
To:	General Practices, Pharmacists, After-Hours Centres and Emergency Departments in the greater Wellington and Wairarapa regions
From:	Dr Annette Nesdale, Medical Officer of Health
Date:	04/06/2020
Title:	National Health Advisory: COVID-19 testing and quarantine for Pacific residents prior to travel to the Pacific

Please distribute the following information to relevant staff in your organisation.

All public health alerts are available at www.rph.org.nz/publichealthalerts

COVID-19 testing and quarantine for Pacific residents prior to travel to the Pacific

This advisory provides an update from the Ministry of Health (the Ministry) regarding the travel/repatriation for residents of Pacific countries prior to travel to the Pacific (including on COVID19 testing and quarantine).

Some Pacific countries are considering opening borders for repatriation and commercial flights.

The Ministry is aware that requests for COVID-19 testing and/or quarantine for Pacific residents e.g. Regional Seasonal Employment (RSE) workers are being received by some DHBs and primary care providers.

The Ministry is actively working on this issue with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (for RSE workers) and with respective Pacific governments directly to ensure a consistent approach nationally that considers the risk of COVID-19 and the health and welfare of Pacific peoples looking to return home.

In the meantime, if you receive requests for testing or quarantine support for Pacific residents as part of return travel please do not accept these without prior discussion with the Ministry. Any queries on testing or quarantine in relation to return travel for Pacific peoples can be directed to Megan McCoy (GM Global Health) megan.mccoy@health.govt.nz and Dr Laupepa Va'a (Public Health Medicine Specialist) laupepa.va'a@health.govt.nz

The Ministry is aware that the situation is rapidly evolving, particularly on the issue of testing and will update the sector as appropriate.