



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI

HEALTH COMMITTEE

**Briefing on the Government's
response to COVID-19**

Responses to written questions 1 – 7

September 2020

Managed Isolation and Quarantine

Question 1

While PPE is not required in cold zones at MIQ facilities, is physical distancing enforced in these communal cold zones - such as cafeterias - to limit the risk of transmission if one of the workers in that space has somehow contracted Covid-19? If not, why not?

Facilities operate at Level 4, and outside of returnee areas staff are expected to maintain physical distancing while inside facilities. If distancing cannot be maintained PPE should be worn.

Question 2

(If the Rydges maintenance worker is found to have not been wearing a mask) Did the Rydges maintenance worker enter any communal areas (cold zones) in which other members of staff would not have been wearing PPE? If so, is this where one or both of the two positive cases linked to the Rydges maintenance worker in these communal spaces at the same time?

Staff are not required to wear PPE when in areas that returnees do not access.

Question 3

What changes if any have been made to which areas of MIQ staff are required to wear PPE in response to the infection of the maintenance man at the Rydges?

None.

Question 4

Was the lift where the maintenance man may have contacted the virus a hot zone where staff were required to wear PPE?

The lift is 'returnee isolation area'. Staff must remain at least two metres from all returnees. If they are unable to do so they may wear a mask. They are not required to wear a mask when in these areas.

A facemask must be worn if physical distancing of at least 2m cannot be maintained. If a staff member is required to enter a returnee's room (i.e. for maintenance or cleaning), the returnee should not be present. If they are present a facemask must be worn. The returnee must also wear a mask. Interactions with returnees should be kept to a minimum. An N95/P2 respirator face mask should be worn by staff conducting specific on-site maintenance work.

Question 5

What changes have been made to protocols for where staff need to wear PPE at the Rydges following the positive test of a staff member, if any?

PPE requirements are standard for all facilities. No changes have been made to where staff need to wear PPE due to this incident.

Question 6

What changes have been made to protocols for where staff need to wear PPE at other MIQ facilities following the positive test of a staff member at the Rydges, if any?

PPE requirements are standard for all facilities. No changes have been made to where staff need to wear PPE due to this incident.

Question 7

For a worker to enter into a cold zone at a managed isolation facility, should it be mandatory that they have had up to date regular testing, to limit any chance of transmission between staff while they are not wearing PPE?

The response to this question has been provided by the Ministry of Health and can be found here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/about-ministry/information-releases/general-information-releases>