases of COVID were detected in the community and following contact tracing a further three cases were detected by 6 pm Friday, 26 August.

The Director General of Social Services (and Health) Gaylene Tasmania says that the five cases were classified as ‘under investigation’ while a health team worked under urgency to link the cases to the Border.

“By the end of Friday night, we had identified three different households where members had tested positive. Two of these households included recent travellers. We have evidence of an exemption granted on the basis of a Fit to Fly certificate which is now in question. This documentation exempted the traveller from a pre-departure test, and this in turn set off a series of events that exempted the traveller from in-country testing under current protocols for historical or previously infected persons,” says Tasmania.

Tasmania adds that a growing number of cases is from within households that are already isolating, and that is to be expected.

Tasmania notes that Niue’s Department of Health will continue to monitor the list of close contacts, continue contact tracing and conduct both PCR and RAT tests for those people currently in isolation.

“We know we can contain further spread of COVID-19 in this current cluster if we continue contact tracing; testing every person and monitoring them in isolation. Niue’s COVID protocols have rigorous target management options for managing situations just like this.”

Tasmania says the current close contacts also include students of Niue’s primary and secondary schools. “Today the primary school students identified as close contacts completed Day 7 PCR testing and all students returned negative results. As such, these students can return to school tomorrow”.

Tasmania says Niue’s Department of Health encourages everyone to get tested as well as continuing to remain vigilant and follow current COVID health and safety protocols to contain any further transmission.

ENDS

For further information please contact:

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