

# COVID-19 System response to recommendations from the review report into the February 2021 Auckland Outbreak

The COVID19 Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group completed a review into the February 2021 Auckland outbreak, there were areas for improvements identified through the recommendations. The Minister for COVID19 has prioritised three workstreams, Contact tracing; Capacity for a large outbreak; and, Coordinated System-wide scenario planning in which there is a requirement to publicly report on progress. The below is the agreed work plan which address these priorities.

<p><b>Contact Tracing</b></p> <p>Responsible agency Ministry of Health</p>	<p><b>Improvement opportunities</b></p> <p>The new contact definitions should be removed. Individuals should simply be aware of whether they are a close or a casual contact and what, for the particular outbreak, they need to do, as defined in the outbreak plan.</p>	<p><b>Work Programme: work underway</b></p> <p>Ministry of Health: Contact categories will no longer be used in communications to the public in an outbreak.</p> <p>Minister Verrall will seek further advice on how risk assessments of locations of interest are carried out using the current contact category framework.</p>
<p><b>System capacity and Capability</b></p> <p>Assurance via the COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board (CCB)</p>	<p><b>Improvement opportunities</b></p> <p>The COVID-19 Response System capacity necessary to contain a large outbreak should be clarified and agreed, then established properly, including with adequate resource and staffing.</p> <p>Strategies for addressing tiredness and burnout, while injecting freshness and ongoing self-reflection and self-criticism should be evident and implemented at all levels.</p>	<p><b>Work Programme: work underway</b></p> <p>Ministry of Health: increases in wider health workforce staffing underway.</p> <p>Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission: Working with core COVID-19 Chief Executives to build resilience across the system and ongoing support and sustainability of the public service response.</p> <p>COVID-19 Chief Executives: establishing rosters for response activities.</p>
<p><b>Stocktake and monitoring of recommendations</b></p> <p>Assurance via the COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board (CCB)</p>	<p><b>Improvement opportunities</b></p> <p>Recommendations from various reviews should be collated and reported on regularly to support continuous improvement by ensuring recommendations are actioned or otherwise addressed.</p>	<p><b>Work Programme: work underway</b></p> <p>Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet: Leading the work on the stocktake of review recommendations and ongoing reporting. Progress against review recommendations will be reported to the Minister for COVID-19 Response on a monthly basis (first report due at the end of June).</p>
<p><b>System-wide Scenario Planning</b></p> <p>Coordinating agency Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet</p>	<p><b>Improvement opportunities</b></p> <p>A rolling schedule of scenario planning should now be coordinated by specialists in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet, with a continuous stress testing regime.</p> <p>Improvements should be made to the COVID-19 response system as necessary.</p>	<p><b>Work Programme: work underway</b></p> <p>Overview of the draft workplan for scenario planning for the remainder of 2021 is below. DPMC will facilitate a series of planning workshops, focussing primarily on New Zealand's domestic preparedness for a potential COVID-19 response, and also contributing where possible to preparations for any Cook Islands COVID-19 response, and assisting in QFT response arrangements as required.</p> <p>Key considerations to work through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- High density events</li> <li>- Spread of outbreak – local, regional, national</li> <li>- Communication channels</li> <li>- High density living complex</li> <li>- Outbreaks at community event (i.e. – church, public holiday)</li> <li>- Outbreaks in ethnically diverse communities</li> </ul>