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PITCAIRN ISLAND COUNCIL
Public Meeting Notes held at the Public Hall
Commencing at 9.00am Friday 15 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: 24 members of the community and Medical Officer Dr. Kevin Walters

Welcome: The Mayor welcomed the community to the meeting.

Agenda Item

The Mayor advised the purpose of meeting is to update and discuss the current situation relating to Proposed HMS Spey. She reminded those present that the Spey's initial proposal was circulated to the community via local email.

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

Due to needing spare engine parts Spey is currently at sea but still holding in the vicinity of Tahiti awaiting contactless delivery. Delivery is expected on the 16th.

HMS SPEY - 2 POSITIVE COVID CASES

The first person tested positive on the 13 Feb. Council was advised of the 2nd positive test today (15 Feb).

- The crew concerned are currently isolating in their cabins for at least 7 days as per UK COVID-19 management policy and pending a negative test result.
- The crew members who have tested positive are not part of the dental team.
- The ship has the highest testing system on-board. Crew are tested using the ships PCR-like "luminadx" system.
- All crew are full vaccinated including booster shots

HMS SPEY – COVID PROTOCOLS ON-BOARD

The Ship Has Re-introduced Their Standard On-board Covid Measures

- Gym closed
- Social distancing enforced
- Staggered meal times
- All non-essential activity on board suspended
- Face coverings everywhere on board
- Hand sanitiser readily available in all spaces
- All personnel carrying personal hand sanitiser
- Max numbers in compartments enforced – including mess decks
- Ship completely sanitised twice daily – sanitiser sprayed on all touch points
- LFD testing for 100% of personnel every day
- Personnel moved into single cabins where possible to minimise spread

- Personnel encouraged to work and rest in fresh air as much as possible.

THE DENTAL TEAM

- The Spey has provided reassurance to Pitcairn that the dental team has been isolated from all the ship's crew since the 8th February.
- The crew who tested positive have had no direct contact with the dental team since the 7th February.
- The dental team will continue to be quarantined in a separate cabin until they land at Pitcairn. This will be total of 12 days.
- As of the 13th the dental team have tested negative.
- The dental team will wear full PPE throughout their visit.
- They also have additional Covid-safe equipment to carry out their work

HMS SPEY/ PITCAIRN COMMUNICATIONS

- The ship is currently providing daily updates on the situation.
- Council and HMG liaising with the Pitcairn doctor as required.
- The council will keep you informed of any changes.

The Mayor advised the Community that she has written to the Commander of Spey to say that, given the situation, the preference is that the ship drops the boosters, with no contact, and then sails on to the outer islands to undertake their tasks for 14 days, before returning to the island and landing the dental team. This would allow time for Pitcairn's boosters to be administered and become effective before landing the Dental Team, assuming that, during the 14-day period, the last person tested on board has a negative test result after 7 days. She advised she had not, at the time of this meeting, heard back from the ship but will keep everyone up to date as communications continue.

The Mayor then handed the meeting over to Dr Walters for his comments in response to questions from the Gallery.

The Doctor conveyed that he has been in touch with the Ship's doctor today and can report that the 2 crew who have tested positive are not sick, but the virus has been detected, they are isolation and the situation is well managed.

He told the community that Spey is a Naval Vessel and this is not the first time it has dealt with and effectively managed detected C-19 cases on board. He said he believes 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 less risky than sending dental or medical patients to Tahiti on the Silver Supporter at the moment.

Dr. Walters explained the differences between Lateral Flow and PCR testing and advised that the ship's ability to undertake PCR-like Luminadx testing is the highest standard we could wish for on a visiting vessel at any time. He told the community he is confident the risk of infection for the community, should the dental team land, is low. He also told the community that Spey's on-board C-19 management protocols and its intention to land the dental team have been shared with clinic's Public Health England contacts and they too agree that landing the dental team, carries a low level of risk. The benefits in having the team land to take care of Pitcairn

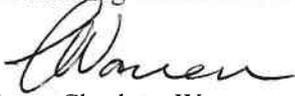
Dr. Walters explained how different types of vaccinations i.e., specifically AstraZeneca and Moderna vaccines increase immunity and this is good for those in the community who had the first of their two AstraZeneca vaccinations back in May. He added that those who were waiting for an alternative to the Astra Zeneca vaccine can now begin their vaccination journey with Moderna and this too is good for the community.

He confirmed that it takes at least 14 days to 4 weeks for the boosters to become effective.

Dr Walters told the community he is also in the process of undertaking a review of patient needs, particularly those of non-NZ passport holders who have not been easily able to access secondary medical care in NZ. In line with this work, he also assured those present that patient confidentiality is paramount. He is well aware and experienced in working within medical systems such as Pitcairn's.

Dr Walters advised the community he will continue to liaise with the ship's doctor and the Mayor and Council and will keep everyone informed.

The Meeting closed at 5.45pm



Mayor Charlene Warren

Date: 10/3/2022



Approved