



## GPI POLICY - COVID-19 TRAVEL & QUARANTINE

### **Rational:**

The Government of Pitcairn Island partners (GPI) acted swiftly to close the island's border in March 2020, when the COVID-19 (C-19) pandemic spread around the world. GPI recognises that the pandemic will continue to impact Pitcairn's visitor economy, essential travel to and from the island and the secondary health care needs of its community. The border has been re-opened on the 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

### **Objective:**

The GPI COVID-19 Travel and Quarantine Policy sets out necessary, current and approved procedures for the effective reference and promulgation of Pitcairn's C-19 management protocols.

The MV Silver Supporter is the current GPI Passenger / Supply Vessel servicing both its cargo and passenger travel requirements.

### **Abbreviations:**

- GPI - Government of Pitcairn Island
- C-19 - Corona Virus
- PIO - The Pitcairn Island Office
- PoV - Proof of Vaccination (to be fully Covid-19 vaccinated) means a recognised vaccination certificate equivalent to that issued by the New Zealand Ministry of Health.
- PI MO - Pitcairn Island Medical Officer
- PCR - Nasopharyngeal Swab For C-19 Test

**Administered RAT – Rapid Antigen Test performed by an Independent qualified person or Clinic**

### **GPI Passenger/supply vessel - Travelling from Pitcairn Island to New Zealand**

- a) At the time of booking all passengers, reserving a berth on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship must email the PIO with their Proof of Vacation (PoV) against C-19.
- b) The NZ Immigration authorities currently require people arriving by ship to have undertaken a minimum of 7 days isolation/quarantine at sea whilst on board the ship on which they arrived in New Zealand.

Date Policy last reviewed: 26<sup>th</sup> May 2022

Date Policy due for next review: Monthly until further notice



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- c) On arrival in NZ all GPI Charter passengers and crew are given a supervised RAT. Preliminary results are available at the time of testing.
- d) The Captain of the ship is formally notified in writing when negative results are received for the crew and passengers
- e) Each passenger is provided with a Port Health Letter of Authorisation to Disembark the ship. The captain will inform passengers that they can disembark.
- f) Information about changes to NZ's Maritime Border controls and further comprehensive C-19 related information can be found at: [www.Covid19.govt.nz](http://www.Covid19.govt.nz)

### **GPI Passenger/supply vessel - Travelling from Pitcairn Island to French Polynesia**

- a) Regulations regarding testing on arrival are constantly changing. Current information can be found at <https://tahititourisme.com/en-us/covid-19/> The PI MO and PIO can assist on current regulations.

### **GPI Passenger/supply vessel – Travelling to Pitcairn Island**

- a) At the time of booking all passengers, reserving a berth on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship must email the PIO with their Proof of Vacation (PoV) against C-19.
- b) All persons are required to have either a PCR test within 72 hours prior to boarding the vessel, or an Administered RAT test within 24 hours prior to boarding the vessel.
- c) At the time of booking all passengers reserving a berth on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship are to be advised that Pitcairn is COVID free and all precautions must be taken to prevent the virus from being transmitted to the island.
- d) Regarding having a PCR or Administered RAT all passengers should contact PIO who can assist and give advice on where and how to obtain the tests.
- e) Negative PCR or RAT results must be forwarded to the Pitcairn Island Medical Officer and the Captain of the ship, via the PIO so a formal Notice of Medical Clearance can be issued before passengers are permitted to board the ship.

### **GPI Passenger/supply ship - Medical clearance and landing protocols for passengers arriving at Pitcairn**

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- a) If arriving directly from NZ or Tahiti the PI MO will liaise with the ship for medical clearance. Once medically cleared the PI MO will convey this to the Chief Immigration Officers who will grant passengers permission to land.
- b) If arriving directly from Mangareva the Pitcairn Island Doctor will ensure that the Captain of the vessel has a designated person administer a RAT to all crew and passengers within 24 hours of disembarking at Pitcairn. The responsibility of the Captain is to electronically provide the PI MO with the negative RAT results. Once medically cleared the PI MO will convey this to the Chief Immigration Officers who will grant passengers permission to land.

### **Cruise Ships – Landing passengers**

- a) The responsibility of the Captain of a visiting cruise ship is, prior to arrival, to electronically provide the PI MO with:

PoV in accordance to the ship's C-19 management procedures.

Proof of a negative Administered RAT test within 24 hours of those intending to land on Pitcairn Island.

### **Cruise ship - boarding procedures**

- a) All visitors boarding must adhere to the ship's own C-19 management protocols and visitor requirements.
- b) All visitors boarding must carry a copy of their passport details and a copy of their PoV.
- c) All visitors boarding will:
  - Refrain from unnecessary physical contact with passengers and crew at all times
  - Ensure reasonable social distancing from passengers and crew at all times
  - Wear masks at all times.
  - Place hand sanitizer on their trading tables, if trading, and use it regularly through-out.

### **Yachts and all other vessels**

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- a) The responsibility of the Captain of other visiting vessels is, prior to arrival, to electronically provide the PI MO with:

PoV for all those on board.

Proof of a negative Administered RAT for all those on board prior to departure from their last port of call.

- b) The PI MO will assess each vessel individually for medical clearance. They will take into account how long the vessel has been at sea, and the general health of those on board. The PI MO may decide to perform a RAT at Bounty Bay (costs to be met by visitors). Once medically cleared the PI MO will convey this to the Chief Immigration Officers who will grant passengers permission to land.

### **General Requirements**

- a) While overseas all Pitcairn Residents must carry with them their Pitcairn Island PoV certificate issued by the Pitcairn Medical Centre.
- b) While overseas all crew and passengers are encouraged to take all necessary precautions to avoid contracting Covid-19.
- c) All crew working on a GPI Passenger/Supply vessel must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

### **PoV**

- a) All persons landing on Pitcairn are required to have PoV.
- b) The above PoV does not apply to minors who do not qualify for vaccination.
- c) Additionally a single exemption to (a) above exists in that as of 15th of December 2021 unvaccinated, normally resident people who have previously booked to return to the island on the January 2022 ship will be permitted to board the Silver Supporter and land on Pitcairn.

### **Risk management for suspected C-19 illness on-board the GPI passenger/supply ship**

- a) If any passenger or crew member becomes unwell with possible C-19 virus symptoms whilst travelling on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship, the ship will not land passengers at Pitcairn until medical advice has been sought, initially from the PI MO. The severity of illness and location of the ship, will determine the appropriate destination, including the options to take them directly to New Zealand or Tahiti for medical treatment.

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### **Risk management for suspected C-19 case on Pitcairn Island**

- a) The MO will strongly recommend isolation for any person who is either suspected or actually confirmed to have contracted C-19. The isolation location recommended by the MO will be on an individual case by case basis.
- b) If the MO suspects or confirms an individual on Pitcairn Island has contracted C-19 they are to immediately inform all households. The MO will not release details of who is infected.

NOTE: The contact for the Pitcairn Island Office is: [admin@pitcairn.gov.pn](mailto:admin@pitcairn.gov.pn)

The contact for the Pitcairn Doctor is [doctor@pitcairn.gov.pn](mailto:doctor@pitcairn.gov.pn)

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/how-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccination/bookyourcovid-19-vaccination/getting-proof-of-your-vaccination/>

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