



Nauru Bulletin

Issue 7-2022/241

10 August 2022

Taskforce ease COVID restrictions, masks remain

Prohibitions on mass gatherings and restricted movements lifted but masks, distancing remain in social settings with non-family members

Over 18,000 tests for coronavirus have been taken since the virus was detected in the community on 16 June recording 4,604 total positive cases and one COVID-related death recorded up to Monday 8 August.

The first positive case recorded for Nauru was detected in hotel quarantine on 1 April 2022 in a traveller on a flight from Brisbane a day earlier on Thursday, 31 March.

The National COVID-19 Taskforce is mandated to manage Nauru's capture and contain strategy and advise government of the most up-to-date research and recommendations to manage and minimise the impacts of coronavirus in the community.

The Taskforce takes advice from various entities including Nauru Health, the World Health Organisation, Australian Health and relevant regional organisations, to conclude on best practices for Nauru.

On Monday 23 May, the last of the eight incoming travellers who were in hotel quarantine recovered and were cleared, and Nauru's COVID-safe status reinstated.

But on 16 June the first community transmission was detected in a group of athletes due to depart for a sporting event were tested prior to departure.

The first three days of community testing returned 156 positive results using rapid antigen testing.



National Taskforce and Health workers at a drive-through COVID rapid antigen testing station

President Lionel Aingimea who was in Canberra, Australia, cancelled the remaining of a two-week official trip to meet the new Australian government to return home.

Positive cases climbed in numbers but there were no hospitalisations in the early stages. The first week recorded 861 positive cases from 950 tests. The first COVID-related death was recorded on 1 July.

The government's capture and contain strategy has been successful, in part, closing borders to all its travel destinations, except to Brisbane Australia, and enforcing strict passenger pre-travel and entry requirements.

Now, with the support and cooperation of the community, the spread of the virus can be minimised. Nauru's small-knit community and extended family co-habitation means close contact is unavoidable.

At the time of publishing the last house to be under lockdown was released and only four active cases detected in incoming travellers remain.

On 14 July Step 1 of the COVID-19 step-down measures commenced, easing some restrictions. Step 2 commenced on 20 July.

Step 3 and revoking prohibition of mass gatherings and restricted movements were gazetted and commenced on Monday, 8 August.

While mass gatherings and movements are now permitted the general COVID health and safety rules remain in place, including the wearing of face masks and social distancing unless if you are alone in a vehicle or with people who are members of your household, or eating and drinking.

In all instances and at all venues, the public is advised to adhere to other health and safety measures when accessing essential or non-essential services including hand sanitising, physical distancing, cover coughs and sneezes, and regular cleaning and disinfecting of frequently touched surfaces.

Overcrowding must be prevented and venues to be well ventilated or electric fans and air purification mechanisms to be installed where necessary.

All contact sports and associated gatherings of people are prohibited. There are no restrictions for non-contact sports or activities done indoors however physical

Cont pg 2...

COVID fatality remembered for sporting greatness

Nauru's first COVID fatality is remembered for her sporting greatness and title as Nauru's sole female gold medallist at major international competition.

Reanna Solomon Munauke, 40, former Olympian and weightlifting double Commonwealth Games gold medallist claimed her wins for Nauru at the 2002 Manchester Games. Her passing was received by Nauruans and the international sporting community with sadness and the bitter reality of coronavirus.

Solomon won two gold medals in the super-heavyweight division at Manchester, England in 2002 and placed 11th at the Athens Olympics two years later. She is the only Nauruan female athlete to win gold at a major competition.

She claimed gold in the clean and jerk setting the only Games record for Team Nauru with her lift of 127.5kg and a total combined weight of 227.5kg to secure her second gold.

Cont pg 2...

Taskforce ease COVID restrictions, masks remain

...from pg 1

distancing of 1.5 metres indoors must be maintained.

