

Press Conference – Monday, 30 March 2020

Top Lines

- There are two people on-Island who are experiencing mild symptoms similar to Coronavirus. They have a cough and a headache, but no further symptoms have been reported.
- We assess the risk of this being Coronavirus-related as very low.
- However, in an effort to minimise the risk, we are today announcing enhanced social distancing measures to minimise the risk of Coronavirus to the Island, starting from tomorrow at 12noon for 14 days. We are grateful to the public for the social distancing measures they have taken to date and would like to thank the entire community for their support.
- The Government will do what is necessary to protect the public. Therefore:
 - We are advising all vulnerable people (elderly, pregnant women, children, people with underlying health concerns) to stay at home. Schools will remain closed for a further week until after Easter weekend. Crèches are also advised to consider closing
 - We would advise that people don't congregate in large groups. Bars and restaurants can still operate at their own discretion
 - We are restricting visitors to our Care facilities. From tomorrow no one will be allowed to visit any care facilities without prior permission
 - We look to organisations to continue to take the necessary social distancing measures as they have already been doing
 - To minimise pressure on our Health Services, elective (non-critical) surgeries at the Hospital will be postponed for 14 days
 - Outpatient clinics/appointments will be carried out via telephone consultations.

Compliance

- We are taking seriously the penalties related to self-isolation and compliance. Penalties are being reviewed and increased and will be applied to people who violate the requirement to self-isolate.

Individual with Cough and Headache

- An individual who has been self-isolating since 21 March reported a cough and headache. That individual remains in self-isolation and is under strict observation to not come out of their room or be in contact with others

- The partner of the individual is also in self-isolation after it was identified that they had been in contact with this individual. The partner has also exhibited symptoms of a cough and headache
- Today both individuals are stable and making an improvement
- All other people who were self-isolating at the same site have been transferred to another suitable location for the rest of their isolation period
- We would like to address people's concerns around self-isolation and who should be self-isolating. The Health Directorate has contact traced all of the people following guidance from WHO. People needing to self-isolate who have been contacted are those who have been in contact with this individual within two days (48 hours) of them exhibiting symptoms and who have had face-to-face contact, been less than one metre apart and have had direct contact without using PPE. Only one person falls into this category
- A further 16 people and their families are now self-isolating as a result

Yachts

- The public will be aware of the measures agreed by IEG over the weekend regarding yachts:
 - All yachts arriving at St Helena will be required to undergo a 14-day quarantine period from the date of arrival in James Bay. This also applies to recent arrivals
 - The crews on any yachts may remain in St Helena waters until they are ready to depart for their next destination
 - Within the 14-day quarantine period no landing of crew on St Helena will be permitted, unless there is an on-board emergency
 - Before Pratique (medical clearance) is granted, all yachts must fly a yellow flag to indicate that they have not received official clearance from Port and Port Health Authority. This is standard industry practice
 - Documents that would be expected to be presented for inspection include:
 - Official clearance papers from last port of departure
 - A satisfactorily completed Harbourmaster's declaration
 - A satisfactorily completed and checked health declaration
 - A satisfactorily completed and checked customs declaration
 - Temperature measurement on or after the fourteenth day to ensure no elevated body temperature
 - After the 14-day quarantine period all crew will be required to complete the health screening process. The Harbourmaster with support from a medical 'proper officer' then has the authority to give a final clearance to land.
- We have discouraged any yachts that are now in foreign ports and may be planning to travel to St Helena from setting sail for this destination. Notices to this effect have been posted on yachting websites and through social media.

SHG is continuing to contact yacht clubs and ports in South Africa and other countries to state this position.

- Security Watchmen are based at the Wharf to ensure these measures are complied with.

SHG

30 March 2020