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**DEPARTMENT OF THE
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TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA



**MINISTRY OF
HEALTH**

MANATŪ HAUORA



**NEW ZEALAND
CUSTOMS SERVICE**
TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA



BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD



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



COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

1 October 2021

Contents

1. Status Summary..... 2

2. COVID-19 Insights 7

 2.1 Insight of Note Written by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet..... 7

 2.2 Insight of Note Written by the Ministry of Health..... 11

3. Ministry of Health 14

 3.1 Items to Note/Updates..... 14

 3.2 Policy/Programme Updates..... 14

 3.3 Technical Advisory Group: Update 16

 3.4 Recent and Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities 16

 3.5 Upcoming Publications 17

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report 18

 4.1 Top Items to Note..... 18

 4.2 Operational Update..... 19

 4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update 21

 4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities 23

 4.5 Fees 23

 4.6 Emergency Allocation Applications 24

 4.7 Resolutions Update 24

5. Border Executive Board Report 26

 5.1 Key Issues Being Considered 26

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report..... 27

 6.1 Items to Note/Updates..... 27

7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board 29

 7.1 Items to Note/Updates..... 29

8. COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group..... 29

 8.1 Items to Note/Updates..... 29

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group 29

 9.1 Items to Note/Updates..... 29

10. Business Leaders Forum 29

 10.1 Items to Note/Updates..... 29

11. Government Modelling Group..... 29

 11.1 Items to Note/Updates..... 29

12. Upcoming Cabinet Papers..... 30

13. Appendix – Weekly Updates on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the Border 31

14. Endnotes..... 32

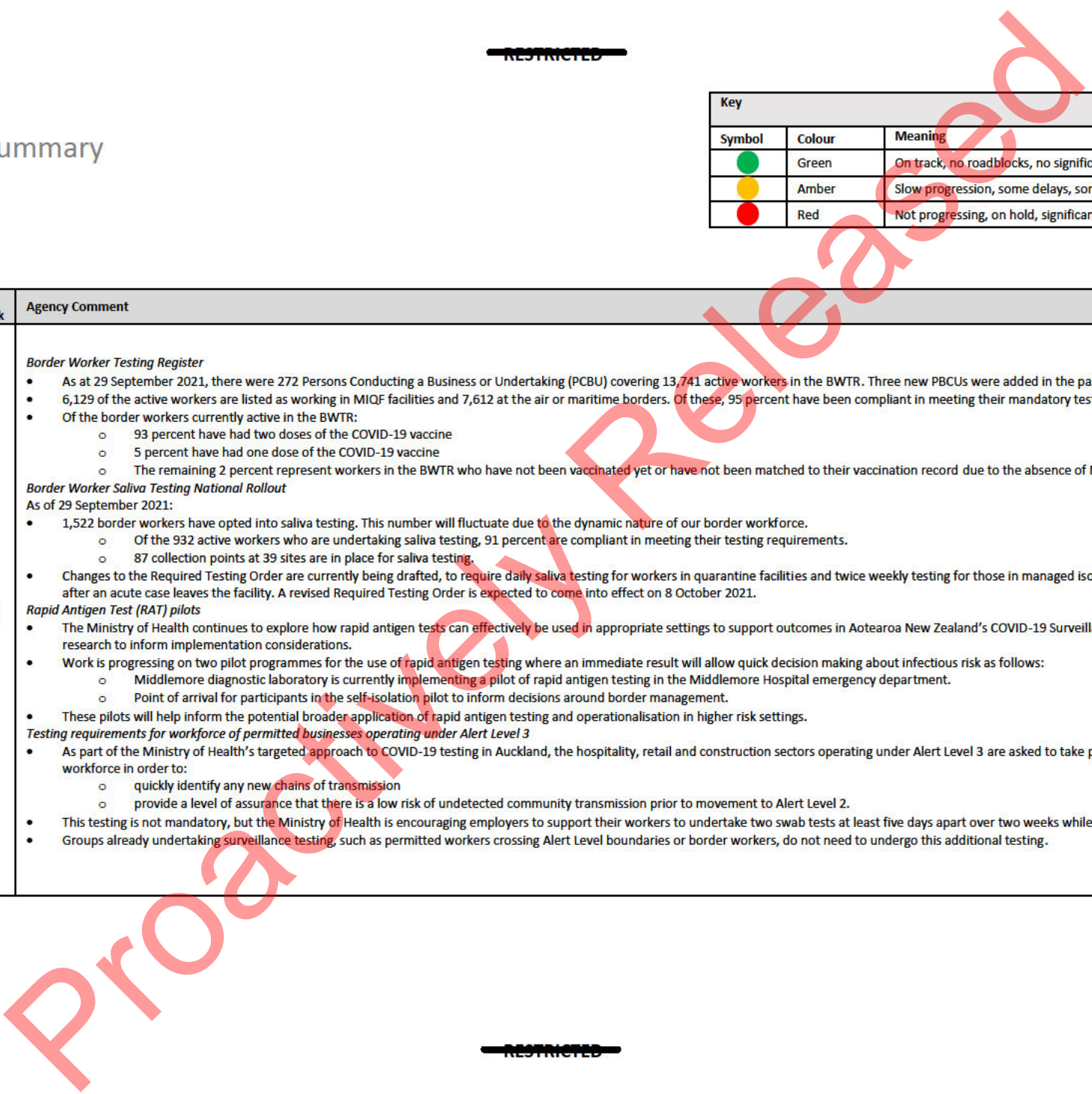
1. Status Summary

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
MoH	●	●	<p><i>Border Worker Testing Register</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 29 September 2021, there were 272 Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) covering 13,741 active workers in the BWTR. Three new PBCUs were added in the past week. 6,129 of the active workers are listed as working in MIQF facilities and 7,612 at the air or maritime borders. Of these, 95 percent have been compliant in meeting their mandatory testing requirements. Of the border workers currently active in the BWTR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 93 percent have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine 5 percent have had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine The remaining 2 percent 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. <p><i>Border Worker Saliva Testing National Rollout</i></p> <p>As of 29 September 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,522 border workers have opted into saliva testing. This number will fluctuate due to the dynamic nature of our border workforce. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 932 active workers who are undertaking saliva testing, 91 percent are compliant in meeting their testing requirements. 87 collection points at 39 sites are in place for saliva testing. Changes to the Required Testing Order are currently being drafted, to require daily saliva testing for workers in quarantine facilities and twice weekly testing for those in managed isolation facilities for the two weeks after an acute case leaves the facility. A revised Required Testing Order is expected to come into effect on 8 October 2021. <p><i>Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) pilots</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health continues to explore how rapid antigen tests can effectively be used in appropriate settings to support outcomes in Aotearoa New Zealand's COVID-19 Surveillance Strategy, and to engage with research to inform implementation considerations. Work is progressing on two pilot programmes for the use of rapid antigen testing where an immediate result will allow quick decision making about infectious risk as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Middlemore diagnostic laboratory is currently implementing a pilot of rapid antigen testing in the Middlemore Hospital emergency department. Point of arrival for participants