

**From:** [National Commander - Kerry Gregory](#)  
**Subject:** FYI only - National Notice to be released shortly - MIQ facilities procedures and vaccinations  
**Date:** Wednesday, 10 February 2021 7:01:29 PM

---

Kia ora koutou

I am writing to advise you of a change in Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) and Ministry of Health (MoH) procedures for Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities. Please see enclosed correspondence from MBIE.

Following the recent cases of people testing positive for COVID-19 after leaving managed isolation facilities, MBIE and MoH have reviewed its procedures to ensure it is taking all necessary precautions.

MBIE has now changed its procedures for emergency services including Fire and Emergency people entering these facilities, for example attending a fire alarm or other emergency, or providing onsite advice on evacuations and fire safety.

Effective immediately, MBIE and MoH requires all our people entering MIQ facilities to:

1. Provide Fire and Emergency New Zealand identification and a mobile phone number.
  - o Crews responding to an alarm or other emergency should do this when appropriate, most likely on departure.
  - o All other Fire and Emergency personnel should provide identification and contact details on arrival.

MoH is collecting this information for COVID-19 purposes only, so that in the rare possibility that our people have interacted with someone with COVID-19, they can be contacted as soon as possible.

2. Get a COVID-19 test following the visit to a facility. This can be done at a GP practice or community testing centre, within the following timeframes:
  - o no sooner than 5 days and no later than 7 days, if you entered a Managed Quarantine Facility.
  - o no sooner than 5 days and no later than 14 days, if you entered a Managed Isolation Facility.

The rationale for being required to receive a COVID-19 test at five days is that this is the median incubation period for the virus, meaning that at or around day 5, the virus is likely to be detected. However, it is important to note that it is very unlikely that Fire and Emergency personnel would be infected with COVID-19 if our operational and safety protocols are followed.

The above procedures are requirements under Section 7 of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020 and applies to persons who carry out work in any capacity (whether paid or unpaid) at MIQ facilities.

For Operational Response activities, this means:

- Appliances that respond to an incident at a MIQ facility follow all current procedures and protocols for the appropriate alert level.
- Under the guidance of the current protocols, the decision to enter a facility remains the with the OIC based on their dynamic risk assessment.
- If the decision to enter is made, Fire and Emergency identification should be shown on request to MIQ staff, which may be on egress dependant on the situation or type of emergency.
- Contact details of the crew who entered, will be taken by MIQ staff for the purposes of contact tracing and will be passed onto Health Officials for the arrangement of a precautionary COVID-19 test in line with the timelines above.
- Upon return to station, the OIC will complete a Safe@Work entry listing the crew who entered. There is no requirement for our personnel to stand-down or self-isolation unless

directed to by health officials.

Organising a time for testing:

- If on duty, career firefighters should work with their Area Management to arrange an appropriate time.
- The loss of income policy applies for any volunteer firefighters who respond to an MIQ and are required to get a COVID-19 test.

These additional measures are out of caution rather than increased risk of infection to our people. These measures are another line of defence and should be used in conjunction with our normal procedures and the SDPPPs.

I will be issuing a National Notice shortly to all personnel outlining the above changes in protocol. The National Notice will also include some information on the work we are doing with MoH on vaccinations, which you are already aware of.

We encourage all of our people to follow these new requirements and trust that you will all support these new measures in order to keep our people, their families and our communities safe.

Please let me know if you have any questions or want to discuss any details.

Nga mihi nui  
Kerry

Kerry Gregory  
National Commander  
Deputy Chief Executive Service Delivery  
Toihau a-Motu



This email was sent and protected by SmartGate™



Notice: This email and any attachments may contain information that may be subject to an obligation of confidence or the subject of legal privilege.

If you received it in error:

1. Please let us know immediately by return email and then delete the email and your reply.
2. You must not use, copy or disclose any of the information contained in this email.

There is no warranty that this email is error or virus free.

If this is a private communication, it does not represent the views of the organisation.