

## PASSENGER FLIGHTS TO NIUE

### FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

#### **What are passengers travelling to Niue required to do before leaving Auckland?**

For all passengers travelling to Niue they must have:

- Compulsory full vaccination for all arrivals (2 doses)
- Compulsory pre-departure NEGATIVE test and again on arrival in Niue
- Compulsory 14 days in NZ for everyone before departure for Niue
- Health Screening at Auckland International Airport
- MIQ for 14 days on arrival into Niue

This information must be provided to the Office of the Secretary to Government prior to travel. If these requirements are not met, then they will not be permitted to check-in at Auckland International Airport.

Contact [niue.secgov@mail.gov.nu](mailto:niue.secgov@mail.gov.nu) or +683 4308 for further details.

Note: Non-residents or permit holders may have additional requirements.

#### **When in MIQ, what conditions will people have?**

Once the passengers board the plane in Auckland, they will be considered one bubble.

### GENERAL MIQ QUESTIONS

#### **1) Can I deliver food to my family in MIQ?**

Yes, you can but only during certain hours. It is strictly drop off and leave. The three times are:

- Breakfast 6:00am - 8:00am
- Lunch 11:00am - 1:00pm
- Dinner 5:00pm - 7:30pm

#### **2) Can I visit my family/friends in MIQ and talk to them across the fence like we would normally do?**

No. There will be a strict “no visitors” policy during the 14-day MIQ. This will be strictly enforced.

#### **3) What if I need to deliver something urgent to someone at MIQ Homofiti outside those times?**

You can contact the security officer and make arrangements only if there is an emergency.

The contact number is: 888 5672

#### **4) What if there is a power cut at MIQ Homofiti?**

Police have a standby generator for Homofiti should there be a power cut.

#### **5) What happens if there is no water at Homofiti?**

Niue Power will be monitoring the Tamakautoga water reservoir daily. Where there is an issue there are plans in place to ensure that water will be supplied continuously to Tamakautoga.

#### **6) What about the septic tank at Homofiti?**

Once a week, emptying of the lower tanks needs to be done manually. Instructions will be left for a suitable person at MIQ who will be asked to assist.

#### **7) What happens if there is an emergency and passengers need to be evacuated from Homofiti?**

All MIQ passengers will be moved to Lialagi following strict Covid health & safety protocols.

## **COVID CASE RESPONSE**

### **1) What happens if there is a positive covid test result at Homofiti when in MIQ?**

It depends on their symptoms. If they have mild flu like symptoms, then they will remain in their managed isolation in their room and monitored by the hospital staff.

If urgent medical attention is required, people will be transported to the Aged Care Unit at Niue Fook Hospital where a temporary room has already been prepared for any patients needing additional care. The patient will also be required to undertake a Covid test prior to being moved to Niue Fook Hospital.

Where the health of any person in isolation requires further medical attention then the patient will be placed on a medical evacuation flight (medivac) to NZ. Plans and procedures are already in place for this.

Remember that all persons at MIQ Homofiti will be fully (doubly) vaccinated.

A positive Covid case in MIQ will trigger a different Alert Response under the National Covid Response Plan.

### **2) What happens if one of the passengers gets sick for other reasons when in MIQ eg severe reaction to a bee sting?**

It depends on their symptoms. If they have mild flu like symptoms, then they will remain in their managed isolation in their room and monitored by the hospital staff.

If urgent medical attention is required, people will be transported to the Aged Care Unit at Niue Fook Hospital where a temporary room has already been prepared for any patients needing additional care.

The patient will also be required to undertake a Covid test prior to being moved to Niue Fook Hospital. Medical attention will be provided under strict Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) protocols until the 14-days quarantine day period is complete.

Where the health of any person in isolation requires further medical attention then the patient will be placed on a medical evacuation flight (medivac) to NZ. Plans and procedures are already in place for this.

### **3) What will happen to those in the aged care unit (ACU)?**

In the unlikely event that a positive Covid case requires hospital care, the occupants of the ACU will be transferred either to their families or alternative accommodation, temporarily. They will continue to receive some assistance from the Health Dept. but not to the same extent as at ACU and families will be required to provide additional support during this time.

Families were contacted in early 2020 when the Pandemic first started and as part of overall preparedness for those needing aged care. Where aged care patients cannot be taken in by their families then they will be assisted to look for temporary accommodation.

