

5 May 2021

Managed Isolation and Quarantine – keeping essential workers, their whānau, friends and communities safe

Tēnā koutou,

This letter is on behalf of Managed Isolation and Quarantine, New Zealand. We take the safety of our workers and their whānau, friends and broader communities very seriously. That's because the people who work in managed isolation and quarantine facilities do essential work to keep COVID-19 out of the community.

Thanks to our workers, tens of thousands of people have returned from overseas and completed their managed isolation stay safely, before returning to communities.

We want to provide you with reassurance that our workers follow strict infection prevention controls (developed by the Ministry of Health) to manage all known risks of spreading COVID-19. It is a condition of entry to our facilities that all our workers (permanent and occasional) who enter our facilities are required to be vaccinated.

The following information outlines what's involved in providing a safe working environment:

- **Our workers** – are required to be vaccinated. They follow Ministry of Health hygiene and physical distancing protocols at all times and use personal protective equipment (PPE). They have daily health checks and access to nursing staff who are on-site 24/7. If they are unwell they don't come to work. There is a programme of regular staff testing to ensure any transmission within a facility is caught early.
- **All overseas returnees** – receive information and reminders on protecting their own and others' health throughout their 14-day stay. Returnees are tested at least twice

for COVID-19 during their stay and those that return a positive result are quarantined separately under strict protocols.

- **All facilities** – are regularly cleaned with hospital grade disinfectant; audited by infection prevention experts; and deep cleaned if any infection is suspected. There is a 24-48 hour period between a room being vacated and a new person coming in.
- **Strict rules and tight security** – our on-site staff include defence, police and security professionals. Security is reviewed regularly.
- **Home and community** – we ask our people to keep records of their movements and close contacts (just like all New Zealanders) while not at work; and have a shower and change clothes before hugging loved ones.

With all these precautions in place, the risk to whānau, friends and community has been assessed as **minimal**. The partners/spouses and children of workers can follow their normal routines depending on any current Alert Level restrictions.

Thank you for your support of our essential workers – they do an awesome job keeping us all safe. If you would like more information about managed isolation in New Zealand, go to our website at: miq.govt.nz

Ngā mihi nui



Megan Main
Deputy Secretary, Managed Isolation &
Quarantine



Brig Jim Bliss
Head of Managed Isolation & Quarantine