

NEW ZEALAND

Covid 19 coronavirus: A history of escapes from isolation/quarantine in New Zealand

25 Jul, 2020 7:20am

2 minutes to read



A security guard locks the main entrance at the Stamford Plaza Hotel in Auckland. Security was upgraded at the managed isolation hotel after a man escaped from the smoking area. Photo / Dean Purcell

NZ Herald

An adult and four children have been detailed in Hamilton and Auckland, accused of escaping from managed isolation last night.

They are the latest in a series of alleged escapes from managed isolation and quarantine facilities, which have led to widespread public condemnation and increased security measures.

July 4

Suzanne Marie Derrett, 43, allegedly scaled two fences at the Pullman Hotel in Auckland's CBD and made off on foot. She was located by authorities nearly two hours later, two blocks away on Anzac Ave.

Derrett was charged with failing to comply with a Covid-19 order in court. A medical report said Derrett had been dealing with mental health issues. **Access New Zealand's best journalism** From \$1.50 per week* T's and C's apply.

Special digital deal

Subscribe now and get 70% off for the first 8 weeks

~~\$5~~
\$1.50 per week

Subscribe now

SEE ALL OFFERS

The Pullman Hotel in central Auckland, which is being used as managed isolation for returnees from overseas.

She had returned from Brisbane on June 27 and returned a negative test on her third day of isolation. She is due back in court on Monday.

July 7

A 32 year-old man in managed isolation at Auckland's Stamford Plaza slipped through a gap in fencing around the smoking area.

He went a 70-minute excursion, which included shopping at a central city Countdown supermarket, where he took selfies in the aisles. He returned to the hotel, and then tested positive for Covid-19 the next day.

He was expected to be charged and receive a summons to appear in court once he was cleared from quarantine.

Related articles:

Access New Zealand's best journalism

From \$1.50 per week* T's and C's apply.

WORLD

Can an osteoporosis drug be the key to stopping Covid 19?25 Jul, 2020 8:44am
2 minutes to read

WORLD

Fears grow as virus cases in Spain surge25 Jul, 2020 6:47am
4 minutes to read

WORLD

Mutated Covid 19 spreads faster around the world25 Jul, 2020 7:07am
3 minutes to read

WORLD

Game-changing shift for Australia: PM's new virus strategy mirrors NZ's24 Jul, 2020 8:19pm
6 minutes to read

Special digital deal

Subscribe now and get 70% off for the first 8 weeks

\$5
\$1.50 per week

Subscribe now

SEE ALL OFFERS

The "reckless" breach of isolation led to a significant scaling-up of security at all facilities. A police officer was placed at all hotels, two-metre fences were installed, and stricter checks were introduced for exemptions from isolation or quarantine.

July 9

Queenstown man Martin James McVicar, 52, broke out of the Distinction Hotel in Hamilton. McVicar allegedly cut through fence ties and walked 10 minutes to buy beer and wine.

He was jailed at Spring Hill Prison and charged with failing to comply with Covid-19 public health laws. He was also charged over intentional damage to a television at the hotel.

Access New Zealand's best journalism

From \$1.50 per week* T's and C's apply.

Special digital deal

Subscribe now and get 70% off for the
first 8 weeks

^{\$5}
\$1.50 per week

Subscribe now

SEE ALL OFFERS

Martin McVicar appearing via audio visual link at the Hamilton District Court after absconding from the Distinction Hotel.