Where a person from MIQ requires hospital care for other reasons (non-Covid), then the occupants of the ACU are not required to be moved to other temporary accommodation.

**4) Are the families expected to care for them?**

Yes. Every family must take care of their family and loved ones until the health department clears the ACU, it is deep cleaned and safe for the residents to come back to the ACU. If, when they are at home and they do need care from hospital staff, then additional arrangements can be made.

**5) What if the families cannot take them?**

They will be transferred temporarily to one of the wards at the hospital. If a ward is unavailable, then they will be assisted to look for temporary accommodation. If, when they are at temporary accommodation and they do need care from hospital staff, then additional arrangements can be made.

**6) Why was the isolation unit for Covid 19 built right next door to the ACU?**

There will be no contact between the new Isolation Unit with the ACU. The building will be safe to contain the virus and strict Infection Prevention Control (IPC) protocols will be in place at all times.

**7) When will the new isolation unit at Niue Foou Hospital be ready?**

This is scheduled for completion in December.

**8) What happens to the hospital workers if there is a positive case? Is there a place for them to stay if they have to work so that they don't go home as it is a risk for the families?**

In the unlikely event that there is a positive case, a dedicated medical team will be responsible for managing the case. The medical team will be in the same bubble as the positive case, and will be separated from their families until the case is cleared. Accommodation for the medical team will be provided to ensure they remain in that same bubble.

**9) What about the other support workers eg MIQ security, drivers that may have been in contact with a covid case?**

Alternative accommodation will also be provided for any other staff who have come into close contact with a positive case. They will be required to undergo testing and be isolated for 14 days from last contact with the case.

**10) Does the hospital have any ventilators?**

Yes. The hospital has 11 ventilators.

**11) If there is a case at the Aged Care Unit, will the hospital be closed?**

No. Hospital will open for business as usual. A doctor and nurse may do home visits if required. The ACU area will be closed off and there will be no communication or contact between the 2 areas.

**12) What if I have a family member who is already in hospital if a covid case goes to the ACU. Will they be safe? Can I visit them?**

They will be completely safe and protected because they will be far away from the ACU. There will be restricted visitation conditions at this time.

**13) But what if the doctors and nurses who treat that patient come and treat the ones in the main hospital?**

If there is a positive case at the Aged Care Unit, there will be 2 doctor/nurse teams that will keep separate: one for Covid and one for regular patients. This will greatly reduce any risk of cross contamination. The team that is direct contact with a covid case will deal with that case only and will not treat any other patients. This team will be staying at separate accommodation the entire time until the patient has recovered.

Proper PPE and Infection Prevention Control will also be followed by all hospital staff at all times.

**14) Does the hospital have enough Covid test kits?**

There is sufficient supply of test kit cartridges to cater for all in-coming passengers and frontline workers. Orders have been placed for additional test kit cartridges.

**15) If a person tests positive during MIQ, what happens to the rest of the passengers in MIQ?**

The Health department has procedures in place for the other passengers such as additional testing, wearing of masks and other PPE measures as well as basic health hygiene such as hand washing regularly.

**ROCKSAFE (contact tracing)**

**16) What happens if I don't have a RockSafe card?**

You can get a RockSafe card from Niue Foou Hospital.

**17) What happens if I lose my RockSafe card?**

You can get replacement card at Niue Foou Hospital.

## GENERAL QUESTIONS

### **18) Why are we allowing passengers in to Niue now? There are still community cases and transmission in Auckland. Why can't we wait until there are no community cases or Auckland goes to Alert Level 2?**

New Zealand's Director General of Health has said that most of the new cases are within the known Auckland clusters but given the Delta variant has a 'long tail', numbers are unlikely to return to zero any time soon.

Niue's Premier has said:

"Our primary focus continues to be the health and safety of Niue's people. To that end we must ensure that the additional border measures we have in place for Niue under Code Blue Alert level remain for all arriving passenger flights in principle until Monday 18 October 2021.

"We know that for the Niueans stranded in Auckland that this means another few weeks before they can return home. We thank our people waiting to come home for their patience and understanding. We know that they will not want to travel to Niue if there is any risk of bringing the Delta variant back home."

### **19) How are people going to be chosen for the first passenger flight. Who decides?**

Criteria for selecting people allowed to travel is based on the Travel Advisory: returning residents (medical referrals and students), permit holders, essential workers, and others. A small group of External and Immigration determine the list according to set criteria and Cabinet makes the final decision.