in the self-isolation pilot to inform decisions around border management. These pilots will help inform the potential broader application of rapid antigen testing and operationalisation in higher risk settings. <p><i>Testing requirements for workforce of permitted businesses operating under Alert Level 3</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the Ministry of Health's targeted approach to COVID-19 testing in Auckland, the hospitality, retail and construction sectors operating under Alert Level 3 are asked to take part in surveillance testing of their workforce in order to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> quickly identify any new chains of transmission provide a level of assurance that there is a low risk of undetected community transmission prior to movement to Alert Level 2. This testing is not mandatory, but the Ministry of Health is encouraging employers to support their workers to undertake two swab tests at least five days apart over two weeks while Auckland is in Alert Level 3. Groups already undertaking surveillance testing, such as permitted workers crossing Alert Level boundaries or border workers, do not need to undergo this additional testing.

Testing and vaccination of border workforce



Border (Continued)

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	●	●	<p><i>Staff Testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance reporting is at 97%, (down 1% from last week), for staff who worked in the week of 20-26 September. 3% on site in the week of 20-26 September are showing in the BWTR as overdue (154 workers). The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers. <p><i>Vaccinations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 20-26 September, 97.3% have had two doses of the vaccine, 1.6% had one dose and 1.2% have vaccination status 'unknown'. 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. However, we identified one worker with a non-Pfizer vaccine (see body of report for details). There were no vaccine exemptions granted last week.
			<p><i>Saliva Testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 27 September, 427 MIQ workers opted-in to saliva testing. Saliva testing is currently operational across 22 sites in Wellington, Rotorua, Hamilton, Christchurch and Auckland. The remaining sites will become operational over the next week. 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.
Two-way QFT Niue	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> §7(b)(i), §7(b)(iii) The next passenger flight to Niue is expected to be 18 October 2021, §7(b)(i), §7(b)(iii) A joint briefing, 'Update on progress towards two-way quarantine-free travel between New Zealand and Niue' was provided to Ministers, providing advice on the process and timeline for commencement of two-way quarantine-free travel between Niue and New Zealand. §7(b)(i), §7(b)(iii)
	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials have provided you with advice on next steps, §7(b)(i), §7(b)(iii)
	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 25 September 2021, Prime Minister of the Cook Islands, Mark Brown announced plans for repatriation of Cook Islands residents, and also indicated that visitors will be permitted to return to the Cook Islands once New Zealand reaches Alert Level 1, even if there remain COVID-19 cases in the community. Two repatriation flights are planned, 7 October 2021 from Christchurch for those outside of Auckland, and 15 October 2021 for those in Auckland, requiring 7 and 14 days in the Edgewater Resort MIQ respectively. It is expected that once reopened, visitors to the Cook Islands will be required to be fully vaccinated.
Reopening new travel pathways - Pacific Islands	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 27 September, Cabinet agreed to commence QFT from Vanuatu from 4 October, and from Tonga and Samoa from 12 October. <p><i>Tonga</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arrangement was signed by Prime Ministers on 24 September. Officials continue work with RSE industry, the Tongan Government and Air New Zealand on the earliest date for the first QFT-RSE flight (potentially first half of November, depending on ongoing repatriations and industry needs). <p><i>Vanuatu</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Arrangement will be signed on 1 October at PM level, ahead of the first QFT-RSE flight on 4 October. §6(a) As in 2020, inwards and outwards travel will be suspended over the Christmas/New Year period. <p><i>Samoa</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> §6(a) with the first flight scheduled 16 October.

Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Place and conditions of stay	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Ventilation Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ventilation remediation work has been completed for seven facilities (30% of rooms across the entire portfolio). Three are nearing completion; and 15 more are underway. • The MIQ Ventilation Programme continues and is aiming for completion around the end of 2021/early 2022. • Four Points ventilation remediation and maintenance will commence on 1 October and is expected to be completed prior to a cohort arriving on 10 October. • Remediation work for the Novotel Christchurch Airport has commenced in conjunction with fire damper work being carried out to obtain building code of compliance. • Installation of air filtration units for commons spaces for 2 of 31 facilities is near completion. • Further information about ventilation systems is outlined in the body of the report.
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Renewing Contracts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Draft Services Agreement is to be sent to the Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch on 29 September. • We now have the legal contract for 29 facilities, with three further contracts currently out for signing. • This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotels. <p><i>Self-Isolation Pilot</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Following decisions made by Cabinet on Monday, the project team is now preparing to run the pilot in both Auckland and Christchurch. We will be proposing that a lower volume of arrivals come through Auckland to ensure that we can manage the pilot as safely as possible in that location. We will provide you with a briefing early next week on the proposed split. • The online EOI process goes live at 9am on 30 September and will remain open until 9 October. Applicants will be advised of the outcome by 15 October. • Depending on the volume of EOIs, one ballot or several ballots may be run in order to evenly spread participants over the arrival window of 30 October to 8 December.
Post-managed isolation processes	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Fees Collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The process to email returnees from August 2020 has begun with two weeks processed. • 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 are looking into sending letters to physical addresses where no email has been found. • Ongoing invoicing has almost caught up with automatic invoicing (process is now up to returnees leaving MIQ on 13 September). • We are currently investigating the treatment of Afghanistan returnees, aircrew and border averters. Aircrew invoicing is being tested currently. • A solution that will allow credit card payments is in the build stage. <p><i>Self-Isolation Trial</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are beginning work to invoice returnees in the self-isolation trial, which will be manual until a longer-term process can be built. <p><i>Debt Recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Of the now 553 invoices worth \$1.82m sent to a debt collection agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ \$150k (up \$28k, 8%) has been paid (or will be paid through instalment), ○ \$209k is currently awaiting information from customers or has been credited due to an error, ○ a further \$171k (this includes the Gone no address/overseas category) requires more detailed tracing, \$6k has subsequently been credited; and ○ the remaining \$1,284k (includes the passive collection) debt continues to be a work in progress. • A new debt partner has been engaged to enhance debt recovery, • This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices and while we continue to make progress on debt recovery.

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

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MBIE	●	●	<p>P2/N95 Mask Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The wearing of P2/N95 masks, and the fifth week of implementation, continues to be highly supported by employers and unions. 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. Consultation with employers, unions and workers has ended and MBIE has confirmed that it will be mandatory for non-health workers to use P2/N95s and be fit tested. The decision will be communicated to employers, unions and workers the week of 4 October. The team is working with the Regional Isolation Quarantine Command Centres to understand how to best roster the 4,200 workers who will be fit tested. Procurement and ICT activities are under way to ensure that fit testing of all workers can commence from October.

Community Protection

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 9:00am 30 September 2021, there have been 1,249 community cases associated with the Delta Community Outbreak, an increase of 19 since the day prior. Of these, 256 are active cases, 992 are recovered and there has been one death. As at 30 September 2021, there are 20 cases linked to the Auckland Community outbreak who are currently in hospital. As at 10:00am 30 September 2021, there are 96 locations of interest published on the Ministry of Health website. Of these, 1 was in Pukekohe, 1 was in Bombay, 1 was in Maramarua, 1 was in Ngatea, 1 was in Paeroa, 2 were in Cambridge, 2 were in the Tauranga Region, approximately 3 were buses, and the rest in the Auckland Region. Actively managed contacts are contacts that have been identified and are awaiting test results. Of the actively managed contacts as at 30 September 2021, there are 66 Close Plus contacts and 536 Close contacts. As at 29 September 2021, more than 700,000 tests have been processed since the start of this current outbreak, with a record high of 49,746 tests processed on 24 August 2021. As at 29 September 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 21 community testing centres (CTCs) are available across the Auckland Metro Area, 6 regular CTCs and 5 Pop-Ups. 1 CTC and 2 Pop-Ups are available in Waikato 1 CTC and 4 Pop-Ups are available in Tauranga Three regular CTCs are open across the Wellington region. <p>Travel for permitted workers</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 29 September 2021 12,056 individuals and 844 businesses had registered with Asia Pacific Healthcare Group (APHG), the saliva testing provider engaged by the Ministry of Health. Yesterday APHG conducted 1,072 saliva tests for permitted workers crossing the boundary. As at 11.59pm 27 September 2021, 11,578 heavy vehicles had been stopped at the alert level border and 506 of them were turned around, a compliance rate of 95.6 percent. Police turned around 18 heavy vehicles at the boundary on Sunday. <p>Saliva testing at boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to see a steady increase in the uptake of saliva testing. As of 29 September 2021, 12,056 individuals and 844 employers had registered for saliva testing. There are sites at Waitomo Bombay and Te Hana service stations for the collection of saliva testing kits and to drop off samples. <p>Travel for personal reasons</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The testing requirement for those crossing the boundary for “personal travel” came into effect at 11.59pm on 23 September 2021. An amendment to the Order was made effective 11.59pm on 24 September 2021 to provide for two exceptions. No test is required if travelling from Auckland (Alert Level 3) to an Alert Level 2 area as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> one way travel into Alert Level 3 for people returning to their usual place of residence travel to access health services with an appointment (including vaccinations), if making a return trip from Alert Level 2 into Alert Level 3.

