

Those held in two weeks managed quarantine after arriving in to Nauru following the Government's declaration of a national emergency to manage and minimize the impacts of coronavirus, will be allowed to go home this Saturday, 4April. The accommodation will be readied for the next plane load of arrivals from Brisbane.

The Government continues its capture and contains strategy and in today's (Tue 31Mar) daily update, President Lionel Aingimea says there are no cases of coronavirus on Nauru.

The machine to test for coronavirus arrived over the weekend via freighter service and is expected to do testing in the coming weeks. Test kits which were sourced from different suppliers are expected this weekend. Lab technicians will commence training on how to use the machine.

The National Coronavirus Taskforce and Nauru Airlines are still in talks with other governments on repatriating Nauruan, including students. Fiji has closed its borders and so the Government is seeking advice and alternatives for repatriation. The Marshall Islands has also put in a request for assistance to repatriate their students from Fiji. The Nauru Government is looking at all avenues to assist where it can.

Given the limited number of accommodation available for quarantine, the Government is working within its own constraints and will be handling repatriation in stages.

While most Nauruan's abroad are in countries already affected by coronavirus, the President says Nauru has a system in place to ensure the containment of the virus, and will bring its citizens back. The President said, "we must work with our capture and contain system and do all that is necessary" for everyone's protection and safety.

While the Nauru Government has not yet enforced social distancing or discouraged large gatherings, it encourages changing social behaviors such as to practice good hygiene and hand washing regardless of a coronavirus threat. Other social behavior measures already put in place by businesses and organizations, such as the 1.5 metre distancing, is not discouraged by the government.

The Ministry of Health and the Taskforce are finalizing response plans should Nauru have a confirmed case of coronavirus. The public will be advised accordingly.

--/-- (Photo: testing machine for coronavirus being moved into a section of the acute block ready for testing in the coming weeks)