Resumption of classes for the remaining levels, except years eight, 11 and 12 which have already commenced classes, will be on the advice of the education department in consultation with the national COVID Taskforce.

Anyone entering school grounds are required to show proof of having received one or two doses of the COVID vaccine, by no later than 30 September; or a Certificate of Recovery from COVID-19 from the Naoero Public Health Centre, if you have contracted the virus but had not received the first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine; and are waiting to receive the first dose of the vaccine.

Where a student, teacher, support worker, parent or visitor has any symptoms of Coronavirus they must refrain from attending school or tertiary institution and to return home immediately. They will be permitted to return to school after a negative Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) result.

Any person entering the grounds of the hospital or the Public Health Centre shall undergo COVID-19 screening before accessing these facilities.

All gatherings are permitted and members of the same household may sit together, such as at a church service, however wearing face masks and social distancing must be maintained when people from different households are gathering in the same place.

Social gatherings and all essential and non-essential work and business services are allowed to operate, subject to the same general rules of wearing a face mask and social distancing when gathering with people not of the same household.

Sanitisers must be available at all entrance and exit points for social gatherings including at work places, and at birthdays, engagements and wedding receptions.

A person traveling to Nauru by aircraft will undergo a RAT on arrival at Nauru Airport and a Polymerase Chain Reaction Test (PCR) at the Public Health Centre within 24 hours after arriving or as directed by the National COVID-19 Taskforce.

All passengers are expected to minimise movements while they wait for the results of their PCR tests. When a passenger tests positive for either the RAT on arrival or the PCR, they will go into managed hotel quarantine for 13 days.

Failure to comply a person commits a strict liability offence and is liable to a fixed penalty of \$1,000. Failure to pay the fine will be liable for other penalties and fines or imprisonment.

The declaration of national emergency for the management and minimisation of the impact of coronavirus was initially issued in March 2020 by the President on the advice of the Cabinet and Council, and is extended every 30 days as necessary.

Normal weekly passenger flights were reinstated on 12 July and ending the government's pre-travel quarantine in Brisbane. However, travellers who have had COVID must clear 14 days after testing positive before travelling to Nauru.

Travel Order 9 issued on 3 August cautions passengers travelling out of Nauru with the intention of returning, to be fully vaccinated or risk denied boarding a flight to Nauru if they are infected with COVID; had tested positive for the virus less than 13 days since being tested positive; or continues to exhibit symptoms; and fails to produce a certificate of recovery from COVID-19 from the Nauru Public Health•

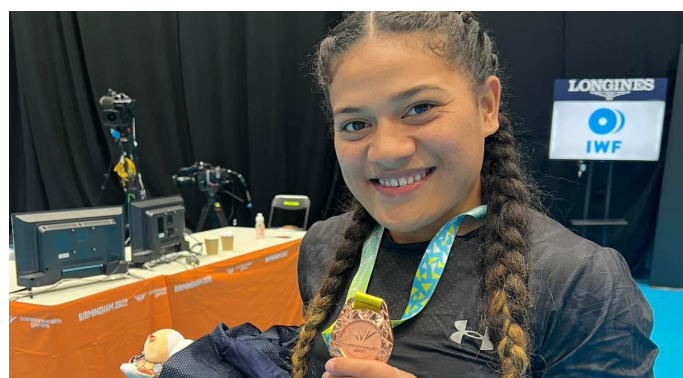
COVID fatality remembered for sporting

greatness

...from pg 1



Maximina Uepa (bottom) dedicates her bronze medal to the memory of two-time Commonwealth gold medallist the late Reanna Solomon Munauke (top)



She is remembered for her kindness, humble nature and passion for the sport she loved.

She is survived by her husband Munauke and five children.

At this year's Commonwealth Games in Birmingham, England, 19 year old Maximina Uepa won a bronze medal, the only medal for Nauru at these Games, in the women's weightlifting 76kg category.

Born in the same year Solomon won her golds, Uepa dedicates her medal to Solomon's memory.

