

4 August 2020

Shanna Reeder

By email: [fyi-request-13249-56124d70@requests.fyi.org.nz](mailto:fyi-request-13249-56124d70@requests.fyi.org.nz)  
Ref: H202005067

Dear Shanna Reeder

### **Response to your request for official information**

Thank you for your request under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) on 7 July 2020 for:

*“Our union represents workers at most of the hotels commissioned by the New Zealand Government to provide self-isolation and quarantine accommodation during Covid-19. We have requested each employer provide us with information on the training given to staff and the policies and guidelines they’re required to work under during this period. We have been informed by the employers they’re unable to provide us with this information and we must request directly from Worksafe, Ministry of Health and Ministry of Defence therefore we are requesting you provide us with this information urgently. Our members are lawfully entitled to be, and feel safe at their place of work and in good faith we make this request on their behalf.*

*We have also requested information on what will happen should a staff member contract Covid-19. We have been told should this happen Ministry of Health will manage the situation. Therefore we request the information on what process will be implement should this occur (if it has not already.)”*

The Ministry of Health (the Ministry) has used standard operating procedures and provided relevant principles to use when training staff at the facilities. These include use of personal protective equipment (PPE), physical distancing from guests, a General Practitioner referral pathway and daily health assessments before commencing work.

Guidance on cleaning following a confirmed (or probable) case of COVID-19 can be found on the Ministry website at: [https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid-19 -  
\\_guidance on cleaning.pdf](https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/covid-19_-_guidance_on_cleaning.pdf)

Information on PPE for workers can be found at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-workers>

An operational framework for Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities has been developed and is anticipated to be provided to district health boards (DHBs) in the week commencing 3 August 2020. It is anticipated that this will be published on the Ministry website by end of August, with regular updates. This is a facility operation guide for the DHBs to use going forward. This guide will be updated regularly to include other important information relevant to running facilities.

Should a staff member test positive for COVID-19, the local DHB and Public Health Unit (PHU) would then manage the ongoing health, contact tracing activities and isolation/containment activities. The PHU would interview the staff member with a positive result to understand how the staff member might have been exposed and who else might be at risk. The PHU would undertake all case investigation and management including any testing of other people and contact tracing. The staff member would likely be managed in a quarantine facility until deemed to no longer be infectious.

I trust this information fulfils your request. Under section 28(3) of the Act you have the right to ask the Ombudsman to review any decisions made under this request.

Please note that this response, with your personal details removed, may be published on the Ministry website.

Yours sincerely



Natalie Richardson  
Director  
**COVID-19 Health System Response**