Case investigation, surveillance and testing

Vaccination

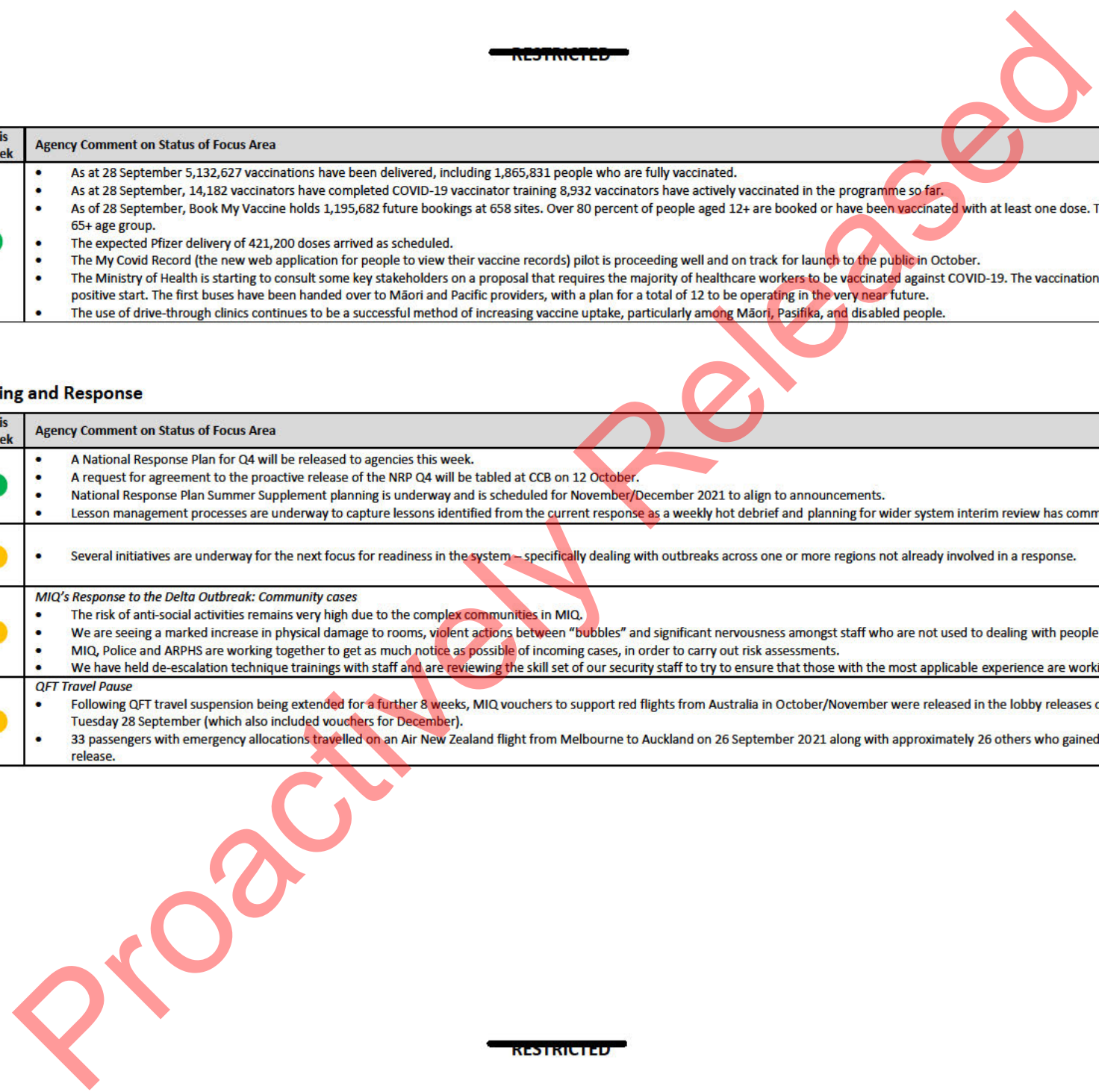
Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As at 28 September 5,132,627 vaccinations have been delivered, including 1,865,831 people who are fully vaccinated.As at 28 September, 14,182 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training 8,932 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.As of 28 September, Book My Vaccine holds 1,195,682 future bookings at 658 sites. Over 80 percent of people aged 12+ are booked or have been vaccinated with at least one dose. This figure is over 93 percent for the 65+ age group.The expected Pfizer delivery of 421,200 doses arrived as scheduled.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.The Ministry of Health is starting to consult some key stakeholders on a proposal that requires the majority of healthcare workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19. The vaccination buses in Auckland have had a positive start. The first buses have been handed over to Māori and Pacific providers, with a plan for a total of 12 to be operating in the very near future.The use of drive-through clinics continues to be a successful method of increasing vaccine uptake, particularly among Māori, Pasifika, and disabled people.

