



GPI POLICY - COVID-19 TRAVEL & QUARANTINE

Rational:

The Government of Pitcairn Island partners (GPI) acted swiftly to close the island's border in March 2020, when the COVID-19 (C-19) pandemic spread around the world. As 2022 approaches, the GPI recognises that the pandemic will continue to impact Pitcairn's visitor economy, essential travel to and from the island and the secondary health care needs of its community when the border reopens. The GPI also recognises that, in order to manage and effectively communicate its current and evolving C-19 management and quarantine requirements, a GPI COVID-19 Travel and Quarantine Policy is necessary.

This Policy is enacted as of **Dec 1st 2021**. It is subject to review and change

Objective:

The GPI COVID-19 Travel and Quarantine Policy sets out necessary, current and approved procedures for the effective reference and promulgation of Pitcairn's C-19 management protocols and quarantine requirements.

The MV Silver Supporter is the current GPI Passenger / Supply Vessel servicing both its cargo and passenger travel requirements.

Abbreviations:

- GPI - Government of Pitcairn Island Partners
- HMG - Her Majesty's Government
- C-19 - Corona Virus
- PIO - The Pitcairn Island Office
- PoV - Proof of Vaccination (to be fully Covid-19 vaccinated)
- PI MO - Pitcairn Island Medical Officer
- PHE - Public Health England
- PCR - Nasopharyngeal Swab For C-19 Test
- PtoT - Pitcairn to Tahiti
- PtoNZ - Pitcairn to New Zealand

Date Policy last reviewed: 15th December 2021
Date Policy due for next review: Monthly until further notice



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1) PASSENGER TRAVEL BETWEEN NZ & PITCAIRN ISLAND ON THE GPI PASSENGER/SUPPLY SHIP

All Passengers Travelling from Pitcairn Island to New Zealand

- a) At the time of booking all passengers, reserving a berth on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship must email the PIO with their Proof of Vacation (PoV) against C-19.
- b) The above proof of vaccination requirement does not apply to minors who do not qualify for vaccination against Covid-19. The NZ Immigration authorities currently require people arriving by ship to have undertaken a minimum of 14 days isolation/quarantine at sea whilst on board the ship on which they arrived in New Zealand. The 14 days isolation are counted from when the ship leaves Pitcairn.
- c) On arrival in NZ all GPI Charter passengers and crew are given a PCR test.
- d) The Captain of the ship is notified when negative results are received (usually within 1 or 2 days). Passengers are then free to disembark. PCR test results are also forwarded to Pitcairn's Medical Officer, via the PIO.
- e) Disembarking passengers must follow all New Zealand C-19 related levels and protocols such as: mask wearing, social distancing, gathering numbers, and so forth.
- f) Information about changes to NZ's Maritime Border controls and further comprehensive C-19 related information can be found at: www.Covid19.govt.nz

All Passengers Travelling from New Zealand To Pitcairn Island

- a) At the time of booking all passengers, reserving a berth on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship must email the PIO with their Proof of Vacation (PoV) against C-19.
- b) As of 15th of December 2021 unvaccinated, normally resident people who have previously booked to return to the island on the January 2022 ship will be permitted to board the Silver Supporter and land on Pitcairn in adherence with the GPI Covid-19 Travel & Quarantine Policy
- c) The above proof of vaccination requirement does not apply to minors who do not qualify for vaccination against Covid-19.

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- d) Those who have right of abode but are not normally residents on Pitcairn Island must provide a PoV certificate.
- e) Returning Pitcairn residents who were vaccinated at Pitcairn are required to carry a written record of their vaccination status whilst travelling
- f) At the time of booking all passengers reserving a berth on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship are to be advised that Pitcairn is COVID free and all precautions must be taken to prevent the virus from being transmitted to the island. Passengers are to voluntarily isolate for 7 days, with allowance for necessary PCR testing, at their place of residence, prior to boarding the GPI Passenger/Supply ship.
- g) All booked passengers are required to have a PCR test within 72 hours prior to boarding the vessel.
- h) No passenger is permitted to board the vessel unless a negative PCR test result has been provided to the PIO. Test results are also shared with the ship's Captain and the Pitcairn Medical Clinic.
- i) During travel from their place of residence to the place of embarkation in NZ, all passengers must follow New Zealand C-19 related alert levels and protocols such as: mask wearing, social distancing, gathering numbers.

NOTE: "Proof of vaccination" means a recognised vaccination certificate equivalent to that issued by the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/how-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccination/book-your-covid-19-vaccination/getting-proof-of-your-vaccination/>

2) PASSENGER TRAVEL FROM TAHITI TO PITCAIRN ISLAND ON THE GPI PASSENGER/SUPPLY SHIP

NOTE: The total quarantine required from Tahiti, including land-based isolation and time on-board the ship, shall be no less than 10 days in total.

