

What is the new Coronavirus?

Coronavirus (COVID-19) is a large family of viruses known to cause illness, ranging from the common cold to more severe diseases. COVID-19 is a new strain of coronavirus that is affecting humans.

How is the virus spread?

- Close contact with another person who has the virus.
- Fluid droplets from sneezing or coughing.
- Exposure to surfaces and or items that have been sneezed or coughed upon by infected individuals

Public health message

1. Cover your mouth and nose when you cough and sneeze
2. Wash your hands often with water and soap or hand sanitizer
3. If you are sick, keep your distance from others - at least 1 metre away



MINISTRY OF HEALTH & MEDICAL SERVICES

Call the Public health emergency surveillance unit on **23650** OR **7522202** for further information.

QUARANTINE FACTSHEET



**PROTECT YOURSELF,
PROTECT OTHERS
FROM CORONAVIRUS**

Protecting our Community

As part of the MHMS's preparedness to respond to potential imported cases of COVID-19, we are establishing quarantine and isolation facilities in Honiara. Isolation and quarantine are standard public health measures taken to protect the public by stopping or limiting the spread of a contagious disease, like COVID-19.

What is the difference between isolation and quarantine?

Isolation separates sick people with the disease from people who are not sick.

Quarantine separates people who are well but may have been exposed to the virus to see if they become sick.

What is the purpose of an isolation centre?

- An isolation centre is used to separate **sick individuals** from other uninfected people.
- An isolation centre, generally is a dedicated ward at a hospital or a designated area.

What is the purpose of an isolation centre?

- It is a place where patients are kept isolated from other patients, and are provided with appropriate medical care.
- Health care workers will be provided appropriate protective equipment to help protect themselves from the virus, whilst providing care to the patients.

What is the purpose of a quarantine facility?

- An Individuals may be quarantined if there are risks they may have been exposed to the virus and become sick. For example, if a person travelled on the same plane as a sick person.
- It is a protective or preventive measure that helps reduce the spread of any virus or disease.
- If a person is quarantined,
 - o They will be restricted within the facility
 - o They are monitored closely for 14 days to see if they become sick.
 - o They can be released after 14 days if they are not sick.

What happens if a person becomes sick in the quarantine facility?

- Quarantine facilities only host and monitor people who are not sick.
- If a person becomes sick, they will be immediately separated and transferred to an isolation centre for appropriate medical care.

What is the risk to communities living nearby quarantine facilities?

- People in quarantine are restricted from moving outside the facility.
- There is no evidence to suggest that surrounding communities could be exposed to the virus.
- The virus spreads primarily when a person is in close contact with a sick person (within 1-2 metres), for example living in the same household or workplace.