Implementation and operation

Resurgence Planning and Response

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">A National Response Plan for Q4 will be released to agencies this week.A request for agreement to the proactive release of the NRP Q4 will be tabled at CCB on 12 October.National Response Plan Summer Supplement planning is underway and is scheduled for November/December 2021 to align to announcements.Lesson management processes are underway to capture lessons identified from the current response as a weekly hot debrief and planning for wider system interim review has commenced.
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Several initiatives are underway for the next focus for readiness in the system – specifically dealing with outbreaks across one or more regions not already involved in a response.
MBIE	●	●	<p><i>MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak: Community cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The risk of anti-social activities remains very high due to the complex communities in MIQ.We are seeing a marked increase in physical damage to rooms, violent actions between “bubbles” and significant nervousness amongst staff who are not used to dealing with people who are being intimidating.MIQ, Police and ARPHS are working together to get as much notice as possible of incoming cases, in order to carry out risk assessments.We have held de-escalation technique trainings with staff and are reviewing the skill set of our security staff to try to ensure that those with the most applicable experience are working in the quarantine facilities.
MBIE	●	●	<p><i>QFT Travel Pause</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Following QFT travel suspension being extended for a further 8 weeks, MIQ vouchers to support red flights from Australia in October/November were released in the lobby releases on Monday 20 September and Tuesday 28 September (which also included vouchers for December).33 passengers with emergency allocations travelled on an Air New Zealand flight from Melbourne to Auckland on 26 September 2021 along with approximately 26 others who gained vouchers in last week's voucher release.

Resurgence planning including Readiness planning



2. COVID-19 Insights

2.1 Insights of Note Written by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

2.1.1 Other Countries' Reopening Strategies - Insights for NZ

Introduction

With the development and now widespread distribution of COVID-19 vaccines, more countries are adopting a 'living with COVID-19' model,¹ easing restrictions despite ongoing levels of transmission within the community. This brief report provides a summary of the insights gleaned from analysing the reopening strategies for a sample of countries, including Chile, Denmark, England, Scotland, Ireland, Singapore, South Africa, and the Netherlands, which cover a broad sweep of strategies and approaches. This follows analysis of these countries' vaccination rates, infection rates, public health measures, and restrictions at reopening, compared to now. This is intended as a summary, and detailed version of the report is available if useful.

Summary of Insights

Table of COVID-19 Facts By Country

Key: Green = Improvement; Red = Deterioration

Country	Chile	Denmark	England	Scotland	Ireland	Singapore	South Africa	The Netherlands
Fully Vaccinated at Reopening / Now (September)	20% / 73%	73% / 74%	66% / 82%	66% / 84%	7% / 74%	35% / 77%	4% / 14%	35% / 64%
Cases at Reopening / Peak After Reopening (7 day average)	3,823 / 7,321	530 / 386	36,130 / 28,571	1,908 / 6,396	341 / 339	22 / 1,697	11,818 / 1,794	589 / 10,000
Deaths at Reopening / Peak After Reopening (7 day average)	76 / 11	3 / 2.7	52 / 119	9 / 15	1 / 6	0.14 / 3	417 / 149	2 / 10

Note: For further details of cases and deaths please see the long form version of this report.

The pace and scale of reopening varied across countries, and a phased and incremental approach was central to avoiding a large increase in cases.

- Denmark adopted a relatively cautious approach to easing restrictions that extended from March to September 2021, which was accompanied by clear government planning and advanced communications of changing measures. In Denmark, at the time of reopening, 73% of the population were fully vaccinated.² As the table above details, the number of infections, and deaths have declined since Denmark dropped its remaining COVID-19 restrictions.^{3 4}
- Ireland is in the process of lifting restrictions, with the reopening beginning in mid-April and due to be finalised by the end of October.⁵ This has been a relatively continuous, and transparent process without the need to reverse course in the face of unexpected developments. In April, only 7% of the population were fully vaccinated. As the table above details, the number of infections peaked at a number similar to the 7 day average at reopening, however the deaths, doubled.⁶
- In mid-September, England released an 'autumn and winter plan' related to COVID-19. This includes two pillars, with Plan A promoting testing and vaccines and limiting pressure on the National Health Service (NHS) and Plan B mandating vaccine passports and face coverings in the event of 'unsustainable pressure' on the NHS.⁷ At the time of reopening, England had 66% of the population fully vaccinated. The average number of cases decreased in comparison to mid-July, when restrictions were lifted; however, the deaths more than doubled, as detailed in the chart above.⁸
- By contrast, Chile and Singapore pursued and scaled up reopening rapidly, over three-month periods from March-June and June-September respectively.^{9 10} Both of these countries have grappled with renewed outbreaks and the re-imposition of public health restrictions. Chile announced reopening when 20% of the population were fully vaccinated. After reopening, case numbers began to increase reaching a peak 7-day average of 7,321 cases on 14 April.^{11 12} Since this period, there has been a re-imposition of lockdowns, with a subsequent fall in the infection rate.

