



Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response


Minute of Decision

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COVID-19: Mass Gatherings and Border Measures

Portfolio Health

On 12 March 2020, the Ad Hoc Cabinet Committee on COVID-19 Response convened at 10.00 pm by way of teleconference. In accordance with its Power to Act, the Committee:

- 1 **noted** the information and advice provided by officials on:
 - 1.1 mass gatherings, including the implications for Pacific-related events, and social distancing measures;
 - 1.2 the ongoing review of border measures, and in particular whether restrictions should be imposed on Europe and the United States;
- 2 **noted** that given attendees are travelling to and from the Pacific Islands to attend the Pasifika festival and other upcoming Pasifika related events, there is an increased risk of COVID-19 entering the Pacific via transmission from New Zealand;
- 3 **agreed** to recommend that Auckland Council cancel the Pasifika festival (due to take place in Auckland on 14 and 15 March 2020), as a precautionary measure;
- 4 **directed** officials to provide further advice to CVD Ministers on other upcoming Pasifika related events, including PolyFest (18 to 21 March 2020 in Auckland);
- 5 s6(a) 
- 6 **directed** officials to provide further advice on the issues referred to in paragraph 5 above to CVD Ministers as soon as practicable (between 36-48 hours);

- 7 **directed** officials to provide further advice to CVD Ministers on:
- 7.1 the further measures that could be taken to strengthen the guidelines and instructions on self-isolation to ensure that it is implemented effectively and monitored;
 - 7.2 the checks on those persons travelling from New Zealand to Pacific nations, including options for additional screening at the border;
 - 7.3 health sector planning to manage a significant COVID-19 outbreak in New Zealand.

Martin Bell
Committee Secretary

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