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**DEPARTMENT OF THE  
PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET**  
TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA



**BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD**



**NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE**  
MANATŪ AORERE



# COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

17 September 2021

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# 1. Status Summary

Key		
Symbol	Colour	Meaning
●	Green	On track, no roadblocks, no significant delays anticipated
●	Amber	Slow progression, some delays, some roadblocks present
●	Red	Not progressing, on hold, significant delays

## Border

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	MoH	●	●	<p><b>Border Worker Testing Register</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 15 September 2021:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 267 Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) covering 16,273 active workers in the BTWR. 2 New PCBUs were added in the past week.</li> <li>5,924 of the active workers are listed as working in MIQF facilities and 10,349 at the air or maritime borders. Of these, 95 per cent have been compliant in meeting their mandatory testing requirements.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Of the border workers currently active in the BWTR:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>90 per cent have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.</li> <li>6 per cent have had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine.</li> <li>The remaining 4 per cent represent workers in the BWTR who have not been vaccinated yet or have not been matched to their vaccination record due to the absence of NHI-matching in the CIR.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Border Worker Saliva Testing National Rollout</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 15 September 2021:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1,147 border workers have opted into saliva testing. This number will fluctuate due to the dynamic nature of our border workforce.</li> <li>Of the 678 active workers who are undertaking saliva testing, 95 per cent are compliant in meeting their testing requirements.</li> <li>75 collection points at 29 sites are in place for saliva testing.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p><b>Staff Testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance reporting is at 98%, for staff who worked in the week of 6-12 September 2021 (a 1% decrease on last week).</li> <li>87 workers on site in the week of 6-12 September 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue (2%). The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers.</li> </ul> <p><b>Vaccinations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 6-12 September 2021, 96.5% have had two doses of the vaccine, 1.7% had one dose and 1.7% have vaccination status 'unknown'.</li> <li>Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not find any incidents of breaches of the vaccination order.</li> <li>There were no vaccine exemptions granted last week.</li> </ul>
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	MBIE	●	●	<p><b>Saliva Testing</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 14 September 2021, 234 MIQ workers are opted-in across the 16 sites that are currently operational at the time of reporting (Wellington, Rotorua, Hamilton, Christchurch, Auckland quarantine).</li> <li>We are working closely with the Ministry of Health on the proposed changes to the Required Testing Order in line with your expectations, and how these can be successfully rolled out, and when they can happen.</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QFT from Australia remains suspended and as a result of New Zealand's current domestic outbreak, on 19 August 2021 Australia suspended QFT from New Zealand.</li> </ul>
Two-way QFT with Australia	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Given the ongoing Delta outbreak in Auckland, which remains the only port of air entry to Niue, a cautious approach is being taken to any new timeframe for commencement of two-way QFT.</li> <li>NZ Health officials will work with Niue Health officials on a joint plan to address the identified areas for further work prior to any agreed timeframe for two-way QFT commencement. s7(b)(i), s7(b)(iii)</li> <li>A cross-Agency joint Ministerial briefing is being prepared for the end of September, which will provide advice on the process and timeline for commencement of two-way QFT between Niue and New Zealand.</li> </ul>
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s7(b)(i), s7(b)(iii)</li> <li>Officials are preparing advice for the Minister for COVID-19 on next steps, s6(b)(i)</li> <li>s7(b)(i), s7(b)(iii)</li> </ul>

### Border (continued)

Reopening new travel pathways - Pacific Islands	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Cook Islands will remain at Alert Level 2 until there has been 14 days in New Zealand without any new cases of community transmission of COVID-19. In addition, no inward arrivals to the Cook Islands are permitted until 11.59pm on 28 September 2021.</li> <li>The Cook Islands Government is preparing for the return of Cook Islands residents from NZ who may soon be repatriated on a flight from Christchurch.</li> <li>Cook Island officials are meeting with NZ Government officials ahead of any planned repatriation to share learnings and experience on running an MIQ, particularly in light of the Delta variant outbreak.</li> </ul>
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ahead of a paper seeking Cabinet agreement on 27 September to commence QFT, talks with partners continue on how to implement the additional health requirements agreed by Cabinet.</li> <li>Work continues on the traveller pre-registration processes in each country, including how to incorporate evidence of vaccination.</li> <li>Repatriation pathways for citizens who refuse vaccination in New Zealand are still under discussion in light of partners' current or forthcoming vaccination entry requirements.</li> <li>RSE industry and airlines are preparing for workers to travel under QFT from October.</li> <li>s6(a), s6(b)(i)</li> <li>Vanuatu: The Arrangement and repatriation plan texts have been agreed (with amendments based on the new, staged approach still needing sign-off) and will go to Vanuatu Cabinet for information. Designation of Air Vanuatu as a QFT carrier is expected to be completed by commencement. s6(b)(i)</li> <li>Samoa: The Arrangement text is expected to be finalised by 16 September, with Cabinet confirmation on both sides then required. Samoa has signalled its comfort with the initial ceiling of 1,200 RSE workers agreed by NZ Cabinet.</li> </ul>

### Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community

Place and conditions of stay	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Crowne Plaza has been approved to start taking returnees again. The Holiday Inn will no longer accept any more arrivals from the managed isolation class. It will remain a dual facility until those from the managed isolation class (who are currently isolating there) have left, at which point it will be solely a quarantine facility. MBIE are working to increase security for MIQ facilities.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Ventilation Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ventilation remediation work has been completed for six facilities (26% of rooms across the entire portfolio). Four are nearing completion; and 15 more are underway.</li> <li>The ventilation upgrade programme is aiming for completion around the end of 2021, or early 2022. Ventilation remediation work continues with urgency for the remaining facilities.</li> <li>Four Points ventilation remediation and maintenance will go ahead, but with a revised start date of 30 September 2021 (this has been pushed back from 13 September 2021). The work will take approx. 10 days.</li> <li>Remediation work for Grand Mercure (Wellington) continues on track to be completed in early October.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Renewing Contracts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We are in the process of undertaking negotiations with the Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch, concerning draft conditional Heads of Agreement.</li> <li>We now have signed the legal contract for 28 facilities, with two further contracts currently out for signing.</li> <li>This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotels.</li> </ul>

**Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community (Continued)**

Post-managed isolation processes	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Fees collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The new backlog solution has been completed, and is in production. The process to email returnees from August 2020 has begun with one week processed. We are starting slowly, to provide an opportunity to iron out any issues identified before ramping up at a later date.</li> <li>Due to the low quality of data from August 2020, most emails produced by the system do not have a known email address. We are working through options to obtain valid email addresses and responding to the first returnee email replies.</li> <li>We are ramping up our ongoing invoicing following an update to the system.</li> <li>Ongoing invoicing has restarted after a system upgrade (release 8) was released last week. It includes the incorporation of critical worker and critical health worker data (currently identified manually) and NSW returnees on managed flights, plus improved data matching.</li> <li>We are currently investigating the invoicing of Afghanistan returnees, aircrew and pause jumpers.</li> <li>We are currently investigating whether the MIQ website or customer portal could be used to allow credit card payments. Once resources are available, and an option is decided to move credit card payments forward, a timeline will be put together.</li> </ul> <p><i>Debt Recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the now 363 invoices worth \$1.18m sent to a debt collection agency, \$113,000 (up \$29k, 10%) has been paid (or will be paid through instalment), \$168,000 is currently awaiting information from customers or has been credited due to an error, a further \$191,000 requires more detailed tracing, and the remaining \$696,000 debt - which includes passive collection as they are still working on this as well - continues to be a work in progress.</li> <li>This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices and while we continue to make progress on debt recovery.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>P2/N95 Mask Implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The wearing of P2/N95 masks, and the third week of implementation, have been highly supported by employers and unions.</li> <li>Communication continues to reinforce that wearing a fit checked P2/N95 provides workers with a significantly higher level of protection against airborne transmission, compared to medical masks.</li> <li>Some workers have highlighted issues of discomfort and preferences for particular mask models.</li> <li>The fit testing process will determine the right mask for an individual, and worker feedback will be addressed as part of the implementation.</li> <li>Consultation with employers and unions has been extended to 14 September 2021, and MBIE will then make a decision on whether it will become mandatory for non-health workers to use P2/N95s and be fit tested.</li> <li>We continue to work towards implementation of fit testing of all workers from October 2021.</li> </ul>