- Singapore announced reopening whilst there was 35% of the population fully vaccinated. The seven-day number of infections rose from 22 on 14 June to 1,697 on 28 September and continues on a sharp upward trajectory.¹³ However, severe cases and deaths have remained low.¹⁴

The continuation of some public health measures alongside vaccination was crucial to maintaining relatively low cases.

- Scotland introduced a system of domestic vaccine passes as a condition of entry into nightclubs and large events in parallel to the lifting of restrictions.¹⁵ In Scotland, 66% of the population were full vaccinated at reopening. The 7-day rolling average case number on 19 July when restrictions were eased in Scotland, was 1,908, while the 7-day rolling average number of deaths was 9. After restrictions were loosened case numbers began to increase again, reaching a peak 7-day rolling average of 6,396 on 7 September.¹⁶
- Denmark enacted vaccine passports more broadly for retail and hospitality settings. Public trust has been key to Denmark's response to date, supporting strong vaccination rates and implementation of public health measures such as mass testing and vaccine passports. Almost 95% of Danish citizens trust their national health authorities in tackling the pandemic, significantly more than France (65%) and Germany (70%).¹⁷
- Ireland continues to place capacity ceilings on attendance for music events, cinemas, and religious ceremonies.¹⁸
- The lessons emerging from clusters in the Netherlands and Singapore suggest that these targeted interventions in high-risk settings have contained potential outbreaks. The Netherlands commenced reopening with a vaccination rate of 35% in mid-June, and then re-imposed restrictions in response to a spike in cases. However, this sparked outrage among hospitality and entertainment providers, as well as the broader public. The case rate went from 589 in mid-June to 10,000 in mid-July. The Netherlands had to reintroduce restrictions after several clusters emerged from bars, clubs, and large events, with the national public health institute linking four in every 10 cases to nightlife venues. s6(a)
- Rigorous and widespread testing and tracing in Singapore, with an average daily number of 63,000 tests in the week to September 13 and 90% of the population using the TraceTogether App, has been critical to identifying and targeting clusters and adapting the public health response in light of new developments.²⁰
21
- By comparison, South Africa faced challenges in conveying consistency in its COVID-19 regulations, these included imposing restrictions on alcohol and cigarette sales, closing medical clinics as a result of minor staff exposure to the virus, and prematurely opening religious gatherings.²² s6(a)
Testing in South Africa is also backlogged, with tens of thousands of tests and a 14-day wait for results, which has limited the effectiveness of the testing infrastructure and ability to respond.²³ South Africa reopened with 4% of the population fully vaccinated at the time. Vaccinations have increased since then, and cases and deaths have subsequently decreased.²⁴
- In Chile, a lack of messaging around the spread of COVID-19 and the promotion of hand-sanitising and mask-wearing contributed to public frustration when restrictions were re-imposed to counter an increase in cases.²⁵

Across all of the countries assessed, higher vaccination rates decreased the impact of reopening on COVID-19 transmission.

- Denmark vaccinated 86% of the eligible population²⁶ prior to widespread reopening, and their infection rate fell after reopening.²⁷
- In contrast, England reopened with 66% of the population vaccinated. Following this, there were increased hospitalisations and strain on its healthcare system.²⁸

Reopening raised caseloads, constrained public health capacity, and impacted schools, transport hubs, nightlife venues, and workplaces first. Across all the countries analysed, reopening led to a generalised increase in cases.

- In Singapore, restrictions were lifted when only 35% of the population was vaccinated. Clusters were first identified at workplaces and transport hubs. Additionally, the high number of infections related to migrant workers (74%) raised problems for those industries (mostly construction and industry) dependant on their labour.^{29 30 31 32}
- Outbreaks were linked to nightlife venues in Singapore, and the Netherlands, these were compounded by the difficulty of ensuring and maintaining social adherence to public health measures in these settings.^{33 34}
- In England and Scotland, the infection rate among young people rose markedly as schools reopened.^{35 36}

By contrast, Denmark and Ireland have adopted a tailored approach, which applied different reopening phases and targets to public transport, professional spaces, and schools to account for various degrees of risk across these settings. For example, Ireland made announcements on lowering restrictions over a period stretching from April to October, with a detailed breakdown of which locations restrictions apply and how they should be applied.^{37 38}

Thank you to the following teams that contributed to this insights report: The Ministry of Health; the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade; and the Ministry of Business, Innovation, and Employment.

2.1.2 Details of Different Countries' Approaches to Domestic COVID-19 Vaccine Passes

Introduction

This brief insight report collates international insights on the use of domestic COVID-19 'vaccine passes'. This report builds on the previous report titled *'Different Countries' Approaches to Domestic COVID-19 Vaccine Passes'*. Included in the report are insights on how various countries have managed and implemented vaccine passes, the locations vaccine passes are required, any exemptions that exist, examples of where vaccine passes are prohibited, and how the implementation of vaccine passes has gone. The report is a summary, and a detailed version of the report is available if useful. The countries analysed include Australia, Austria, Canada, Denmark, France, Israel, Italy, Sweden, and the United Kingdom. This includes a mixture of countries that have implemented a domestic COVID-19 vaccine pass, those that are considering implementing one, and those that have implemented and removed it.

