

## RE: Greg Mortimer passengers - closing the loop

**From:** "Melissa Skilbeck (DHHS)" REDACTED  
 REDACTED  
**To:** "Andrea Spiteri (DHHS)" REDACTED "Braedan Hogan (DHHS)"  
 REDACTED "Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS)"  
**Date:** Thu, 09 Apr 2020 19:44:29 +1000

Any changes – anyone pre8pm?

Thank you

Point 1-2 are fine

Point 3 – Terry has advised RMH and Alfred are best to deal with worst-case numbers and potential complexity – even if we were to have small numbers it is best to have two to maximise flow of patients into Emergency

Point 4 - We have one contracted hotel who is ready willing and able to accept COVID-positive guests – Rydges Swanton Street

At this late stage of planning it would be risky to seek to convince another hotel to contract to take such guests.

Regards,  
 Melissa

**Melissa Skilbeck**

Deputy Secretary | Regulation, Health Protection and Emergency Management

REDACTED

**From:** Kym Peake (DHHS) REDACTED

**Sent:** Thursday, 9 April 2020 7:01 PM

**To:** Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS) REDACTED Brett Sutton (DHHS)

REDACTED Melissa Skilbeck (DHHS) REDACTED Terry

Symonds (DHHS) REDACTED; Andrea Spiteri (DHHS)

REDACTED Jacinda de Witts (DHHS) REDACTED Finn

Romanes (DHHS) REDACTED

**Subject:** RE: Greg Mortimer passengers - closing the loop

Further steer

Flight will be proceeding.

Annaliese – I think now is the time to reflect your suggestion of two flights to separate people who have not tested positive.

Premier has also requested that we use a hotel that is close to the airport, not in the CBD. If possible could we say tonight which hotel that would be? If not, we can confirm with everyone as soon as possible

Please let me know if there are any concerns/adjustments to the following points that I will provide to REDA to share centrally

Actions in train:

1. Email from SCC to NIR/Commonwealth outlining significant concerns with the safety of transporting such a large number of confirmed cases of a listed human disease on a long haul flight and seeking assurance that medical coverage and equipment on the flight is increased to appropriate levels. Also determining whether separate flights could be chartered to reduce the risk of further infection – so that people who have not tested positive are kept separate from confirmed cases for the flight home.
2. Planning for landing including FEMO attendance at the airport, field tent to be set up, ambulances on site, further ambulances ready to go. Consistent with arrival protocols, all returned travellers will be assessed and transported airside (they won't come through the terminal)
3. Consultation with RMH, Western, Alfred and Monash on arrangements to receive
  - a. anyone known to be COVID positive who is seriously unwell, plus
  - b. anyone who has not tested positive but is displaying symptoms on arrival, for assessment and testing

4. Remainder of passengers to be transferred to a dedicated hotel close to the airport (not in the CBD)

Kym

**Kym Peake**

Secretary

Department of Health and Human Services

Level 1, 50 Lonsdale Street, Melbourne 3000

REDACTED

**From:** Annaliese Van Diemen (DHHS) REDACTED

**Sent:** Thursday, 9 April 2020 6:09 PM

**To:** Brett Sutton (DHHS) REDACTED; Kym Peake (DHHS)

REDACTED; Melissa Skilbeck (DHHS) REDACTED Terry

Symonds (DHHS) REDACTED; Andrea Spiteri (DHHS)

REDACTED Jacinda de Witts (DHHS) REDACTED; Finn

Romanes (DHHS) REDACTED

**Subject:** Greg Mortimer passengers - closing the loop

Dear all,

Huge amount of rapid work on this today, just closing the loop on next steps in this process and ensuring we are covered/ready to go regardless of what decisions are made at Commonwealth level re; flight leaving:

1. Email from myself to NIR/Commonwealth outlining significant concerns with the safety of transporting such a large number of confirmed cases of a listed human disease on a long haul flight and requesting that confirmed cases are managed in country until they are non-infectious – **ANNALIESE**
2. Request that if the Uruguayan government send the passengers regardless, that the medical coverage on the flight is increased to appropriate levels as per discussions with REDACTED REDACTED – **ANNALIESE**
3. If the flight takes off regardless, put in place plan at the airport for landing including FEMO attendance at the airport, field tent to be set up, ambulances on site, further ambulances ready to go – **FINN** with assistance from Braedan Hogan and REDACTED, (to be overseen by Human Biosecurity Officer on Sunday morning – Annaliese as Acting CHO)
4. Ensure there is adequate hospital capacity to take a potentially large number of cases when the flight lands – **TERRY** – RMH/Western +/- Alfred and Monash
5. Remainder of passengers to be transferred to hotels as per existing logistics plan for mandatory hospital detention – **As per roster for weekend**

I will check back in with this group as soon as we have any further updates from NIR regarding planned take off of the flight or otherwise. Please let me know if there is anything I have missed or more information has come to light since an hour ago.

Kind Regards

Annaliese

**Dr Annaliese van Diemen** MBBS BMedSc MPH FRACGP FAFPHM

**Public Health Commander- COVID-19 Department Incident Management Team**

**Deputy Chief Health Officer (Communicable Disease)**

Regulation, Health Protection & Emergency Management

Department of Health & Human Services | 14 / 50 Lonsdale St

REDACTED

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The Department of Health and Human Services respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Owners of Country throughout Victoria and pays its respect to the ongoing living cultures of Aboriginal peoples.