



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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COVID-19 UPDATE: COMMUNITY TRANSMISSION OF COVID-19 IN NIUE

Alofi, Niue – 21 December 2022 - Today the Government of Niue (GON) announced that Niue's COVID Response will take another turn as a result of the current community outbreak.

Effective immediately, the Niue COVID response will focus solely on managing positive cases of COVID-19.

This means that the contact tracing of cases and the required isolation of close contacts will cease.

Health Orders will remain in force for positive cases and they will still be required to isolate for 7 days.

Community transmission was detected in Niue in late November 2022. The initial efforts of the health team were helpful in reducing the number of daily new cases. However, in the last week, there has been an increase in the number of daily new cases. This is being driven by two main factors:

- There are a lot of festive gatherings happening which provides an opportunity for transmission, and
- A lack of compliance with health orders and public health requests.

The current number of active cases in Niue has exceeded 5% of the resident population. In addition to active cases, many healthy close contacts are in isolation. This is impacting the ability of affected families to obtain essential goods to care for themselves and their animals and on the running of essential services and overall business continuity in Niue.

Based on the above situation, it is timely that Niue evolves to the next phase of the COVID-19 response.

This means the focus will be on the identification and isolation of positive cases and the provision of strong communications for families to manage their own risk.

For affected households, only the positive case will be given health orders to isolate for at least seven (7) days.

All other household members will be required to do a daily RATs for five (5) days but will not be required to isolate. Individuals can make their own decisions on how best to protect themselves, their families and the wider community from infection.

The Niue Foou Hospital will continue to provide health services as required. The public is further reminded that the Niue Foou Hospital should be the first point of contact for anyone needing medical assistance, especially with positive cases.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank all of the staff behind Niue's COVID response since 2020. You have continued to play an active role, through following up and providing support to all of our COVID cases and their close contacts. We have come this far because of your dedication and commitment. Oue Tulou kia mutolu oti!

ENDS

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