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### Community Protection

Case investigation, surveillance and testing

Agency	Last Week	This Week	
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Case details are provided in other reporting.</li> <li>In Auckland there are 23 testing sites for the public, 6 usual CTCs and 17 pop up sites.</li> <li>In Wellington there are 3 usual CTCs for public testing. This is not likely to change unless there is a local case.</li> <li>Cross Boundary Crossing                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>From 11.59pm 16 September, compliance checks by New Zealand Police will be undertaken at the boundary, and permitted workers must provide the following documents if stopped at an alert level boundary:                                     <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Proof of ID.</li> <li>Evidence of permitted travel.</li> <li>Proof of test, or proof of exemption for testing.</li> <li>If stopped, permitted workers who do not have the above documents will be turned around at the boundary.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>Those who need to get tested can go to any community testing facility nationwide or book in with their GP. Saliva testing is also an option. 190 employers, covering more than 2700 employees signing up to use saliva. More than 350 individuals have also signed up for saliva testing.</li> <li>Employers are reminded that they must have processes in place for compliance of their workforce to this testing requirement, and they need to ensure all affected workers are aware of their obligations and are provided with the opportunity, as far as is reasonably practicable, to get tested.</li> </ul>

### Vaccination

Implementation and operation

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 14 September 2021 4,444,065 vaccinations have been delivered, including 1,506,474 people who are fully vaccinated.</li> <li>As at 14 September 2021, 13,676 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 8,151 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.</li> <li>As of 14 September 2021, Book My Vaccine holds 1,700,000 future bookings at 600 sites.</li> <li>The expected Pfizer delivery of 322,920 doses arrived as scheduled.</li> <li>The additional delivery of 274,950 Pfizer doses purchased from Spain arrived on 10 September 2021.</li> <li>The agreement to purchase 500,000 Pfizer doses from Denmark has been finalised, the first shipment of 250,000 doses is expected to arrive Wednesday 15 September 2021.</li> <li>The My Covid Record (the new web application for people to view their vaccine records) pilot is proceeding well and on track for launch to the public in October.</li> <li>The Ministry continues to work with DHBs and the wider healthcare sector to vaccinate frontline essential services workers as a priority.</li> <li>The use of drive-through clinics continues to be a successful method of increasing vaccine uptake, particularly among Māori, Pasifika, and disabled people.</li> <li>Vaccination sites will be operating under Level 2 and 4 conditions. This means mask wearing and observing physical distancing is essential. People with appointments booked have been advised to attend their appointments unless they are contacted by their DHB.</li> </ul>

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**Resurgence Planning and Response**

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Resurgence planning including	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National Response plan Q4 is now under the review process, for a 1 October release to agencies.</li> <li>A decision on proactive release of National Response plan Q4 is to be requested of CCB on 12 October.</li> <li>Lesson management processes are underway to capture lessons identified, with a weekly hot debrief, and planning for a wider system interim review has commenced.</li> </ul>
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work is continuing on a Readiness Framework, and confirming the remaining readiness workshops for 2021.</li> </ul>
Readiness planning	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Key activities have included the establishment of a AL4/2 boundary, development of surveillance testing (both within the Health workforce in Auckland for permitted travellers to cross the boundary) and acceptance and unloading of the Container Vessel Rio De La Plata in the Port of Tauranga.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>MIQ capacity and our workforce are being pushed to their limit, due to the combination of a need to quarantine community cases, the facilitation of Afghan refugees, along with ongoing border arrivals. However, we are starting to see the pressure ease from our quarantine, with the drop in requirement for additional quarantine facilities and community cases continuing to decline.</li> <li>We remain very cognisant of the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff, especially those in our quarantine facilities. This week a fifth staff member tested positive for COVID-19 during the time we have been managing the community cases.</li> <li>There remains pressure on our isolation capacity and a range of decisions are being taken in response, including changing group arrivals, deferring ventilation maintenance, and the temporary pause on release of vouchers (which will end next week). We are reverting the Grand Mercure Wellington MIF back to a dual use facility as the majority of the community cases have departed and we can continue to ease the pressure on Auckland with this accepted general returnees again.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>QFT Travel Pause</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Air New Zealand flight from Sydney arrived in Auckland on 15 September 2021, carrying 87 passengers requiring 58 rooms (all emergency allocations).</li> <li>A possible further flight is being planned from Melbourne with Air New Zealand on 26 September 2021.</li> <li>Officials from the Ministry of Transport and MIQ are liaising with Air New Zealand about possible red flights in October 2021, if the QFT suspension is extended. These will be confirmed once an announcement has been made.</li> <li>If QFT travel suspension is extended, MIQ vouchers to support red flights from Australia in October/November are being planned for release late September, in a second lobby release.</li> </ul>
QFT Response	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>QFT Travel Pause</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>An Air New Zealand flight from Sydney arrived in Auckland on 15 September 2021, carrying 87 passengers requiring 58 rooms (all emergency allocations).</li> <li>A possible further flight is being planned from Melbourne with Air New Zealand on 26 September 2021.</li> <li>Officials from the Ministry of Transport and MIQ are liaising with Air New Zealand about possible red flights in October 2021, if the QFT suspension is extended. These will be confirmed once an announcement has been made.</li> <li>If QFT travel suspension is extended, MIQ vouchers to support red flights from Australia in October/November are being planned for release late September, in a second lobby release.</li> </ul>

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## 2. COVID-19 Insights

### 2.1 Insight of Note Written by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Section Heading

#### 2.1.1 International Examples of Point of Departure Testing

##### **Introduction**

Many countries are opening their borders to non-essential travel, or are in the process of doing so. In order to mitigate risk, countries are placing restrictions on who is allowed to enter their country based on factors such as vaccination status, country of origin, and whether the person has a negative pre-departure test. In order to encourage travel, a number of airports have begun offering testing at the airport, termed “point of departure” testing.

This brief insight report covers point of departure testing. Point of departure testing as defined in the context of this insight, is COVID-19 testing which can be taken pre-flight at an airport, with results returned within a matter of hours. In this insight we have analysed the two most common forms of point of departure testing: rapid antigen testing (RAT), and PCR testing. The report also briefly mentions other COVID-19 tests which are occurring pre-departure at airports. This insight is not intended to be comprehensive, and further analysis can be provided if required.

##### **Rapid Antigen Testing**

Many airports are offering RAT at the point of departure in order to facilitate an increase in travel, rather than PCR tests which take longer for a result. RATs are carried out by taking a nasopharyngeal swab of the traveller, which is placed in an extraction solution, which is then in turn applied to the test device.<sup>1</sup> Most RATs will produce results in less than a couple of hours, and in some cases in as little as 15 minutes. RATs are available at many of the world’s major travel hubs including London Heathrow, Frankfurt Airport, and Istanbul Airport.<sup>2</sup> In most instances RATs are processed at location by airport testing partners such as Collinson at Heathrow airport.<sup>3</sup>

A number of countries are allowing travellers through their borders with negative RAT results, as long as other criteria are met. For example, travellers to France can enter the country assuming they have taken a RAT no more than 72 hours before travel, and all other criteria are met.<sup>4</sup> Other countries which currently accept RATs as a pre-departure test include Germany,<sup>5</sup> the United Kingdom,<sup>6</sup> Greece,<sup>7</sup> Iceland,<sup>8</sup> and the United States of America,<sup>9</sup> although in each instance travellers must meet other criteria for travel to be permitted.

