

Coronavirus Update

Travel Decision Making for NSOs

Decision Making Process for International Travel During Covid-19

There remain many unknowns regarding the future spread of Covid-19, and its long-term impact on communities. Important considerations when planning travel over the next few months include:

1. The risk to health of becoming infected with Covid-19
2. The quality and cost of care if unwell in a foreign country
3. The consequences for further travel, training and competition of becoming infected, or potentially being exposed to Covid-19
4. The potential difficulty of attempting to travel from a country in which Covid-19 has been spreading, to another country which is concerned about the potential for travellers from the first country to be the source of infection; even when those travellers themselves are in perfect health.
5. Does current travel insurance cover health and travel issues associated with Covid-19?

To further assist NSOs during this period of rapid change and uncertainty relating to Covid-19, the following 4-step framework provides a pragmatic approach to travel related decision making.

1. Information Gathering

During this period, information on as many of the issues raised below as is possible, should be sought. This will involve numerous team members consulting both internally and externally. Individuals should be identified as responsible for sourcing specific elements of information.

2. Decision Making

It is recommended that decision making process incorporate the sharing of gathered information amongst relevant NSO leadership, performance staff, administrative staff and Medical Directors. Consensus should be sought and where consensus is not reached, further organisational consultation (e.g. with HPSNZ) or gathering of information should be arranged.

3. Consultation

Where significant changes to competition or training locations/scheduling are being considered, consultation with Athletes representatives, and HPSNZ liaison through the appropriate PTL is recommended.

4. Communication

Any proposed change to competition and training may result in a range of responses from athletes and support staff. There should be consideration given to the mode of information delivery, and the opportunity for informed discussion regarding the decision making process.

The following '**Coronavirus Information Framework**' is provided to help NSOs and individuals planning international travel, make an informed decision during the current Coronavirus situation.

General Background

- Where is the travel planned for?
- How many individuals are travelling?
- What is the duration of the travel to different locations?
- What is the proposed flight plan, including any lay-overs and transit points?
- How essential is the travel – are there alternatives?

Travellers' Health

- Do team members have any specific health concerns that increase the chance of catching or having a poor outcome from Covid-19 (e.g. Is anyone specifically immune compromised through known health issues)?
- Do team members have family or others in New Zealand with particular risks should Covid-19 be brought back to New Zealand (e.g. Pregnancy, immune compromised)?
- Are any of the broader travelling group elderly, or young children?
- Are team members well informed, and are there appropriate hand sanitiser / hand wash and hygiene protocols and behaviours established?
- Is anyone on the team currently unwell?
- Does anyone on the team have other concerns regarding travel in the current environment?

International Locations

- What is the current number of confirmed Covid-19 infections in the country / region where travel is planned?
- What is the status of health care facilities, expertise and access in the proposed travel location?
- Are individuals from other countries going to be at the same location/event/accommodation?
- Are individuals from countries currently experiencing Covid-19 outbreaks going to be at the same location/accommodation?
- Is most of 'communal time' going to be indoors or outdoors (indoor locations theoretically favour proximity and virus transmission)?
- What is the nature of the event / training (i.e. Is there are requirement for close contact between individuals)?

Regulatory Considerations

- What is the current advice from the New Zealand Government and the individual country's government regarding travel to that location?
- What is the current advice or regulation from countries that may be visited after the country in question, with regard to travel from that country?
- What advice is available from local event organisers / International Federations or other authorities?

If you have further questions, please reference the websites and New Zealand Ministry of Health links highlighted below.

For personal health considerations, your NSO Medical Director or General Practitioner will be able to provide support.

- **World Health Organization:**
<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019>
- **NZ Ministry of Health:**
<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov>

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-novel-coronavirus-health-advice-general-public>
- **Safetravel NZ:**
<https://www.safetravel.govt.nz/news/novel-coronavirus-china-2019-ncov>