Uepa's win maintains Nauru's Games bragging rights of winning a medal at every Commonwealth Games since Nauru first participated in 1990 when Marcus Stephen won gold and two silver medals.

Due to the COVID community outbreak in Nauru in June, Uepa did most of her lead-up training in home isolation, alone.

She started lifting at the age of 11 and her first international tournament was in 2015 when she competed at the Commonwealth Youth Games at age 13.

She is the daughter of Nauru powerlifting champion Jezza Uepa who was crowned the world's strongest man at the World Powerlifting Championship in Sweden in 2019, where he lifted a total of 972.5kgs in the super heavyweight +120kg class.

With a population of around 12,000, Nauru has won an incredible 31 Commonwealth medals including 10 golds by three weightlifters – Marcus Stephen, the late Reanna Solomon and Yukio Peter.

All 31 medals were won in the sport of weightlifting •

Shipping MOU with Tuvalu

Nauru and Tuvalu signed a shipping memorandum of understanding (MOU) that will commence shipping services between the two countries, 15 July.

Deputy Minister for Nauru Port Authority Russ Kun and Tuvalu's Minister for Justice, Communications and Foreign Affairs Simon Kofe signed the agreement virtually for Nauru Shipping Line (NSL) to service Tuvalu delivering sea freight containers.

Deputy Minister Kun says this is in line with the Nauru government's desperate imagination initiative for Nauru to become a regional hub for shipping and was the main drive behind this first MOU.

The Nauru government's desperate imagination initiative was launched in January 2020 where Heads of Mission (HOM) and Heads of Department (HOD) met to discuss ways to achieve and maintain a sustainable Nauru and its changing economy.

"It is the dependency of a single foreign shipping service that has made both countries to experience price intimidation and unreliability that led us to this MOU in the first place," Mr Kun said.

Freight rates have always been major issues with shipping lines servicing member countries and most importantly for Nauru consumers.

The MOU will help strengthen member countries Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Tuvalu and Nauru in regards to the laws that govern the Central Pacific Shipping Commission (CPSC). The CPSC is a sub-regional organisation in the Central Pacific that serves the common interests and needs of the people of its members in the shipping sector.

NSL will benefit internationally by servicing other countries, get exposure and recognised globally as a major contributor to the shipping industry within Nauru's sailing routes.



Nauru's Micronesian Pride

Improvement to ship management, systems and supplies will provide better vessels to support Nauru and neighbouring countries.

The current NSL schedule is a monthly service between Suva and Nauru with free days allowing for minor maintenance and bunkering which also spares time for full maximum load upon the vessel's return to Nauru.

"Our (NSL) business plans cater to support other nations or countries that need our shipping services and we would approach this diplomatically to understand berthing prospective," the Deputy Minister said.

The arrangement with Tuvalu is just the beginning as negotiations are unfolding in the background with other Micronesian countries expressing interest. However, this will take shape once the second fleet comes to fulfilment.

Witnessing the signing were NMPA CEO Michael Nye, NMPA chair Link Uera, NSL Deputy CEO Nigel Kumar, and Deputy Consul General to Australia Ruston Kun •

First emergency communications radio system

Nauru's first emergency communications radio system was handed over to the Department of National Emergency Services (NES), 14 June.

The World Food Program (WFP) through Emergency Telecommunications Cluster (ETC) donated the communications system and starter kit radio handset equipment to NES.

The radio system will assist departments communicate with each other efficiently during times of crisis.

Deputy chair of the Nauru COVID-19 Taskforce Angelo Dimapilis presented the radio handset equipment to NES secretary Roy Harris at the Fire department and Mr Moaied Oma from WFP demonstrated how to operate the equipment.

The handset is part of the communication radio system that has been installed at the command ridge by Mr Oma and the ICT team in June.

Other departments that received the handsets include Nauru Police Force, RON hospital, Public Health, COVID-19 Taskforce, Nauru Port Authority, Fisheries and the Department of Civil Aviation.

