

Following our first positive civilian Covid-19 test result we appreciate that our community will have specific concerns relating to the situation. We have tried to identify these concerns and to address them below. Please note, these questions and answers are accurate as of 10 November and may be subject to change should circumstances alter.

1. Is this civilian case at MPC or in Stanley?

A. This is in Stanley, not at MPC.

2. Are we now going into lockdown?

A. No, we are not. Our emergency plans are constructed in phases and we are not at the level at which we would consider asking everyone to self-isolate. Were this to change the public would receive rapid notification via the usual channels.

3. Have all the passengers on the infected plane been swabbed?

A. Yes, all passengers – with the exception of a child – took part in the initial swabbing round. All have been informed of the positive result and are continuing to participate in the follow up surveillance swabbing. All of these passengers are also in quarantine.

4. If you test positive, how many negative results do you need after testing positive before you can leave quarantine?

A. Firstly, you cannot leave quarantine before 14 days, regardless of any results. If you do test positive for the virus then you will need two negative results before you can leave quarantine.

5. How often will the person who tested positive be checked up on?

A. KEMH is keeping close contact with the person to ensure that, should they become unwell, they can receive immediate medical attention. The hospital is in contact with this person on a daily basis and in addition is also visiting their home to carry out further swabbing, using the necessary PPE and enhanced hygiene practices.

6. What happened once the Covid-19 positive test result was known?

A. On receipt of the positive result, KEMH immediately initiated the approved track and trace protocols to contact all of the passengers on the affected flight as well as other people who came into contact with those passengers, including those working in Customs and Immigration, and transportation. Because of recent circumstances surrounding the airbridge, it has also been necessary to instigate track and trace protocols for passengers who would have come into contact with the person who tested positive but who did not arrive on the same flight as them. KEMH is offering everyone the chance to get swabbed as a precaution, even those not in quarantine. We can also confirm that there are no Covid-19 patients currently in KEMH.

7. Will there be reduced access to KEMH like last time?

- A. There are still physical restrictions in place at KEMH. Currently no vehicles are permitted to park in the KEMH access road with the exception of patients asked to attend for assessment, the hot ambulance and special deliveries. The public path connecting St Marys Walk and Thatcher Drive also has restricted access, with the exception of staff and key workers. We are also asking people to use hand sanitiser when on the premises and to observe the one-way system and social distancing measures. In terms of access to services, we are continuing to review our clinical capacity across all of our primary and secondary care, and this has been the case since the pandemic began, given that it continues to impact on our ability to send patients away for treatment or to bring specialists to the Islands. For the moment people requiring a medical appointment should contact KEMH in the usual way.

8. Will this positive case affect planned public events, such as on 14 November?

- A. There is no reason why this would affect the demining celebrations or any other public activities, as the person with the positive result has not been in contact with any members of the community. We would only need to consider limiting social contact between people should we see a cluster of Covid-19 cases in the Islands. Social gatherings can continue as usual although we encourage people to follow good public health hygiene measures as previously advised.

9. What does this mean for students returning from the UK next month?

- A. The government has already written to parents to remind them of the quarantine requirements. This positive result has served to highlight just how important it is to make sure that we all adhere to the rules and regulations. There will continue to be information sent out to students prior to their departure from the UK and PWD and the Education Directorate are working together to offer quarantine support to students, such as by placing them in small groups to quarantine together. A Public Service Announcement will be sent out across the community as a reminder that ALL visitors arriving in the Islands for the festive break will still be subject to quarantine. Due to changes in the quarantine regulations, from 16 November anyone collecting a visitor from the airport will themselves be required to go into quarantine thereafter.