### **20) Air NZ has booked my flight – am I confirmed?**

You will only be confirmed by External Affairs to travel to Niue when your booking for MIQ at Homofiti is confirmed, and we are satisfied that you are fully (doubly) vaccinated and you have also provided a negative covid test result prior to check-in.

### **21) Who do I contact?**

Contact +683 4308 or email [Niue.Secgov@mail.gov.nu](mailto:Niue.Secgov@mail.gov.nu)

## VACCINES

### **22) Which vaccine does Niue accept?**

Niue will accept covid vaccines that have been approved by New Zealand regulator MedSafe.

### **23) My children who are under 12 years are not vaccinated and I am worried as they are at a higher risk of getting sick.**

While children aged 5-12 years have not yet been vaccinated, the best thing that everyone can do – the parents and families around them - is to be fully vaccinated. Practising hygiene such as washing your hands will also help.

It is understood that Pfizer has applied for regulatory approval in the US and with the TGA in Australia for use of the vaccine in children 11 years and younger and that this may be rolled out in New Zealand in the New Year.

**FIRST PASSENGER FLIGHT INTO NIUE  
18 OCTOBER 2021  
HOMOFITI MIQ**

**LOGISTICS (AIRPORT)**

- All border officials and airport workers will be required to wear PPE as per usual protocols at all times.

**Arrival into Niue**

- Onboard briefing to be done by the Chief of Police
- Masks and gloves will be provided to passengers and must be worn before passengers disembark. (Note: These will be given to the Peleni's Travel representative who boards the flight first on arrival).
- All passengers will be required to wear PPE provided to them by the Chief of Police and must wear them at all times until they arrive at MIQ.

**Immigration/Biosecurity/Customs clearance**

- There will be no border officials at the arrival section at airport on arrival.
- Passengers will hold their passports until they are released from MIQ and will be stamped. In the meantime they can take a photo of their completed forms and send to immigration / customs / biosecurity / health.

**Health Screening on arrival**

Health Screening will be carried out on all passengers on arrival at MIQ Homofiti and not at the airport.

**Transport to MIQ**

- Passengers to go straight to board a vans available for them at the arrivals area. The keys will left be in the ignition for the Chief of Police and another volunteer driver.
- The Chief of Police will ferry passengers to Homofiti with baggage in the van and any other vehicle provided. It may involve 2-3 trips; passengers may load/unload their baggage at the airport and unload at Homofiti.
- A police vehicle will accompany passengers and baggage transportation at all times between Homofiti and Airport.
- The van will remain inside Homofiti for 7 days and fully disinfected before being released. The Health team will provide IPC protocols on how to disinfect vehicles after use.
- Note:
  - 1) All checked-in luggage will be taken directly to MIQ Homofiti.
  - 2) All other cargo/freight will be loaded onto a separate truck and disinfected as per usual process for all cargo flights.

## Homofiti MIQ



- Security/Police will be on site at all times during the 14 day MIQ.
- Movement on the road outside Homofiti will be blocked off with restricted movement
- Deliveries can be left with the security/police officer. There will only be certain times that deliveries are permitted. The times are:
  - Breakfast 6:00am - 8:00am
  - Lunch 11:00am -1:00pm
  - Dinner 5:00pm - 7:30pm
- A strict “no visitors” policy will be in place and will be strictly enforced. There will be no talking across the fence as with previous MIQ conditions.

### Freezer and fridge capacity in MIQ

In addition to the fridges provided in each unit, a chest freezer and fridge will be provided for the passengers in MIQ Homofiti and located at the reception.

## IMPORTANT CONTACT NUMBERS

### Homofiti MIQ:

	Phone/Mobile
MIQ Homofiti Security	888 5672
Unit 1	888 4973
Unit 2	888 4976
Unit 3	888 4975
Unit 4	888 4980
Unit 5	888 4972
Unit 6	888 4971
Unit 7	888 4974
Unit 8	888 4977
Unit 9	888 4970
Unit 10	888 4981
Villa	888 4979

### Other:

Emergency	999
Niue Foou Hospital	4100 / 4102
Niue Police	4333
Niue Disaster Management Office	4333 / 4349 / 6630
Water	888 6747 / 6076
Power	888 5594 / 888 6919 6076

**Note:** For any other enquiry please contact the Telecom Operator at 015 who may direct your call to the relevant person, eg water.