



Decisions by the COVID-19 Ministerial Group

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COVID-19: Auckland Community Cases: Physical Distancing on Flights at Alert Level 4

Portfolio **COVID-19 Response**

On 17 August 2021, following advice that a community case of COVID-19 had been identified in Auckland, Cabinet authorised a group of Ministers comprising the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for COVID-19 Response and Associate Minister of Health (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall) to have Power to Act to take decisions on Alert Level 4 timings and settings [CAB-21-MIN-0324].

Following discussions on 18 August 2021 with officials and Ministers, the group of Ministers with Power to Act:

- 1 **noted** that Ministers have agreed that, to enable people to return home as soon as possible, physical distancing was not expected on domestic passenger flights at Alert Level 4 for the first 48 hours;
- 2 **agreed** that physical distancing was expected for all domestic passenger flights following the initial 48 hour period;
- 3 **agreed** that wearing an appropriate face covering continue to be required on all domestic passenger flights throughout the period of the flight;
- 4 **agreed** that the requirements for the physical distancing on flights be reviewed when New Zealand moves to Alert Level 3 or 2.

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