What is a COVID-19 Vaccine Pass?

For the purpose of this report, a 'COVID-19 vaccine pass' is defined as a medical document that confirms an individual has received a COVID-19 vaccination, and confers some degree of additional freedom to the holder that unvaccinated people do not have.³⁹ Examples of additional freedoms could be attending sporting or musical events, physically attending a workplace or school, travelling, or going to restaurants or bars.

Vaccine passes are distinct from a 'COVID-19 vaccine certificate' which is a medical document confirming that an individual has received a COVID-19 vaccination, but does not confer any additional freedoms on its holder. As almost all countries are issuing these certificates, and they are standard medical practice for all vaccinations, they are not discussed further in this report.

A vaccine pass generally does not verify anything about the health status of an individual (unlike an 'immunity passport' which verifies that an individual has previously had, and is now immune to, a specific disease).⁴⁰ In countries where 'immunity passports' are also in use, or included in the use of vaccine passes, they are mentioned in the below table.

Where Are COVID-19 Vaccine Passes Being Used?

There are a number of countries in Europe using a vaccine pass, a small number in Asia, and the Middle East, and some states in the United States, as well as Canada. Most countries in the world have not implemented a

vaccine pass. Some countries implemented a vaccine pass but retired it after achieving high vaccination rates, such as Denmark.

Which Events or Venues Require a COVID-19 Vaccine Pass?

Common locations that require a vaccine pass to be presented include spaces where people are in close proximity to each other, including hospitality venues such as restaurants, bars and nightclubs, gyms and fitness centres and public spaces such as museums, libraries, and cinemas. Indoor and outdoor event venues where large numbers of people gather were also commonly included, such as sports stadiums. Most countries analysed did not require a vaccine pass to access commercial premises such as shops and shopping centres. However, passes are required to enter shopping centres in France.

Are There Exemptions to the Requirement to Have a COVID-19 Vaccine Pass?

In most countries, exemptions to the vaccine pass requirement include age (exempting children under 12); and health or medical reasons, such as serious reactions to a first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, or known allergies to a specific vaccine.

Are There Locations Where a COVID-19 Vaccine Passes are Prohibited?

No examples were identified of specific legislation prohibiting vaccine passes in any setting, in any country analysed.

What Challenges Were There in Implementing COVID-19 Vaccine Passes?

Challenges to implementing COVID-19 vaccine pass policies included technical issues, backlash from the public, private, and political sectors, financial issues, and ethical and moral considerations.

Technical issues included privacy breaches with a prominent example being the Health Pass details of French President Emmanuel Macron being hacked.⁴¹ Other technical issues included the transferability of vaccine passes and related information between regional and national health authorities, and also other countries. For example, in Italy, there were instances of vaccine passes not being authorised to people who travelled home from abroad to be vaccinated, or received mixed types of vaccines, or received vaccines in different regions.⁴² Similar challenges were noted in Canada where regional governments have responsibility for their own health systems rather than the federal government.⁴³

Some countries also faced criticism and saw backlash against vaccine passes from public, political, and trade sectors. For example, in the UK, vaccine passes for England were scrapped after criticism from MPs saying they were discriminatory and would lead to a “two-tier” society.^{44 45} The passes in England also faced resistance from the Night-time Industries Association, a trade association representing nightclubs, which claimed that their members could potentially face discrimination cases if COVID-19 passes were required for entry into clubs. In Italy moves to implement the COVID-19 vaccine pass to cover all workers was criticised by far-right politicians within the country’s ruling coalition as a disincentive to domestic and international tourism, and also resulted in a small number of protests.⁴⁶ Some protesters in Italy have cited the vaccine pass as an erosion of freedoms, whilst the leader of the League Party, who are part of the coalition, claimed the move was too far reaching.^{47 48}

The financial burden for businesses of implementing the vaccine pass was also noted in Israel, with some events venues deciding not to reopen as COVID-19 vaccine passes for children meant that attendance was below an economically sustainable level.⁴⁹

Examples of moral and ethical considerations that impacted the implementation of the vaccine pass include public protests against perceived losses of freedoms⁵⁰ as well as larger resistance centred around anti-vaccine beliefs, and political protesters.⁵¹

Thank you to the following teams that assisted with this report: The Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

2.2 Insight of Note Written by the Ministry of Health

2.2.1 COVID-19 International Perspectives: 29 September 2021

Global daily new COVID-19 cases have been declining since late August, although almost half a million COVID-19 cases and 8,100 deaths are still being reported daily.⁵² New cases in North and South America, Asia and Africa are declining, those in Europe and Oceania are plateauing.⁵³ Over 3.3 million cases and 50,000 deaths have been reported in the last week. 231 million cases (~3% of the global population) and 4.74 million deaths have been reported in the pandemic to date.⁵⁴ In many parts of the world, official death tolls undercount the total number of fatalities due to limited testing in many regions. Approximately 33% of the global population is fully vaccinated and a further 12% have received one dose.⁵⁵ The Delta variant and its sub-strains continue to increase in prevalence worldwide and are dominating in most countries with sufficient sequencing rates.⁵⁶