##### **PCR Testing**

For some destinations, however, RATs are not sufficient to meet entry requirements, with travellers required to take a PCR test before travelling. Most PCR testing takes longer than 24 hours for results to be returned, and as such, is not considered to be a point of departure test, even where it is carried out at airports.<sup>10</sup>

Most PCR tests are carried out using nasopharyngeal swabs. However, saliva samples can also be used.<sup>11</sup> An example of where saliva-based testing is used is at Zurich airport, where Ender’s Diagnostics’ self-test kits are sold. These tests are carried out in test spaces without the assistance of medical personnel and can return a result in 5 hours.<sup>12</sup>

There have however, been developments to PCR testing which have shortened the time travellers must wait for PCR test results. For example, at Istanbul Airport, PCR tests are processed in laboratories established on site, rather than sending samples to an offsite lab. This means that test results can be obtained within 90 minutes of the test being taken. Foreign travellers are given a printed copy of results from the airport information desk.<sup>13</sup>

Similarly, at Tokyo Narita Airport, Nippon Medical School foundation have set up a PCR testing centre for international departures. Testing is available without appointments and results are available within two hours.



Also, some airports are using rapid PCR testing machines, to further reduce the time taken to get PCR test results. A rapid PCR testing facility was recently set up at Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport, by private company Genestrings Diagnostic Centre for passengers due to board flights. The airport facility has approximately 50 Abbot ID NOW Rapid PCR Machines, that can provide results in 45-60 minutes.<sup>16 17</sup>

A number of US airports are also offering rapid PCR tests, through private company XpresCheck. Testing is run onsite and results are provided in as little as 60 minutes while travellers wait.<sup>18</sup> Airports providing this service include Boston Logan Airport, New York JFK Airport,<sup>19</sup> and Houston George Bush International Airport,<sup>20</sup> amongst others.

#### **Other COVID-19 Pre-Departure Tests at Airports**

Other tests offered at some airports include the antibody test, which tests for the presence of antibodies in blood samples,<sup>21</sup> indicating a previous infection or vaccination but does not specify whether you are currently infected or not, and the Loop-mediated Isothermal Amplification test or LAMP. LAMP testing is used to test for current infection and is accepted as a pre-departure test in some countries including the United Kingdom.<sup>22</sup>

### 2.1.2 Employee COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements – Brief Insights Report

#### **Introduction**

This brief insight report provides an overview of employee COVID-19 vaccination requirements across New Zealand. This encompasses public agencies, organisations falling within the purview of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021, and private firms. It includes employers which have already imposed vaccination requirements as well as those expressly intending to do so, and offers an initial gauge of business sentiment around these requirements. Some of the approaches used overseas regarding COVID-19 employee vaccination requirements are also briefly mentioned. This insight is not intended to be comprehensive, and further analysis can be provided if required.

#### **The Legislation and Organisations Affected**

The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021<sup>23</sup> was enacted on 30 April, 2021. The central purpose of the legislation is to prevent, and limit the risk of, the outbreak or spread of COVID-19 by requiring certain work to be carried out by affected persons who are vaccinated for COVID-19.<sup>24</sup> The scope of the legislation currently extends to employees of:

- Managed isolation and quarantine facilities;
- Airport workers;
- Port workers;
- Aircrew members; and
- Those responsible for transporting, accommodating, or otherwise engaging with the above groups.<sup>25</sup>

#### **Implementation**

The Public Service Commission has published guidelines for public sector agencies to mobilise their staff to be vaccinated.<sup>26</sup> The guidance includes establishing a vaccination plan to map staff against the national vaccination strategy; educate, and provide informational support to staff; set and communicate expectations; and support staff by administering in-work vaccines and ensuring they are paid for the time.

Worksafe has issued guidance around the need for a health and safety assessment to decide whether a vaccinated person needs to do the job required.<sup>27</sup>

The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Energy (MBIE) suggests employers conduct a risk assessment to determine which activities need to be completed by vaccinated workers, and to involve unions, workers, and other representatives in this process.<sup>28</sup>

### Public Agencies and Private Companies Considering COVID-19 Vaccination Requirements

Several public agencies have signalled their objective to adopt vaccination requirements for their workers, as follows:

- NZ Defence Force, as part of baseline vaccination requirements for deployment<sup>29</sup>
- The health sector, for workers treating COVID-19 patients<sup>30</sup>
- Department of Conservation, for Hut Workers, campground hosts, and visitor centre staff<sup>31</sup>

A number of private companies have indicated that they are considering the introduction of COVID-19 vaccination requirements, and have publicly conveyed this intention, as follows:

- Air New Zealand<sup>32</sup>
- Sudima Hotels Group<sup>33</sup>
- Rescom Security Systems for staff who provide services to the DHB in Hawkes Bay<sup>34</sup>
- Ryman Healthcare for staff employed after April 2020<sup>35</sup>
- RSE Workers prior to departure to qualify for one way quarantine free travel<sup>36</sup>
- Arvida Group for new staff<sup>37</sup>

### Nature of the Requirements

Some organisations have indicated that they may apply vaccination requirements to workers' participation in certain tasks.

- Worksafe outlines and provides guidance for this approach, which involves stipulating that particular activities must be undertaken by vaccinated employees in order to fulfil employers' obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015.<sup>38</sup>
- MBIE also sets out a range of options for restructuring employment contracts and amending workplace policies to encourage vaccination among new employees, and for redeploying existing unvaccinated staff to perform other functions.<sup>39</sup>

Issues may arise if organisations do not have a sufficiently vaccinated workforce to complete necessary tasks as a result of this approach, and it may produce difficulties in terms of monitoring and enforcement.

### Employee Response to Requirements

Concerns have been raised from both New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) personnel and staff from the Port of Tauranga about the vaccine requirements.

- Small numbers of NZDF staff have mounted protests and legal challenges to the adaptation of vaccine requirements for deployment to include those related to COVID-19.<sup>40</sup>
- s9(2)(b)(ii)

However, the rate of refusal will be unknown until the requirement is in place.

### Applying Requirements to In-Bound Workers

The Public Health (Vaccinations) Order 2021 in Section 4 defines a *vaccinated person* as a person who has received two doses of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine. However, New Zealanders or migrants entering the country may have been inoculated with other vaccines.<sup>43</sup> An example of this issue was observed when an Auckland resident visited family in China, and was vaccinated with two doses of the Sinopharm vaccine whilst there.<sup>44</sup> After applying to work at a managed isolation and quarantine hotel he was told that his vaccination was not accepted. The man asked to be vaccinated again in New Zealand with the Pfizer vaccine, but was advised by health workers that he did not need it.

### International Perspectives

There are several examples of countries across the world enacting employee vaccine mandates to reduce the spread of COVID-19. A selection of countries and approaches is provided below. Analysing their implementation as they progress, may reveal insights transferable to the New Zealand context.

