



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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COVID-19: Strengthening Border Measures

Portfolios **Health / Immigration**

On 14 March 2020, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** the COVID-19 update from the Prime Minister and Minister of Health;
- 2 **noted** the update from officials on the COVID-19 situation in Australia;
- 3 **agreed** the following package of measures to mitigate the worst impacts and ensure the time is used to best prepare New Zealand for a COVID-19 outbreak, comprising:
 - 3.1 stronger measures at the border:
 - 3.1.1 Category 1A: mainland China and Iran;
 - 3.1.2 Category 1B: designate the rest of the world, except the Pacific¹, and those in Category 1A. This means all travellers (New Zealanders and foreign nationals) will be expected to self-isolate for 14 days on arrival in New Zealand;
 - 3.1.3 Category 2: The Pacific. This means that all travellers (New Zealanders and foreign nationals) will be expected to self-isolate if they show symptoms within 14 days of arrival;
 - 3.1.4 Self-isolation expectations do not apply to air and marine crew who have taken appropriate infection control and PPE measures as required;
 - 3.1.5 The new Category 1B and Category 2 designations should take effect from 23:59 Sunday 15 March 2020, for a duration of 16 days, and will be reviewed by Monday 30 March 2020;
 - 3.1.6 a temporary ban on the entry of cruise ships to New Zealand's territorial waters on public health grounds, coming into effect from 23:59 on 14 March 2020 (CAB-20-MIN-0107);
 - 3.1.7 stronger health screening at the border on arrival, and with airlines agreement, at departure port overseas;

¹ This means: all Pacific Islands Forum members (except French Polynesia), Associate Member Tokelau, and Observer Wallis and Futuna

- 3.1.8 exit screening measures for departures to the Pacific;
- 3.2 direct support to incentivise people to self-isolate in practice and slow the spread of the virus, including further work on options to enforce self-isolation;
- 3.3 announcing the regulation of mass gatherings, with guidance to be developed by officials for Cabinet consideration on Monday 16 March 2020;
- 3.4 actions over a 30 day period to accelerate our preparedness and maximise the benefits from, and justify the economic costs of, the border measures;
- 3.5 a relief package for the aviation sector to encourage airlines to remain in New Zealand so that we can re-bound from the restrictions quickly and not have significant impacts on our tourism sector, exporters, and economy;
- 3.6 Government financial support for specific air routes to ensure key freight keeps moving between New Zealand and other countries and enable New Zealanders to return home;
- 3.7 urgent work with Air New Zealand as part of our shareholder role around impacts on the airline;
- 3.8 assurances to maritime cargo carriers that the measures do not apply to cargo ships or marine crew, to keep sea freight routes open for imports and exports, including essential supplies;
- 3.9 clear communications to reassure the public.

Michael Webster
Secretary of the Cabinet

Hard-copy distribution:

Prime Minister
Deputy Prime Minister
Minister of Health
Minister of Immigration