The initiative for Nauru to have an operational and effective emergency radio system was envisioned by Mr Harris at the onset of the COVID pandemic.

Mr Harris says communications has always been a weakness due to the signal disruptions especially on the outskirts of the island and offered his sincere gratitude and thanks to the Taskforce, ICT, WFP and ETC for the installation of the new communications system and the training provided by Mr Oma •



Emergency services upgrades radio communications system

NPF with UNPOL in South Sudan

The first ever team of the Nauru Police Force (NPF) arrived in Juba, the capital of South Sudan, where they are deployed to undertake peacekeeping mission.

Three officers of the NPF were selected after successfully completing a four-week United Nations Police (UNPOL) pre-deployment training program in Ankara, Turkey, in February.

The team includes Superintendent Imran Scotty, Sergeant Drusky Dabadauw and Senior Constable Jacaranda Akibwib.

The one-year unarmed mission will mostly focus in community oriented policing and outreach programs. This will assist in enhancing the trust of the public in the police and other law enforcement agencies of the host state.

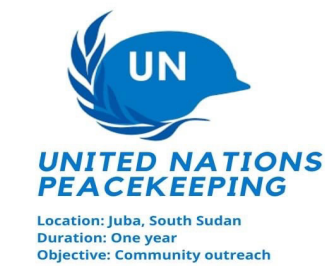
Acting Commissioner for the NPF, Kalinda Blake said the deployment is a significant step forward for Nauru on the world stage.

“The good thing about it is that it is on the international arena, not only do the officers get to learn and interact with other officers but also puts Nauru on the map as Nauru contributes to maintaining peace within the international community.”

Senior Constable Akibwib and Superintendent Scotty also have exceptional experience in peacekeeping work with the Regional Assistance Mission to the Solomon Islands (RAMSI).

Prior to their pre-deployment training in Turkey in February, the team had shared their experiences amongst each other, giving the officers a better idea of what to expect in Juba.

The team will undergo orientation and additional pre-deployment training after arriving in Juba •



SUPERINTENDENT IMRAN SCOTTY



SENIOR CONSTABLE JACARANDA AKIBWIB



SERGEANT DRUSKY DABADAUW

The Nauru police contingent, deployed to South Sudan on a year-long unarmed mission, is country's first

The Nauru Bulletin is a fortnightly publication of the Government of the Republic of Nauru.

It is produced by the Government Information Office (GIO).

The GIO was established in May 2008 and is a section of the Office of the President.



Republic of Nauru

Bandaranayake joins legal fraternity

Justice Dr Shirani Bandaranayake joins Nauru's legal fraternity as the first female justice to the Nauru Court of Appeal, 16 June, then on 22 June swore the oath of office as the acting president of the Nauru Court of Appeal.

Justice Bandaranayake hails from Sri Lanka and served her country's Supreme Court for 16 years. She was the first female judge appointed to Sri Lanka's Supreme Court and later as Sri Lanka's first female chief justice.



Justice Bandaranayake (L) joins the Nauru Court of Appeal

Justice Bandaranayake swears to obey, uphold, maintain and defend the Constitution and all other laws of the Republic of Nauru and the rights of the people; do justice to all persons without fear, favour or prejudice •

GOVERNMENT OF NAURU

Protect yourself and those around you:

- Get vaccinated as soon as it's your turn and follow local guidance on vaccination.
- Practise social distancing of at least 1.5 metres from others, even if they don't appear to be sick. Avoid crowds and close contact.
- Clean your hands frequently with alcohol-based hand rub (sanitiser) or wash with soap and water.
- Cover your mouth and nose with a bent elbow or tissue when you cough or sneeze. Dispose of used tissues immediately and clean hands regularly.
- If you're worried about COVID or flu-like symptoms, testing is available at the ROH Hospital.
- You will be required to wear a mask when visiting the hospital. One will be provided for you on arrival.



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