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**PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL  
Public Meeting Notes held at the Public Hall  
Commencing at 7pm Friday 19 February 2022**

**Present:**

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu, Deputy Mayor Shawn Christian, Cr Michele Christian, Cr H Menzies, Cr. S Young, Cr T Christian.

**Apologies:** None.

**In attendance:** 25 members of the community and Medical Officer Dr. Kevin Walters

**Welcome:** The Mayor welcomed the community to the meeting.

**Agenda Item**

The Mayor told those present that the purpose of meeting is to update and discuss the current situation relating to HMS Spey's visit. Spey is now in the Pitcairn EEZ conducting water sampling data collection and will continue this until at least AM on the 20<sup>th</sup>.

The ship is scheduled to arrive tomorrow (20<sup>th</sup> Feb) at 8.00am and it will stay in the vicinity of Pitcairn until the evening of the 24<sup>th</sup>. The ship is on track to deliver boosters and a 2person dental team. No other crew will be permitted to land.

Pitcairn's boosters will be landed as soon as the cold store chain allows. The Medical Officer remains in communication with the ships doctor to ensure secure and timely transmission.

The PI Medical team will transfer the dental team from the landing to the clinic.

The Mayor shared the following information with the community and then invited questions for the current Medical Office, Dr. Kevin Walters;

**HMS SPEY - POSITIVE COVID CASES AS OF 19<sup>th</sup> FEB**

- The first person tested positive 13 Feb. Council was advised of the 2<sup>nd</sup> positive test 15 Feb.
- A 3<sup>rd</sup> person tested positive on 18 Feb. That individual is asymptomatic and is now isolating in a separate ensuite cabin in addition to the other, separate, 2 cases whose isolation days are at day 6 and 7 respectively. This is the first new case after 72 hours of no new cases, and all previously stated on-board measurers are in place.
- The crew concerned are all currently isolating in their cabins for at least 7 days, after their positive test, as per UK COVID-19 management policy and pending a negative test result.
- All 3 crew members who have tested positive are not part of the dental team.

**THE DENTAL TEAM**

- The Spey has provided full reassurance to Pitcairn that the dental team has been isolated from all the ship's crew since the 8<sup>th</sup> February.
- The 3 crew that have tested positive have had no direct contact with the dental team since the 7<sup>th</sup> February.
- The Dental team will continue to be quarantined in a separate cabin until they land at Pitcairn.
- As of the 13<sup>th</sup> Feb the dental team have tested negative and this status remains.

- The dental team will wear full PPE throughout their visit.
- They also have additional Covid-safe equipment to carry out their work
- The Ship will use its own tenders to land the dental team and the vaccinations.
- The Dental team will be landed first.
- He recommends anyone who has not had a dental check to maximise this opportunity

The Medical Officer told the community that although there is 3<sup>rd</sup> case detected it does not increase the level of risk to the Community. Risks associated with landing the dental team, remains very low. He reiterated that the ship's capacity to manage the situation and mitigate the risk to Pitcairn's community is second to none and, in his opinion, having the dental team land within these circumstances is far less risk than sending patients to Tahiti on the Silver Supporter at the moment.

### BOOSTER VACCINATIONS

Dr Walters advised that the non-booster group i.e., those who have not yet been vaccinated, will be vaccinated first. The rest of the islanders, i.e., those that have already had 2 vaccinations., will be done next.

- Dr Walters made a take-away handout available, inclusive of the vaccination consent form for people take home and read before going to the clinic for their shots. The consent form will also be provided on the day.
- As is standard practice around the world all patients will be required to stay at the clinic environment for 15 minutes after their injections this will be the case at the clinic.
- The vaccinations will be delivered to the island via contactless procedures.
- The Clinic will contact the patients who need immediate treatment to come to the clinic.
- Moderna does have an expiry date but can stay chilled by fridge for up to 30 days. Viable vaccine will be kept for as long as possible and used. There is sufficient vaccine available.
- Contactless passport stamping will be undertaken by the Immigration Officer.
- Dr Walters advised it is best to speak about protection when referring to what vaccinations offer. We have an initial dose to give protection. But this protection wanes over time so a second vaccination is necessary to then boost that protection again... and so on. Boosters keep antibody levels up so to maximise protection against infection.
- The PI Medical and Dental areas have been designated as separate within the clinic's consultation areas
- Children and those not vaccinated will be administered the vaccinations first.
- The Medical Clinic personnel will arrange timetables for booster shot patients.

The Meeting closed at 7.45pm



Mayor Charlene Warren

Date: 8/3/22