- The United States has made vaccines mandatory for federal workers and contractors, healthcare workers, and all companies with 100+ employees, and requires employers to provide paid time off for staff to undergo vaccination.<sup>45</sup>
- Australia has enacted a federal mandate for workers in the aged care sector to be vaccinated. Australian state mandates for vaccines vary, but are generally limited to quarantine or border workers.<sup>46</sup>
- In France, the Labour Code instructs employers to carry out risk assessments and encourage vaccination among staff in line with health and safety obligations.<sup>47</sup> The Government mandates vaccination as a condition for working in consumer-facing settings such as libraries, cinemas, restaurants, bars, shopping centres, and public transport.<sup>48</sup> From September 15, healthcare workers who are not vaccinated face suspension from duty.<sup>49</sup>
- Singapore will require employees in healthcare, eldercare, educational settings for children under 12, and higher-risk-mask-off sectors such as gyms, personal care facilities, and food and beverage establishments to be vaccinated or undergo regular testing from October 1.<sup>50</sup>

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## 3. Ministry of Health



### 3.1 Policy/Programme Updates

#### 3.1.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11.59 pm on 14 September 2021, 4,444,065 vaccinations have been delivered, including 1,506,474 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 16 percent are Asian.

274,022 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents nine percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 14 September 2021.

596 sites were active on 14 September 2021.

#### **Vaccinations under Alert Levels 2 and 4**

Vaccination sites continue to operate under Alert Level 2 and 4 conditions. This means mask wearing and observing physical distancing is required. DHBs are continuing to work to ensure there is enough capacity for people to book their appointments. Some people may not be able to book at certain sites if they are smaller and have been popular, but there are other sites with capacity within each district.

#### **Group 4 rollout**

Everyone aged 12 and over is now eligible to book a vaccination appointment as of 1 September 2021.

#### **Vaccinations of essential workers**

The Ministry of Health has contacted all the groups and organisations supporting essential workers in businesses/services with clients and customers in the workplace under Alert Level 4. Priority vaccinations for these groups is well underway. As at 14 September more than 33,357 people have been vaccinated since 20 August 2021, who have been identified in the COVID Immunisation Register as essential workers.

#### **Workplace vaccinations**

The Ministry of Health continues to work with businesses through the Expression of Interest process to provide workplace vaccinations. This work will recommence rolling out as soon as alert levels requirements permit. DHBs will also continue to work with local communities and businesses to support vaccination to all group with a strong focus on equity.

#### **Workforce**

As at 14 September 2021, 13,676 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 8,151 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

The Hands Up database has over 16,000 registrations as at 14 September 2021. Access to the Hands Up database has been extended from just DHBs, and it can now be accessed by Māori commissioned providers. We are providing a contact at the Ministry for Pasifika commissioned providers to be able to submit their requests for Pacific language speakers and have also extended this type of access to Pharmacists. Direct access to the database requires additional licences and privacy impact assessments.

#### **Mass vaccination events**

The 10 to 12 September 2021 'dose 2' mass vaccination event, originally planned for the Vodafone Events Centre, took place at the Auckland Airport Park and Ride drive-through vaccination centre. 11,258 vaccines were administered at this event. The drive-through model has proven very successful and enables greater throughput under Alert Level 4 restrictions.

A further four mass vaccination events are currently planned or confirmed to occur over the next four weeks, across the Waitemata (two), Capital and Coast, and Auckland DHB areas.

## **Book My Vaccine**

As of 14 September 2021, Book My Vaccine holds 1,700,000 future bookings at 600 sites.

A map of available capacity has been developed to support consumers prior to using Book my Vaccine to book their appointment. This map will be available to the public within the next week.

## **Technology**

The post vaccine symptom check text seeking feedback from selected consumers post vaccination recommenced on 10 September 2021. This system was temporarily paused while we investigated and resolved the issues of consumers incurring a cost when responding to the text.

The My Covid Record (the new web application for people to view their vaccine records) pilot is proceeding well and on track for launch to the public in October 2021.

## **Supply**

The expected Pfizer delivery of 422,370 doses arrived as scheduled.

The expected additional 274,950 doses of vaccine arrived from Spain on 10 September 2021.

We have finalised the agreement with Denmark to secure a further 500,000 doses to enable the programme to maintain current vaccine uptake. The first shipment of these vaccines is due to arrive 15 September 2021.

The Ministry of Health is also working closely with DHBs to manage the existing stock on hand and the distribution of weekly deliveries from Pfizer.

## **Equity**

As of 9 September 2021, rate ratios for Māori and Pacific populations are approximately 0.63 and 0.85 respectively for both doses. This shows that there is a significant equity gap that needs addressing. However, the increasing proportion of Māori and Pacific accessing their first dose is showing an upward trend over the last two weeks, which suggests that initiatives to increase access are having an effect.

The Ministry of Social Development (MSD) has agreed to use its existing communication channels to circulate generic Ministry of Health communications, show vaccination booking information on digital screens in regional hubs, and provide call centres with important vaccination information. Specific materials for Māori, Pacific and disabled people are being developed and will be provided to MSD.

The use of drive-through clinics continues to be used successfully by DHBs to support the vaccination of disabled people in higher alert levels. There has been good feedback from families with children who have autism that it is an effective delivery model.

In areas where Alert Levels have decreased, DHBs are reporting that home vaccination programmes are being recommenced and community events and services are being reviewed. Auckland does not yet have resource capacity to commence its home vaccination programme.

To support delivery to the cohort of 12 to 15-year-olds with disabilities, DHBs are working with regional Ministry of Education offices and special schools. They are working to invite students and their families to appropriate vaccination clinics or establishment of temporary clinics on school sites.

## **New Zealand support for vaccine roll-out in the Pacific**

Planning is now underway with Cook Islands and Niue counterparts for their rollout of the Pfizer vaccine for their 12 to 15-year-old cohorts. Both countries are working towards vaccine delivery and rollout in late September 2021.

Planning is underway with Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji on plans to vaccinate their 12 to 17-year-old cohorts using the Pfizer vaccine in early quarter four.

### 3.2 Technical Advisory Group: Update

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) did not meet in the week commencing 6 September 2021. The next COVID-19 TAG meeting is scheduled for 17 September 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 7 September 2021 and discussed:

- other COVID-19 vaccines that New Zealand could recognise for people arriving in New Zealand,
- vaccines to recognise for border workers,
- influenza programme planning for 2022,
- guidance for cancer patients,
- third dose for immunocompromised,
- extension dose protocol for missed vaccination events, and
- the decision to use Janssen.

CVTAG is next meeting on 14 September 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

### 3.3 Recent Communications Issues and Activities

As at 14/09/21

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
14 Sept 2021 ongoing	Auckland outbreak: daily communications and support for the health sector and public. Locations of interest and updated health advice. Outreach to specific communities.	Ministry of Health	Communications, key messages, website, stakeholder engagement	Optional
16 Sept 2021	Release of latest Infection Prevention and Control audits of managed isolation and quarantine.	Ministry of Health	Web content, reactive question and answers	Optional
14 Sept 2021	Implementation of testing for essential workers permitted to cross regional boundaries. Includes workforce advice on proof of test process and update on saliva testing.	Ministry of Health / DPMC	Collateral, stakeholder engagement	Optional
14 Sept 2021	All QR code poster holders outside of Auckland have been emailed with messaging about mandatory record keeping. Organisations with fewer than five posters have also received a direct link to the new poster designs. Content has been updated on UAC, Ministry of Health, MBIE, and OPC websites. Preparation is underway to deliver the same messages to Auckland-based QR code poster holders early next week.	Ministry of Health	Stakeholder engagement, web updates, messages for poster holders	No
14 Sept 2021 ongoing	Alert Level 4 and Alert Level 2 boundary exemptions: for workers and personal travellers crossing the Auckland boundary.	Ministry of Health	Messaging, stakeholder engagement	Optional

### 3.4 Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
Publication: Getting through Together	TBC	The National Ethics Advisory Committee’s publication Getting Through Together considers the ethical issues that may arise during any pandemic. The emphasis is on using shared ethical principles so people can care for themselves, their whānau and their neighbours, and make decisions. This is updated from the 2007 version.	Clare Perry, Deputy Director-General, Health System Improvement and Innovation, <sup>s9(2)</sup> (a)

Proactively Released

## 4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

### 4.1 Top Items to Note

#### 4.1.1 MIQ's response to the Delta outbreak

MIQ is continuing to actively support the response to the community outbreak whenever we can.

