

*The Minister*

Papeete, 07 February 2020

**INFORMATION NOTE**

**RE** : Strengthening of measures taken by the Government to prevent the entry of 2019-nCoV coronavirus in French Polynesia.

**Att.** : Health Control Questionnaire

Following the measures put in place on 28 January aiming to avoid the entry of the coronavirus in French Polynesia, French Polynesia's government has decided to strengthen some measures and specify the conditions of implementation thereof.

Since 28 January 2020, all travellers from Asia, Japan and New Zealand to French Polynesia, are required to present a medical certificate less than 15 days old.

From today on, the government has decided that passengers of any nationality, who have stayed since 1 January 2020 in China, Cambodia, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Macau, Malaysia, Nepal, Singapore, South Korea, Sri Lanka, Taiwan, Thailand, Vietnam and the Philippines will necessarily have to present a medical certificate less than 5 days old certifying the traveller's health condition, before boarding for French Polynesia, whatever their port of embarkation.

In the absence of such certificate, it is asked to airlines to deny boarding to passengers concerned. However, in order to facilitate the repatriation of French Polynesian residents, the former will, in all cases, be allowed of return to French Polynesia.

In flight, all passengers will be given a health screening questionnaire by the airline, whose model is attached. The traveller will give the completed questionnaire to the medical team present upon arrival in French Polynesia.

In the event a passenger bound for French Polynesia has flu-like symptoms, protection instructions given by the health authorities of French Polynesia must be implemented by the cabin crew, including wearing a surgical mask and the use of hydro-alcoholic gel for the person concerned, persons nearby and cabin crew.

On arrival in French Polynesia, the control of passengers' body temperature, using a thermal camera or thermometer, was until now carried out at the arrival of flights from Japan and New Zealand. It has been decided to extend it to all international flights arriving in French Polynesia.

Regarding non-scheduled flights arriving in French Polynesia, the High Commission of the French Republic in French Polynesia has decided to force their landing exclusively on Tahiti-Faa'a International Airport, to improve the effectiveness of prevention measures. This decision is effective from Wednesday, 5 February 2020, following the publication of an instruction to pilots (NOTAM) applicable to the Flight Information Region of Tahiti. Thus, the precautionary measures for passengers of scheduled flights are also applied to people travelling on non-scheduled flights.

For cruise ships, the ship's medical service is responsible for monitoring passengers on the ship. Concerning the health of travellers, the Health Surveillance Office of the Health Directorate regularly and systematically receives maritime health declarations, 2 days before arrival in French Polynesia, and every day in case of change while sailing in the French Polynesian waters. The government recommends confining any sick person on board, and isolating them if necessary, under the control of the ship's medical service.

As for sail boats sailing across the Pacific and calling at an island in French Polynesia, on arrival, usually the relevant control services are aware of the instructions to apply.

A multidisciplinary team meets daily at the Ministry of Health to consider all appropriate measures to control this viral disease. A 24-hour vigilant watch has been established.

To date, there is no introduction of 2019-nCoV coronavirus in French Polynesia.

Jacques RAYNAL