



**MINISTRY OF HEALTH**  
GOVERNMENT OF TONGA

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## **No attempted escape from Tanoa Quarantine Facility**

21 July, 2020

The Ministry of Health has received feedback from passengers inside quarantine disputing social media posts alluding to an attempted escape from Tanoa Quarantine Facility.

“We are not happy with the fake news that is being spread that 2 tried to escape from quarantine. The truth is no one did and it is disappointing that we are hearing this, ” said one passenger in quarantine who did not wish to be named.

In a press conference on Monday 20 July, 2020, a news reporter asked if there had been any attempted escape from Tanoa Quarantine Facility.

Dr. Reynold 'Ofanoa, Chief Medical Officer, confirmed that there were no attempted escapes and that the daily briefing from Dr. 'Ana Mahe inside the yellow zone of the Tanoa Quarantine Facility was positive although it noted two students who had come out of their room and stood outside their doors to chat outside the allowed times and were strongly warned by HMAF staff; they never left the hotel nor attempted to and no further disobedience to this warning has been reported since.

The Ministry of Health asks the public to verify any concerns by calling 0800933 or to watch the Live Press Conferences and message the Ministry of Health Facebook Page for the most up to date and accurate information.

“We thank the media for disseminating accurate information as this is a key pillar in our response to COVID-19 as false information can create unnecessary public alarm and it is irresponsible to spread false information. This is a serious issue and we thank the media and the public for their assistance,” added Dr. 'Ofanoa.

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