Three quarantine facilities are in place in Auckland however we are now undertaking an assessment on when we may be able to revert one of these back to an isolation facility to ensure we can continue to support general returnees alongside our continued support for the community outbreak.

Managing the cumulative events of the community outbreak, Afghanistan arrivals and general returnees is pushing our system and our staff.

As a result, the health, wellbeing and safety of our staff is front-of-mind, and we know that staff are worried about working in these new environments. This week our fifth staff member tested positive for COVID-19 during the period we have been managing community cases, and nine staff are currently unavailable to work in our facilities as they have been required to isolate as close contacts.

Isolation capacity is stretched due to these cumulative events we are managing. To continue to ease the pressure we are reverting the Grand Mercure Wellington Quarantine Facility back to being a dual use facility. The current positive COVID caseload in Wellington and into the Grand Mercure Wellington has peaked and now these community cases are exiting as they meet the public health assessment requirements. Currently there are 6 people occupying 5 rooms – four people are due to exit Friday (17 September) and the remainder depending on symptoms but may be as long as 10 days away from exiting (23 September). We will go back to operating the Grand Mercure Wellington as dual use, with 10 quarantine rooms still available (with the potential to surge these up if required depending on occupancy). There are 38 rooms available for isolation. Please note, the ventilation phase one remediation at this facility has now been completed and the second phase has commenced. Once completed, the number of rooms available will increase further. We are looking at appropriate flights to come into Wellington to fill both the Bay Plaza and the Grand Mercure Wellington from as soon as 18 September.

We continue to make operational decisions to respond to this situation, and are keeping your Office updated on these changes as they occur.

#### 4.1.2 Facilitation of deportees from Australia

s6(b)(i)

Police have been working with key New Zealand agencies to determine readiness for arrivals, and discussions have taken place with Australian authorities.

We have notified Australian authorities we could be ready to receive deportees from the first week of November 2021. While they have not yet confirmed when deportations will resume, MBIE is planning to have an MIQ facility ready to receive returnees from the last week of October 2021.

MBIE has engaged with management of Ramada Auckland, which was previously used as a MIF for deportees and which has remained empty since ABF paused deportations from Australia. The hotel has agreed to house deportees again and we are working with them to stand up the facility in time.

MBIE is also working with all the key agencies to plan to recommission Ramada Auckland. This includes agencies not generally involved with the MIQ network, including the Ministry of Social Development, Ara Poutama Aotearoa and the People at Risk Solutions (PARS) charity, to ensure a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration for deportees.



Some ventilation remediation work is required to bring the Ramada’s ventilation system up to our preferred standard. This work is now underway and will be completed prior to the MIF being recommissioned in October.

Recommissioning Ramada Auckland will place significant pressure on the health and security workforces. However, agencies are working closely together to resolve this issue. At this time it is assessed that these challenges should not prevent recommissioning the Ramada as a Managed Isolation facility.

4.1.3 Support for Pacific communities in MIQ

We have partnered with Pasifika Futures Limited (PFL) and key Pacific providers to assist Pacific individuals and families who require support in MIQ facilities. This partnership includes catering for welfare needs and cultural support. From this partnership, MIQ is able to get a holistic picture on the needs of Pacific people while in MIQ.

MIQ information sheets and videos translated into nine Pacific languages, about what people can expect when they enter MIQ facilities, is now been circulated in the Pacific community. MIQ is working closely with the Ministry for Pacific Peoples, DPMC and key Pacific providers to use their social media platforms and other communication channels to reach grassroots Pacific families.

4.1.4 Updated public health advice around requirements for non-health MIQ workers

We have sought and received public health advice around whether non-health MIQ workers:

- should observe any stand down period from quarantine to isolation facilities; and
- should limit secondary employment for non-health staff

The advice has confirmed our current position, which is that there no need for non-health MIQ staff to observe any stand down period from quarantine to isolation facilities, and there is no reason to limit secondary employment for non-health staff. This reflects that there have been no transmission events to date involving a failure to follow protocol in the MIQ workforce, that we now have mandatory vaccination and increased frequency of testing of all staff, as well as improved ventilation systems and other in-facility controls.

4.1.5 MIQ’s role in Afghan repatriation

The evacuation of large groups of people from Afghanistan has been completed. The last New Zealand participants in the Afghan evacuation mission still in UAE are six NZDF staff - members of the Force Extraction Team. Five staff are scheduled to depart for New Zealand on 15 September 2021, and one staff member is scheduled to depart on 22 September 2021.

One Afghan national with a New Zealand partner’s visa is expected to arrive on/about 16 September 2021. s6(a), s6(b)(i)

[REDACTED] This is currently the last known Afghan evacuee to be en-route. The critical evacuation mission is now considered to have ended, and MFAT, INZ and MIQ are now developing a BAU process for managing subsequent returnees from Afghanistan.

The table below shows the MIQ commitment to the Afghan repatriation programme as at 1600hrs 15 September, with the last large group of evacuees having departed MIQ facilities earlier in the day.

Place	Category	Number	Notes
Naumi MIF	Evacuees	11 (-152)	Group 5 departing
Waipuna MIF	NZDF	74	
	MBIE	6	
	MFAT	1	
Distinction MIF (CH)	Evacuee	1	<span style="background-color: #cccccc; padding: 2px;">s6(a), s6(b)(i)</span>
Jet Park QF	Evacuees	16 (-7)	Group 5 departing. Two bubbles remain (9, 7)
	NZDF	1	Positive test, transfer 9 Sep
Hospital	Evacuees	2	Note 1
<b>TOTAL Returnees in MIQ</b>		<b>112</b>	<b>Total Departed MIQ: 376</b>

As of 4pm 16 September 2021:

- 299 Afghan returnees will be in the Nesuto transition accommodation
- 28 will remain in MIQ (including one New Zealand citizen in Distinction Christchurch)
- 2 will be in hospital
- 77 will have entered the community

The last of 82 AOG staff are expected to have left MIQ on or about 20 September 2021.

## 4.2 Operational Update

### 4.2.1 Capacity Update

As at 14 September 2021, since early March a total of 31,207 rooms have been released for the period of June through to the end of November 2021.

From early March 2021 to present, 112,165 returnees have secured a date to return home during the period of March through to the end of November 2021.

Returnees from over 180 countries have successfully secured a voucher to travel during this period.

As at 9am 14 September 2021, there is currently no availability on MIAS.

### 4.2.2 Ventilation Update

Ventilation remediation work continues with urgency for the remaining facilities, in parallel with the deployment of air filtration units for the remaining four facilities' common spaces and the Jet Park Auckland quarantine rooms.

The ventilation remediation at Four Points will go ahead, but with a revised start date of 30 September 2021. The work will take approximately 10 days.

Following the completion of the installation of air filtration units into quarantine rooms at Novotel IBIS Ellerslie and Holiday Inn, units are being delivered and installed at Jet Park Auckland. Deliveries to Jet Park have been limited to 10 units per day being the maximum that the facility can handle / install (and as rooms become vacant). Deliveries and installations will continue daily with all units expected to be installed by mid next week.

Planning is underway to install air filtration units into the common spaces of Ramada, which is in the process of being recommissioned, and the new Elms facility in Christchurch.

Installation of the common spaces air filtration units for the remaining four facilities is progressing when the facilities are empty between cohorts.

The final signoff for the completion of the ventilation remediation work for a further three sites (Jet Park Auckland, SO Auckland and M Social Auckland) has been completed bring the total to six (26% of rooms across the entire portfolio).

The Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group's endorsement for the completion of the remediation work for Holiday Inn Auckland is in progress. Final signoff for the facilities will then be completed which will take the number of completed and signed off facilities to seven (approx. 30% of rooms across the entire portfolio).

Remediation work has now been completed for IBIS Rotorua and Jet Park Hamilton and the results are being analysed by our independent HVAC engineer.

Remediation work for Grand Mercure (Wellington) continues on track to be completed in early October.

### 4.2.3 Vaccination of frontline staff update

For workers on site for the week 6-12 September 2021, BWTR shows that 96.5% had two doses of the vaccine, 1.7% had one dose and the remaining 1.7% (79 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 79 workers with an ‘unknown’ vaccination status, 31 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing Team is investigating the remaining 48 workers, to confirm vaccination status.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an ‘unknown’ status in BWTR in the previous week did not find any instances of breaches of the vaccination order.

Of the 77 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status ‘unknown’ in the 30 August to 5 September 2021 weekly report:

- 61 have been confirmed as being compliant with the vaccine order;
- 15 are compliant, but have been passed to MoH for investigation as potential NHI issues;
- 1 was a paramedic and is exempt under the Order.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an ‘unknown’ status in BWTR in the previous week did not find any incidents of breaches of the vaccination order.

#### 4.2.4 Staff testing update

Reporting from BWTR shows that 4,525 people undertook work in our facilities last week, and the table below shows how many of those workers were compliant with the Testing Order, were overdue for a test or still needed to be NHI-matched.

This week we saw a continued high level of compliance at 98% of staff.

Workers on site 23 –29 August 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,407	98%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	87	2%
Need NHI-match	31	
Workers on site	4,525	

Of the 87 overdue, 70 of those are less than 4 days overdue, 13 are 4-10 days overdue and 4 are 11+ days overdue. The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with these workers to make sure they get tested as required.

Of the 31 that still need an NHI-match, 16 were created in BWTR in the last 7 days.

8 workers were previously reported as ‘11+ days overdue’ in the report for the week 30 August to 5 September 2021. We have confirmed 4 of them have been swabbed, 3 others are compliant but have been referred to MOH due to a possible NHI-matching issue, 1 has been contacted and we’re awaiting a response.

#### 4.2.5 Saliva Testing Update

As at 14 September 2021, 234 MIQ workers are opted-in across the 16 sites that are currently operational at the time of reporting (Wellington, Rotorua, Hamilton, Christchurch, Auckland quarantine).

MIQ workers at the three Auckland quarantine facilities have been invited to opt-in to the saliva testing regime. Following advice from Ministry of Health, we are strongly encouraging these workers to opt-in and provide daily saliva samples while at work during this current outbreak.

MIQ workers at the remaining Auckland facilities are now being progressively invited to opt-in to the saliva testing regime. We expect saliva testing to become operational in these sites over the next three weeks, while managing against other operational pressures.

MIQ workers at the Wellington, Rotorua and Christchurch facilities are now able to do saliva testing.

MIQ workers at two of the three Hamilton facilities are now able to do saliva testing. Workers at the remaining facility (Distinction Hamilton) will be invited to opt-in once the facility is re-designated as an MIQ facility later this month.

We are working closely with the Ministry of Health on the proposed changes to the Required Testing Order in line with your expectations, and how these can be successfully rolled out, and when they can happen.

#### 4.2.6 Ombudsman Update

We received one Ombudsman notification this week, concerning a fee waiver investigation.

As of 13 September 2021, we have three open cases, and five cases were closed this week.

We issued one response to an OPCAT notification on 10 September 2021, concerning the Distinction Hamilton. A response to an OPCAT notification is due on 17 September 2021, concerning the Bay Plaza Wellington.

#### 4.2.7 Human Rights Commission (HRC) Complaint

The Human Rights Commission (HRC) has notified us of a complaint from a New Zealander currently living in Canada, against the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE). It alleges unlawful discrimination under Part 1A of the Human Rights Act 1993, on the grounds of family status – having dependants. MBIE is preparing a response.

#### 4.2.8 MIQ's management of mariners

We have been processing international mariners through our facilities for approximately 12 months. After the first group, which saw in-MIF transmission and transmission to a two staff members, a number of lessons were learnt and applied to future cohorts of this highly complex group. These included providing balcony rooms to enable smoking (limiting in/out room movements), having translator support, as well as support from employing companies to set expectations and provide assistance when issues arise along with self-isolation and testing (multiple times) pre-departure. This has resulted in no significant issues with subsequent arrivals.

As agreed by the Border Exemption Ministers Group in July 2021, over September – October 2021, 90 will be isolated in the Naumi MIF in Auckland, as the primary option we had planned was converted to a quarantine facility (Holiday Inn). This is in addition to the other mariners who will be going into Christchurch later this year.

They will be managed outside the cohorting period for other returnees, so technically cohorting will remain suspended in this facility (as it has been as we supported the people from Afghanistan). However they will be in a completely separate part of the facility and normal cohorting will apply for all other areas of the facility.

We have chosen to utilise the Naumi MIF in Auckland from three options considered, for the following reasons:

- This is currently used for refugee/evacuee returnees, in lieu of the Holiday Inn, and the staff are used to management of non-cohort arrivals (cohorting is not currently in place as we manage the Afghanistan returnees).
- A dedicated portion of the facility can be used to house the mariners. Given the construction of Naumi, the amount of this facility allocated to the mariners can be scaled up and then down to efficiently meeting the arrival sequence of the mariners.
- Appropriate translation, security and company support can be provided due to efficiencies of being in one facility.
- Rooms have balconies to allow smoking thus limiting movement in/out of rooms and an outdoor area that is dedicated to the mariners.
- Normal cohorting can be applied in other areas of the facility to maximise supply and ensure separation.

These options were supported by all the key stakeholders, including The Ministry of Health.

#### 4.2.9 Decommissioning of the Bay Plaza, Wellington

You recently agreed to the decommissioning of the Bay Plaza Wellington MIF, from the end of January 2022. We have notified Bay Plaza management in confidence, and also have given a 'heads up' to the senior managers of Government agencies who have workers operating in the Bay Plaza.

On 16 September 2021, all workers at the Bay Plaza will be notified by their employers of the decision to decommission the facility. We are working with the HR teams of all affected agencies to support the transition of any workers to new roles and/or work locations.

Key Wellington stakeholders, such as local Iwi, the Mayor, and the CCDHB Chief Executive have also been notified that the facility will be decommissioned.

We will provide all workers at the Bay Plaza with a formal 'thank you' letter, to acknowledge their work in MIQ. We are working through a plan for how and when the public will be notified of the decommissioning decision.

Your Office has been provided with our reactive communication material if anything does come out about this.

