



Press Conference – Wednesday, 15 April 2020

Top Lines

- We are still in the Prevent Stage, which is implementation of proportionate measures to prevent Coronavirus coming to St Helena and to educate everyone on proportionate safety measures.
- Those people who were in self-isolation have all been released following the 14 days of self-isolation. They were checked on daily by phone and there has been no indication of COVID-19 symptoms. There is no evidence of the virus on the island.
- The enhanced Social Distancing Measures came to an end on Tuesday, 14 April 2020, which means we are no longer advising vulnerable people to stay at home or work from home.

Medical Supplies/Test Kits/Staff

- 960 test kits are due to arrive on the charter flight scheduled to arrive on Monday, 20 April 2020
- Once the kits are on Island, St Helena Hospital Laboratory staff will undergo remote training with Public Health England (PHE).
- Test kits will be used on those people displaying COVID-19 symptoms
- A quarter of a tonne of PPE arrived on the MV Helena from Ascension Island on Tuesday. Approximately 2.5 tonnes of PPE will arrive on the charter flight
- Five additional ventilators are currently being procured and once received will bring the total number of ventilators on-Island to nine
- We expect some medical staff to be on the charter flight and will be able to confirm numbers shortly.
- Six nurses from South Africa have expressed an interest to come to St Helena to support our Health Service.

Flights

- The target date of arrival for the charter flight from the UK is Monday, 20 April, at 1pm following an overnight stop at Ascension Island
- Following arrival the aircraft will carry out a number of training and proving flights at St Helena Airport before departing for the UK via Accra on Tuesday, 21 April
- A maximum of 28 people will be able to travel on this flight to the UK. British Nationals and people with confirmed Hospital appointments in the UK are being prioritised.
- There may be also residents returning to St Helena from the UK, depending on the amount of freight on the aircraft.

- Seat allocation is being finalised. All those who have expressed an interest in travelling will be contacted to let them know if they have a seat or not.
- South Africa has extended their lockdown for another two weeks therefore there will be no Airlink flight this weekend.

Bradley's

- A number of people are working around the clock to get Bradley's ready to receive passengers on the flight arriving on 20 April
- Work is on track to be completed by the end of this week.
- SHG is grateful to those people who responded to the appeal for urgent equipment
- Security arrangements including some fencing around the site perimeter are being finalised
- A Facility Manager and Assistant Facility Manager have been designated
- The Equality and Human Rights Commission has started to gather games, books, magazines for people in quarantine and the Red Cross is also providing support.
- St Helena Government (SHG) is urgently seeking items to complete Bradley's isolation facility. The St Helena Government Coronavirus (COVID-19) Live Q&A page lists equipment needs and contact information on assisting with the project.

Supplies

- International shipping is continuing around the world and Cape Town Port continues to operate, but on a reduced scale. We currently expect the MV Helena to be able to go back to Cape Town and restock and return in May
- SHG continues to work closely with merchants and suppliers to ensure supplies to the Island can be maintained
- The St Helena Pharmacist and Paul Hickling from the St Helena Distillery have been working together to produce additional hand sanitiser following World Health Organization guidelines. 20 litres of hand sanitiser have been produced and will be used in the Hospital.

MV Helena

- Three passengers arrived on the MV Helena from Ascension Island on Monday
- All three passengers have the right to enter St Helena and have been transported to Bertrand's Cottage where they will be quarantined for the next 14 days

SHG

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