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PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
GPI Corona Virus Management Protocol Development Workshop IV Notes
Commencing 9.00am April 13th 2020

Present:

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu, Deputy Mayor Kevin Young, Cr Ariel Harding, Cr Shawn Christian, Cr Michele Christian, Cr Lea Brown, Administrator Nick Kennedy & Isec Heather Menzies.

Apologies: Cr L Jaques

In attendance: Dr Phil Hall

Agenda Item	
De-contamination procedures for post Silver Supporter Medical clearance	<p>Following the public meeting notes of 8th April there was general discussion about border controls, for repatriation, in other countries. Border controls in NZ & Australia in particular were discussed and it was agreed this information is of interest locally for those not aware of the variations in border controls around the world. There was also general discussion about the need for diplomatic invention, with both France and NZ, to facilitate emergency medivac pathways for Pitcairn residents.</p> <p>Ideas for mitigating the risk of infection, given Pitcairn does not have COVID-19, were discussed. It was suggested that HMG/PIO could contract a doctor to travel to and from NZ with supply run passengers to provide support and patient care if needed. It was noted that the contracted Doctor would only need to travel to and from the island (as ship's doctor) so would therefore only be needed for a 4 to 5-week period each run.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>The Administrator will make enquiries about the possibility of contracting a ship doctor but he advised Council is not likely due to the limited availability of medical practitioners, at this time, and cost.</p> <p>It was agreed additional equipment should be purchased, if required, for Pitcairn to effectively manage a worst-case scenario on board the Silver Supporter i.e. a second non-invasive ventilator.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>The Administrator will make enquires about the making this purchase and report back.</p> <p>There was general discussion about engaging volunteers to help care for moderate to severe COVID-19 cases, at the isolation hospital, should that be required.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>Dr Hall will create an information sheet about what volunteer support will entail, for the community, which the Mayor will then circulate by end of day Tuesday 14th April.</p> <p>An information meeting and PPE training will be held at the isolation hospital on Monday 20th - 1.30pm</p>

Dr Hall provided Council with a copy of the Covid-19 Silver Supporter procedures.

ACTION

It was agreed the Administrator will forward the Covid-19 Silver Supporter procedures to all councillors and a copy will be put on the public notice board for the community to view.

Dr Hall advised he contacted Public Health England (PHE) and sent them the Silver Supporter procedures and 2 broad scenarios, relating to the current NZ to Pitcairn shipping service, for comment.

1. A suspected case occurs in the first half of the voyage from NZ to Pitcairn. This would entail the ship returning to NZ.
2. A suspected case occurs in the second half of the voyage, closer to Pitcairn – whereby the ship could not reasonably turn around and return to NZ.

It was noted that a medivac pathway to French Polynesia was not included in discussions with PHE as that remains, at this point, a hypothetical. However, it was noted this option would be explored, by HMG, if needed.

It was noted that the next 2 supply ship rotations of the Silver Supporter will have an incoming Doctor on-board when it arrives at Pitcairn. It was agreed that, for the time being, this will be put to full advantage in terms of monitoring crew and passenger health and implementing clearance procedures for landing pax.

After general discussion about PHE's recommendations, the following procedures were discussed and agreed upon.

3. If there is an incoming Doctor on-board the Silver Supporter, he/she will clear passengers prior to arrival and advise the resident Medical Officer of outcomes in advance of arrival. If all passengers are fit and well, they will disembark and the ship will be cleared.
4. If there is not a Doctor on-board the Silver Supporter, the resident Doctor will liaise with the Ship's Medical Office about the well-being of crew and passengers, prior to arrival, as is standard practice. If all passengers are fit and well, they will disembark and the ship will be cleared.
5. If there is not a Doctor on-board the Silver Supporter and the ship's Medical Officer reports there is a suspected case on-board, passengers will not be permitted to land. The patient will be isolated. The resident Doctor will board the ship, adhering to strict PPE procedures, and assess the situation. The patient will be treated on-board by the resident Doctor where possible.
6. If there is a need to get a patient ashore because he/she cannot be appropriately treated on-board e.g. due to existing medical conditions and/or being oxygen dependent, PPE procedures will be used to transfer and transport the patient to the Isolation Hospital. The community will be kept informed of developments should this be the case.
7. If a patient must be transferred from a vessel to the isolation hospital for emergency treatment related to COVID-19 the GPI Home Isolation procedures for the community will be implemented.
8. If the incoming Doctor is the patient, the Resident Doctor will board the ship, adhering to strict PPE to assess the situation, treating the patient on-board as required. If there is a need to get the patient ashore because he/she cannot be appropriately treated on-board e.g. due to existing medical conditions and/or

	<p>being oxygen dependent, PPE procedures will be used to transfer and transport the patient to the Isolation Hospital. The community will be kept informed of developments should this be the case. If the patient must be transferred from the Silver Supporter to the isolation hospital for emergency treatment related to COVID-19 the GPI Home Isolation procedures for the community will be implemented.</p> <p>9. If there is a suspected case on-board the Silver Supporter or a yacht the vessel will go into lock-down for 14 monitored, symptom free days.</p> <p>10. If during that time a suspected case deteriorates due to existing medical conditions and/or oxygen dependent, PPE will be used to transfer and transport the patient to the Isolation Hospital. The community will be kept informed of developments should this be the case. If the patient must be transferred from the Silver Supporter to the isolation hospital for emergency treatment related to COVID-19 the GPI Home Isolation procedures for the community will be implemented.</p>
Worst-case scenario - Access to the Dying	<p>The Doctor advised that family access to those dying due to COVID-19 complications in Australia, NZ and elsewhere, is usually highly restricted. However, on Pitcairn, medical support volunteers and close relatives can have controlled access to the dying with strict PPE requirements. Skype & Messenger services will also be available for families.</p>
Handling the bodies of Covid-19 deceased	<p>There was general discussion about the procedures usually involved when handling bodies of the deceased and how they may need to be modified due to a death resulting from COVID-19.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>It was agreed that Dr Hall will provide Council will some initial guidelines for discussion at the next GPI COVID-19 Management Protocols Workshop re handling the deceased as a result of Covid-19.</p> <p>There was also discussion about the need to have prepared caskets and body bags at the ready should they be required.</p> <p>ACTION</p> <p>The Administrator research the cost of flatpack caskets and body bags and report back</p>
Border Controls to be amended to include All Vessel	<p>ACTION</p> <p>It was agreed Council will adjust the restrictions to include all vessels, other than the Silver Supporter, in the border control motion. It will be formally recorded at the next Regular Council meeting of April 13th.</p>
Emergencies support for yachts.	<p>It was agreed that if serious medical support is needed for a yacht the following procedures will apply, dependent upon on how long the vessel has been at sea i.e. it meets the 14-day isolation requirements.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Resident Doctor will board to assist - using approved PPE as required. 2. Where possible the patient will be treated on board. 3. If there is a need for the patient to get ashore because he/she cannot be appropriately treated on-board due to the nature of the injury or due to existing medical conditions and/or being oxygen dependent, PPE and/or appropriate procedures will be used to transfer and transport the patient to the

	<p>Medical Client or the Isolation Hospital. The community will be kept informed of developments should this be the case. If the patient must be transferred to the isolation hospital for emergency treatment related to COVID-19 the GPI Home Isolation procedures for the community will be implemented.</p>
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Meeting Closed: 12.00pm

Mayor Charlene Warren-Peu: *Warren*

Date: *21 / 4 / 2020*



Approved