### 4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update

#### 4.3.1 2.3.1 Summary of approved group arrivals as at 14 September 2021 (to December 2021)

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
RSE	27 Sept 2021 (Flight 6)	150	0	RSE flight six has been deferred with the understanding that this flight will now become a QFT flight at a later date.
	4 Nov 2021 (Flight 7)	150	116 (150pax) TBC	RSE flight seven will be from the Solomon Islands. This will be the final RSE flight to enter MIQ.
Construction Accord	Sept 2021	60	40 (45 pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month. An additional 7 pax were scheduled to travel from Australia – while they were offered priority for flights and vouchers they declined and 2 have pulled out.
	Oct 2021	60	TBC	
	Nov 2021	60	TBC	
	Dec 2021	60	TBC	
Netball – English Roses	27 Aug 2021	30	22	The team have completed their time in MIQ and exited. The exemption was reinstated on confirmation of the move to alert level 2 and, as a result, on-site training at the MIF was permitted for the final 2 days in MIQ.
Refugee Intakes	30 Sept 2021	8	2 (8 pax)	s9(2)(a) Discussion is underway to plan the next steps for future refugee intakes which were deferred due to lockdown and Afghanistan evacuees.
Afghanistan Evacuees	23 Aug 2021	-	36	To date, a total of 399 evacuees have arrived in New Zealand as a part of the Afghanistan Evacuee Operations. 82 evacuees have departed from managed isolation - 51 to temporary accommodation and 31 to the community.
	24 Aug 2021	-	3	
	26 Aug 2021	-	45	
	28 Aug 2021	-	146	
	01 Sept 2021	-	159	There are currently 317 in managed isolation – two of whom are in hospital (1 due to oxygen needs, and the other is due to give birth).
	02 Sept 2021	-	3	
	10 Sept 2021	-	6	
	16 Sep 2021	-	1	There are 15 known individuals and families yet to arrive in New Zealand. The next evacuee is due to arrive 16 September. MFAT suspects there are over 1,100 Afghan Nationals who are eligible entrants to New Zealand, however, there is no information on them arriving at this stage.
Paralympic athletes	Sep 2021	100	2	The final returnees (out of 73 total returnees) arrived into MIQ on 07 September. To date feedback has been positive.
Cricket - White Ferns	30 Sep 2021	30	22 (25 pax) TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
International Mariners	14 Sep 2021	60	55	The first tranche arrived 14 September. Delays with visa issuing may make it difficult for industry to use the full allocation granted for 21 Sept arrivals, although INZ are working hard to get visas issued. Significant measures are in place to support this complex group, based on the learnings from the first tranche of mariners in late 2020: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>pre-departure testing is required for all travellers (one within 72 hrs, and a second at about 5-6 days prior)</li> <li>All rooms are single occupancy</li> <li>Smokers, especially heavy smokers, are allocated smoking rooms as far as practicable to reduce in-MIF movement, and additional outdoor smoking space (separate from other returnees) is provided</li> <li>additional supplies of consumables in rooms to reduce mariner-staff interactions</li> <li>most mariners have already been vaccinated</li> <li>significant interpreter support is provided</li> <li>in MIF collateral has been translated</li> <li>pre-arrival information pack has been dispatched, to be read before commencing travel</li> <li>formal compliance escalation path with company established, backed by a code of conduct which, among other things, prohibits alcohol consumption while in MIF</li> </ul> Since the first tranche there has been a steady stream of mariner arrivals into NZ, including a large tranche in Jan 2021, with additional management similar to the above. There have been no significant issues since these measures were put in place. Of the current tranche, one mariner has already been deferred after testing positive at the extra pre-departure test the company instituted. MIQ has worked closely with the company to develop and implement management protocols for this allocation.
	21 Sep 2021	100	TBC	
	4 Oct 2021	62	TBC	
	5 Oct 2021	30	TBC	
	6 Oct 2021	30	TBC	
	26 Oct 2021	100	TBC	
	9 Nov 2021	67	TBC	
	21 Nov 2021	1	TBC	
	Late Nov 2021		Up to 15 (catch up of persons deferred from earlier flights due to positive COVID-19 test)	
NZTE administered allocation	Early Nov	25	TBC	Trial monthly allocation for exporters, administered by NZTE.
	Early Dec	25	TBC	
EXPO	7 Oct		22 TBC	
	25 Oct	72	20 TBC	
	22 Nov	80	80 TBC	
Mountain biking - crankworx	October	70	50 TBC	
Rugby - All Blacks	Late Nov	65	TBC	
Rugby - Black Ferns	Late Nov	65	TBC	
Cricket - Black Caps	7 Oct 2021	24	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.

	24 Nov 2021	20	TBC	
	9 Dec 2021	33	TBC	This cohort of BlackCaps will be seeking a training exemption.
NZDF	4 Oct	5	TBC	
	11 Oct	15	TBC	
	20 Oct	16	TBC	
	23 Oct	50	TBC	
	Early Dec	76	TBC	
Cricket - Bangladesh	Early Dec	68	TBC	Bangladesh will be seeking a training exemption.
Antarctic Programme	17 Sep	200	186 (200 pax) TBC	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German and Korean programme.
	18 Sep	39	TBC	
	21 Sep	1	TBC	
	27 Sep	145	TBC	
	28 Sep	27	TBC	
	4 Oct	45	TBC	
	6 Oct	17	TBC	
	9 Oct	10	TBC	
	10 Oct	13	TBC	
	11 Oct	201	TBC	
	18 Oct	42	TBC	
	25 Oct	20	TBC	
	29 Oct	3	TBC	
	3 Nov	22	TBC	
	12 Nov	7	TBC	
	15 Nov	138	TBC	
19 Nov	42	TBC		
20 Nov	19	TBC		
20 Dec	65	TBC		

#### 4.3.2 Time Sensitive Travel

The Time Sensitive Travel window for arrivals in Nov/Dec 2021 closed on 14 September 2021. To date, 225 applications have been received for 408 allocations. Demand is expected to be slightly higher than the allocation, in part due to the limited release of vouchers for November and no release of vouchers for December.

#### 4.4 Communications Issues and Activities

##### 4.4.1 As at 8 September 2021

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
Daily 1pm	Daily update on quarantine capacity numbers and facilities	MIQ	Uploaded to media centre on MIQ website at 1pm	N
16 September	IPC audits of MIQ facilities released	MoH (but MIQ ready to respond as this relates to our facilities)	IPC audits from recent months released on MOH website	N
Late September - TBC	Maori King opens ISO Accor paintings exhibition in Hamilton	MIQ	Proactive communications	N

#### 4.5 Fees

##### 4.5.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to 12 September 2021. Invoices have various repayment terms depending on whether they are a sports group (10 days), critical worker (30 days), or standard returnee/maritime crew/aircrew (90 days).

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued over due	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days overdue	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups/Temp Visa	3,834	1,403	1,992	439	\$40,814,791	\$25,582,549	\$12,490,427	\$2,741,815	0	\$0
Maritime	447	290	125	32	\$2,252,120	\$1,393,842	\$768,690	\$89,588	17	\$44,386
Aircrew	204	145	0	59	\$1,088,205	\$818,039	\$0	\$270,166	53	\$231,637
Other	22,786	12,751	5,497	4,539	\$77,885,038	\$46,273,971	\$17,288,062	\$14,288,062	1,682	\$5,491,572
Total	27,271	14,589	7,614	5,069	\$122,040,154	\$74,068,401	\$30,547,178	\$17,424,575	1,752	\$5,767,595

\*Groups has only previously included sports groups, critical workers and critical Health Workers. However, going forward this now includes temporary visa holders as this aligns more to the categorisation of Critical workers - i.e. they use the same fee charging structure.

Note: the '90+ days Overdue' column represents the number of invoices from the 'Issued overdue' column that have been outstanding for 90+ days.

#### 4.5.2 Weekly Average Invoicing and Debt Recovery %

The table below reflects the weekly average of invoicing, from 11 August 2020.

Recent Weeks	Average invoicing per week (\$)
Past week	3,659,909
2-4 weeks	2,957,806
5-8 weeks	1,773,087
9+ weeks	1,886,582

#### 4.5.3 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 12 September 2021. The numbers below relate to all waiver applications; waivers can be applied for before, during and after an individual has stayed in managed isolation.

Waiver applications received	In progress	Total completed	Total financial hardship applications	Total special circumstances applications	Approved waiver applications		Declined waiver applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
9368	3186	6452	831	5621	87	4814	744	807

#### 4.6 Emergency Allocation Applications

5,400 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020. 672 applications were received in the week ending 12 September 2021, and 243 applications were processed.

