

Press Conference – Tuesday, 7 April 2020

Top Lines

- There is no medical reason to escalate the current preventive measures we have in place on St Helena
- We have taken very strong precautionary measures recently to further protect the Island
- We are still in the Prevent Stage and we are doing everything we can to stay in this stage
- We are waiting for confirmation of delivery of test kits and medical equipment in the UK, which will be brought to the Island on the charter repatriation flight.

Bradley's

- The isolation facility at Bradley's is undergoing final refurbishments on the advice from Public Health England to be ready for use by mid-April. It should be ready in time for the expected charter flight that will bring essential supplies and people.
- We are aiming to get 32 isolation rooms ready. At present we have enough materials in house to complete 24 isolation units and there will be an announcement asking the public if they can help us with certain item requirements

Repatriation Flight

- There should be a flight to the UK after Easter (target arrival date 15 April), which is a charter repatriation flight. The flight will also bring people and medical supplies, including test kits, from the UK. The medical supplies are our priority and we are waiting for confirmation of delivery
- If people need to travel from St Helena to the UK, especially UK nationals on holiday this is a last reminder to contact Jane Roberts at the Tourist Office to register your name as there are only up to 28 seats available
- The aim is for the flight to depart the Island for the UK on 16 April, but this date could change, depending on the availability of the medical supplies. Seats will cost £800
- The Governor's Office is prioritising who gets to travel. Those who are British short-term visitors/tourists will be given priority.

Supplies

- The MV Helena arrived last week and departed for Ascension on Sunday. Merchants have advised that we have sufficient supplies and people are encouraged to maintain their normal shopping habits
- We would like to thank all involved for the offloading off the MV Helena and for getting supplies in stores so quickly

- 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
- Various medical supplies including PPE will arrive from Ascension via the MV Helena
- We are working with the owner of the St Helena Distillery to make additional hand sanitisers on-Island.

Self-Isolation

- 31 of 37 passengers who arrived to St Helena on the flight on Saturday, 21 March 2020, completed their 14-day isolation period without displaying symptoms consistent with COVID -19 and without coming into contact with any individuals who displayed symptoms consistent with COVID -19
- Therefore the 14-day isolation period ended for those 31 passengers at 23.59 on Saturday, 4 April 2020. They are no longer required to isolate. They can leave their homes and go about their normal activities
- St Helena Government would like to take this opportunity to thank the individuals who have completed their isolation period for their patience and understanding in what is a difficult time for all across the world
- These individuals have played a key role in the effort to keep the population of St Helena safe.

SHG

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