- a) All passengers preparing to depart Tahiti for Pitcairn must carry with them their PoV certificate, unless exempted as per above.
- b) All passengers must follow French Polynesia's C-19 related alert levels and protocols such as: mask wearing, social distancing, gathering numbers etc.

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- c) All passengers must keep social interaction to a minimum whilst disembarking the ship and transfers ashore. They should travel directly to their place of accommodation from the ship.
- d) The French Polynesian authorities require all passengers (and crew) to remain onboard the GPI Passenger/Supply ship in Tahiti until they have had a PCR test. If in good health, on receipt of a negative test results passengers will be permitted to land.
- e) All passengers must undertake 5 days isolation, at their place of accommodation in Tahiti, with allowance for necessary PCR testing, prior to boarding the GPI Passenger/Supply ship.
- f) 1 PCR test must be undertaken within 72hrs before boarding the GPI Passenger/Supply ship.
- e) All PCR tests for passengers departing Tahiti for Pitcairn Island must be arranged via the Pitcairn Medical Officer, in consultation with the Hospital in Papeete, and/or another GPI approved C-19 testing facility in Tahiti.
- f) Negative PCR test results must be forwarded to the Pitcairn Island Medical Officer and the Captain of the ship, via the PIO Office so a formal Notice of Medical Clearance can be issued before passengers are permitted to board the ship.

NOTE: The contact for the Pitcairn Island Office is: admin@pitcairn.gov.pn

3) ALL VISITORS LANDING AT PITCAIRN ISLAND BY YACHT, FREIGHTER OR CRUISE SHIP

- a) Those landing via yacht or freighter must provide the Medical Officer with proof of vaccination against C-19 via email or other non-contact method prior to being permitted to land.
- b) Those landing via cruise ship must provide the Chief Immigration Officer & Medical Officer with proof of vaccination against C-19 in accordance to the ship's C-19 management procedures. All requirements are communicated to the ship via Pitcairn Islands Immigration, On-island Services Coordinator and the Pitcairn Medical Officer.

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- c) Returning Pitcairn residents vaccinated at Pitcairn and landing via yacht, freighter or cruise ship, are not required to provide the Pitcairn MO with a PoV certificate. Their vaccination status is recorded at the Pitcairn Islands Medical Clinic. They are however, required to carry a written record of this vaccination whilst travelling.

4) **GENERAL REQUIREMENTS**

General Requirements for Pitcairn Residents Departing Pitcairn

- a) All departing Pitcairn Residents must carry with them their Pitcairn Island PoV certificate issued by the Pitcairn Medical Centre.
- b) All departing Pitcairn Residents must have a Pitcairn Island Departure Stamp in their passports, issued by Pitcairn Island Immigration.

General Requirements for Captain and Crew of the GPI Passenger/Supply vessel

- a) All crew working on a GPI Passenger/Supply vessel must be fully vaccinated against Covid-19.

General Requirements for Medical Patients & Carers Travelling between Pitcairn and Tahiti

- a) All medically referred passengers and carers preparing to depart Pitcairn for Tahiti must adhere to the terms and conditions of the GPI Health Care Referral Policy.
- b) All medically referred passengers and carers preparing to depart Pitcairn for Tahiti must carry with them their Pitcairn Island PoV certificate.
- c) All medically referred passengers and carers must follow French Polynesia's C-19 related alert levels and protocols such as: mask wearing, social distancing, gathering numbers.
- d) All medically referred passengers and carers must keep social interaction to minimum whilst disembarking the ship and transferring ashore at Tahiti. They are required to travel directly to their place of accommodation from the ship.
- e) When arriving at Tahiti, unless there is an extreme medical emergency (which will be managed on a case-by-case basis), all medically referred passengers and carers must remain onboard the GPI Passenger/Supply ship to undertake a PCR test. Passengers are

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not permitted to disembark until of their negative PCR test results have been conveyed to the ship's Captain.

- f) When preparing to depart Tahiti, all medically referred passengers and carers must undertake 5-7 days isolation, at their place of accommodation in Tahiti, with allowance for PCR testing
- g) When preparing to depart Tahiti for Pitcairn all medically referred passengers and carers must undertake 1 PCR test within 72hrs before boarding the GPI Passenger/Supply ship.
- g) All PCR tests for passengers departing Tahiti for Pitcairn Island must be arranged via the Pitcairn Medical Officer, in consultation with the Hospital in Papeete, and/or any other GPI approved C-19 testing facility in Tahiti.
- h) Negative PCR test results must be forwarded to the Pitcairn Island Medical Officer and the Captain of the ship, via the PIO Office so a formal Notice of Medical Clearance can be issued before passengers are permitted to board the ship.
On receipt of a negative test results medically referred passengers and carers will be issued a notice of medical clearance, available via PIO, and be permitted to board the ship.