From the applications processed in the week ending 12 September 2021, 53% were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals	Year to Date Totals
	30 August 2021 – 5 September 2021	30 October 2020 - 5 September 2021
Approved	130	2895
Declined	113	2505
Applications processed	243	5400

\* These figures only include completed applications, with all supporting evidence, which were received within the required timeframes, which have been decided by a decision marker.

Total Rooms Approved Under Emergency Allocation		137
Rooms allocated in MIAS		96
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process		37
Cancelled by the applicant		4

#### 4.7 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 7 September to 13 September 2021 is as follows:

Week	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
31 August to 6 August			
Complaints	145	47	138
Improvements	4	0	4
Compliments	0	0	0

Week	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
31 August to 6 August			
Queries	13	1	12
Ombudsman	1	3	5
Parliamentary/OIA	0	0	0
Other	1	1	1
Total	164	52	160

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 133. For the last four weeks, the average is 185 per week.

This week we have received 164 new cases, and have resolved 160 cases.

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## 5. Border Executive Board Report



### 5.1 Key Issues Being Considered

#### 5.1.1 Border Executive Board Meeting

The Border Executive Board met on 15 September 2021.

The Board noted the positive progress made with the implementing the Border Worker Vaccinations Order amendment. This requires the remainder of the border workforce to have received at least one dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccination by midnight on 30 September, with the second dose no later than 35 days after their first injection.

The rates of vaccination are good (96% of all active border workers are recorded as having received at least their first dose) and the remaining issues are being worked through. The issues are broadly:

- the interpretation and application of specific terms referred to in the Vaccinations Order itself, and the associated guidance document,
- vaccine hesitancy, either associated with the Pfizer vaccine specifically, or vaccination in general, and
- monitoring and the associated limitations of the Border Workforce Testing Register system and data.

The Board debriefed on the Chief Executives and Ports meeting held on 9 September 2021 with port company Chief Executives and maritime union leaders. The issues raised were:

- protective equipment for pilots; vessels with (or potential to have) COVID-19,
- risk of transmission of COVID-19 off a vessel,
- testing of international crew; and collective intelligence, and
- ways in which to make progress on these were identified.

The Board noted the Biosecurity (Information for Incoming Passengers) Amendment Bill that is before Select Committee. The Board supported the requirement that airlines play the biosecurity video to passengers.

#### 5.1.2 Future Borders Sprint process

Feedback provided at the Chief Executive sponsors Showcase last week recommended that a proposed trial would focus on a shortened stay in MIQ as a key component to operationalise the new medium risk pathway.

The sprint will consider how to work in with the self-isolation trial. Work is ongoing to look at what other interventions can be included to reduce the risk and also to align the components of the trial with planned pieces of work including vaccination status, the Self Isolation Pilot and the Rapid Antigen testing trial.

#### 5.1.3 Supply Chain Exemptions

The Ministry of Transport has received one application for a supply chain exemption from the Vaccinations Order. Once a cross-agency panel has assessed this against the criteria previously agreed by you, the Chair of the Border Executive Board will provide advice to you, as the decision maker.

## 6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



### 6.1 Items to Note/Updates

#### 6.1.1 Maritime

##### Vessel Rio de la Plata

The Medical Officer of Health in Tauranga granted pratique to the Rio de la Plata on 14 September 2021 at 1530 hrs. The vessel arrived into the Port of Tauranga in the early morning of 15 September 2021 to start unloading its cargo. As pratique has been granted, the vessel will travel coastwise unloading its cargo. The vessel is carrying critical cargo including PPE (medical masks and gowns) and medicaments.

Due to time delays unrelated to the testing of crew, cargo originally planned to be unloaded in Napier will now be unloaded in Tauranga. These containers will be transferred to Napier via a second coastwise vessel at a later date.

##### Small Craft Arrival Season – Opuia

Customs, Ministry of Health, and DPMC are coordinating with Northland District Health Board and Far North District Council to develop an engagement plan with communities, in particular local iwi. This community outreach will ensure settings are correct in the current operational environment.

##### Small Craft Arrivals:

- One vessel arrived on 14 September 2021 and its crew have been transferred to a MIF.
- One vessel arrived on 15 September 2021 and its crew will isolate on board in Opuia (arrived after 12 days of transit).
- One vessel is due to arrive on 16 September 2021 and will have spent approximately 11 days at sea. Therefore, crew will be transferred to a MIF unless they arrive after the 12 day cut off (in which case they will be allowed to isolate on board).

#### 6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 6 September 2021 to 12 September 2021, there were five\* warnings issued.

- 6 Sep 2021 – \*A family of seven passengers (two adults and five children) arriving from the US were unable to access their email to show PDT documentation. All seven passengers deemed as non-compliant but warnings issued to the two adults only.
- 7 Sep 2021 – A passenger arriving from the UK via Singapore was issued a warning as they only had a screenshot of their PDT documentation which was incomplete.
- 7 Sep 2021 – A passenger arriving from the UK via Singapore was issued a warning as they could not open the email link to retrieve their PDT documentation
- 8 Sep 2021 – A three year old child arriving with their parents from Spain via Dubai had no PDT documentation. Parents thought that child did not require PDT as under 12 years old. Warning issued.

##### Red flights

	Date	6 Sep	7 Sep	8 Sep	9 Sep	10 Sep	11 Sep	12 Sep	Week Total	%
	Passengers subject to PDT	280	205	199	285	252	228	129	1578	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	268	192	186	273	239	213	117	1488	94.3%
	Exemption verified	5	8	11	10	11	13	2	60	3.8%
	Referred to Secondary Area	7	5	2	2	2	2	10	30	1.9%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	0	3	1	2	2	2	10	20	66.6%
	Warned	7*	2	1	0	0	0	0	10	33.3%
	Infringement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

6.1.3 Passenger Numbers – Cook Islands

The Cooks Islands Government’s suspension of inbound passenger travel from New Zealand remains in effect until at least 28 September 2021 or when there are no new community cases in New Zealand.



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## 7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

### 7.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board (CCB) met on 14 September 2021 and discussed the current active response to COVID-19 cases in the community and development of a strategic investment horizon. The CCB also heard from the Chairs of the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group, the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group, and the Business Leaders' Forum.

## 8. COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group

### 8.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group did not meet this week and are next scheduled to meet on 21 September 2021.

The Group have been involved in several discussions this week. Sir Brian Roche and Rob Fyfe met with Carolyn Tremain on 13 September 2021 as part of ongoing discussions on options for future quarantine facilities. Sir Brian and Professor Philip Hill met with members of DPMC's policy team on Tuesday 14 September to discuss areas where DPMC are keen to have early engagement with the Group. A follow up discussion with the DPMC policy team will be held next Tuesday as part of the Group's fortnightly meeting. The Group were also invited by DPMC's System Readiness and Planning team to review the updated National Response Plan for Quarter 4 and members of the Group provided feedback on 16 September 2021.

## 9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

### 9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Strategic Public Health Advisory Group did not meet this week and are next scheduled to meet on 22 September 2021. Chairs from the Group, the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group and the Business Leaders' Forum were invited to join the Prime Minister on Tuesday 14 September for a brief discussion around Reconnecting New Zealanders considerations in light of the current outbreak.

## 10. Business Leaders Forum

### 10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum did not meet this week. The date for the next meeting for the Forum is yet to be confirmed.

## 11. Government Modelling Group

### 11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Modelling Steering Group continues to work with researchers on modelling relation to the current outbreak, statistical estimation of country risk associated with different travellers and (in the slightly longer-term) modelling of different COVID-19 strategies in scenarios based on high rates of vaccination.

### 12. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

Title	Agency	Committee	Date Expected	Key Contact	Purpose of Paper
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	s9(2)(f)(iv)	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
Jansen decision to use	MOH	TBC	TBC	TBC	[REDACTED]

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