NOTE: The contact for the Pitcairn Island Office is: admin@pitcairn.gov.pn

5) ON-BOARD PROCEDURES FOR ALL PASSENGERS TRAVELLING ON THE GPI PASSENGER/SUPPLY SHIP

NOTE: The total quarantine required from Tahiti, including land-based isolation and time on-board the ship, shall be no less than 10 days in total.

- a) All Passengers must wear masks and social distance whilst transiting to embark and boarding the ship.
- b) Staggered meals and recreational time are recommended where possible.
- c) All passengers are required to adhere to reasonable social distancing and the ship's own C-19 management procedures where possible.

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- d) All passengers arriving at Pitcairn on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship from Tahiti or NZ are not required to undertake additional home-isolation after they have been medically cleared to land. If passengers wish to home-isolate for a few days after arrival they may do so, however, this is not mandatory. If they choose to home isolate, they should advise the Medical Clinic should support be required.
 - e) All passengers will adhere to the all previously noted landing requirements.
- 6) **MEDICAL CLEARANCE AND LANDING PROTOCOLS FOR PASSENGERS ARRIVING AT PITCAIRN ON THE GPI PASSENGER / SUPPLY SHIP**
- a) As is usual maritime practice, the PI MO and Chief Immigration officer will liaise with the ship for medical clearance. If all passengers and crew are in good health the ship will be medically cleared and Chief Immigration Officers will grant passengers permission to land.
 - b) The Immigration Officer will clear the ship, via electronic processes, as usual.
 - c) The Immigration Officer will process crew Passports on-board or on-board the longboat.
 - d) The Immigration Officer will process passengers' passports ashore and deliver them to the holders later on the day of arrival.
 - e) The Bio-security Officer will collect the Arrival Cards from the Immigration Officer for processing.
 - f) Passengers who may wish to isolate, at their place of residence/accommodation, once they have been permitted to land, are welcome to do so. Independent visitors who may wish to isolate should advise their accommodation hosts and the PI MO so support can be arranged if required.

NOTE: If there is a GPI contracted doctor on-board the GPI Passenger/ Supply Vessel, they may assess passengers, and advise the resident PI MO of their conclusions prior to arrival.

If there is not a GPI contracted doctor on-board the resident Medical Officer will liaise with the Ship's Medical Officer to clear the ship, as is current standard practice - listed above.

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8) RISK MANAGEMENT FOR SUSPECTED C-19 ILLNESS ON-BOARD THE GPI PASSENGER/SUPPLY SHIP

- a) If any passenger or crew member becomes unwell with possible C-19 virus symptoms whilst travelling on the GPI Passenger/Supply ship, the ship will not land passengers at Pitcairn until medical advice has been sought, initially from the PI MO. The severity of illness and location of the ship, will determine the appropriate destination, including the options to take them directly to New Zealand or Tahiti for medical treatment.

9) CRUISE SHIP & OTHER VESSELS BOARDING & LANDING PROCEDURES FOR PITCAIRN RESIDENTS, OFFICIALS, TRADERS, VISITORS & CONTRACTED STAFF

- a) All Pitcairn residents, officials, traders, visitors & contracted staff who board a cruise ship or other vessels will adhere to the ship's own C-19 management protocols and visitor requirements. If a cruise ship does not allow non-vaccinated visitors to board, those individuals will not be permitted do so.
- b) All Pitcairn residents, officials, traders, visitors & contracted staff permitted to board a cruise ship or other vessels must carry their passport details and a copy of their PoV certificate with them at all times. The PI MO will provide the ship with PoV certificate information electronically as required.
- c) All Pitcairn residents, officials, traders & contracted staff who are permitted to board a cruise ship or other vessel will:
 - Refrain from unnecessary physical contact with passengers and crew at all times
 - Ensure reasonable social distancing from passengers and crew at all times
 - Wear masks at all times.
 - Place hand sanitizer on their trading tables, if trading, and use it regularly through-out.
- d) All Pitcairn residents, officials, traders, visitors & contracted staff who return to shore after visiting a cruise ship or other vessel will:
 - Adhere to the ship's own C-19 management visitor disembarkation protocols
 - Refrain from unnecessary physical contact with others and ensure reasonable social distancing
 - Home isolate for a few days if they wish to and alert the Medical Clinic should they need assistance. This is not a mandatory requirement.

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