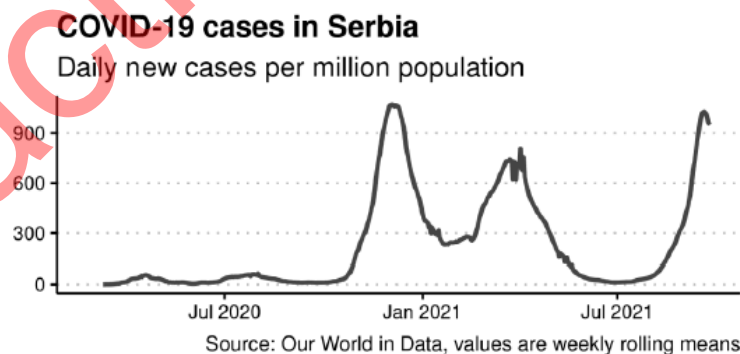
Point of departure	Number of MIQ bookings
UK	1609
USA	770
Australia	709
Unknown	708
India	544
China	360
Canada	218
Philippines	192
Russia	191
France	168

Source: Ministry of Health.

In the past three months, approximately 39 arrivals and 12 cases* travelled from Serbia into New Zealand (NZ). The number of cases in Serbia is steeply rising, and this is contextually relevant given that approximately 30% of positive cases for international arrivals in the past three months have been from Serbia. There has also been 684 arrivals and 13 cases from the Philippines in the past three months. Furthermore, the number of MIQ bookings in NZ from the Philippines in the next 30 days is 192 (See Figure 1 below). As such, this country situation has also been included in the following analysis. The number of MIQ bookings from Canada in the next 30 days is 218 (See Figure 1 below). Given the large number of projected arrivals, rising cases, and insights gained from analysis of COVID-19 strategies, Canada has also been included in the summary.

Figure 1: New Zealand's MIQ bookings in the next 30 days for the top ten points of departure

Serbia



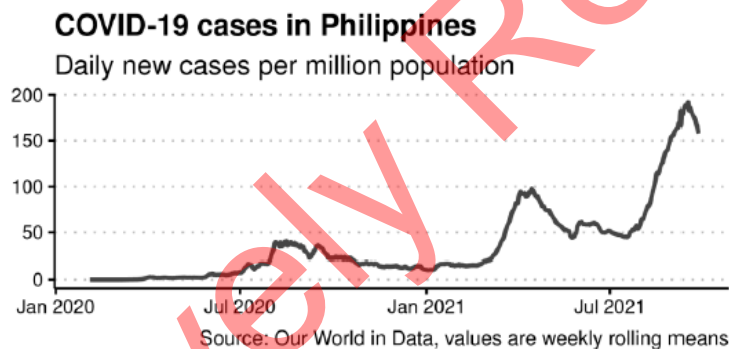
- New COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Serbia have risen steeply in the past three months but have begun to decline in the past week.⁵⁷ Daily new cases were just over 70 in late June, however, after Serbia reported their first Delta cases on 1 July, case numbers surged, and the country is now reporting a daily average of 6,543 cases.⁵⁸
- Over 900,000 cases have been reported in Serbia since the start of the pandemic, of these, 5,927 are currently in hospital and 8,097 have died. The vaccine rollout has slowed despite the rise in daily new cases.⁵⁹

- Daily average new COVID-19 tests are relatively high at 3.3 tests per 1,000, however, test positivity has been steadily increasing to a very high level of 29.9%.⁶⁰ As genomic sequencing in Serbia is low, the extent of Delta infection is not well understood.⁶¹
- Serbia currently administers the Sinopharm, Sputnik V, Pfizer, and AstraZeneca vaccines.⁶² Construction is underway in Serbia for the first Chinese COVID-19 vaccine factory in Europe.⁶³ The factory is expected to produce 30 million COVID-19 vaccine doses annually from April 2022 and will supply Serbia and several other countries in the region with Sinopharm vaccines.⁶⁴

As of 10 September, Serbia's updated entry conditions for citizens and temporary residents require people to provide either evidence of a negative RT-PCR test, a certificate of complete vaccination or proof of recovery from COVID-19.⁶⁵ Others must quarantine at home for 10 days and are reminded of the obligation to report to the nearest clinic to be tested within 24 hours of crossing the state border.⁶⁶ Minors may enter Serbia without a negative RT-PCR test, vaccination certificate, or a certificate of overcome disease, if they submit either a RT-PCR test or an antigen test within 48 hours from the time crossing the state border.⁶⁷

Current domestic restrictions require all operating businesses to provide sufficient social distancing space.⁶⁸ Social distancing is practised in schools, with half of municipalities in Serbia switching to online or combined learning.⁶⁹ The government has also allowed gatherings of up to 500 people, either indoors or outdoors; and events expecting over 500 people will need permission from the Ministry of Health.⁷⁰ Sports events are also set to continue with the government allowing outdoor stadiums to have spectators of up to 50% capacity.⁷¹

Philippines

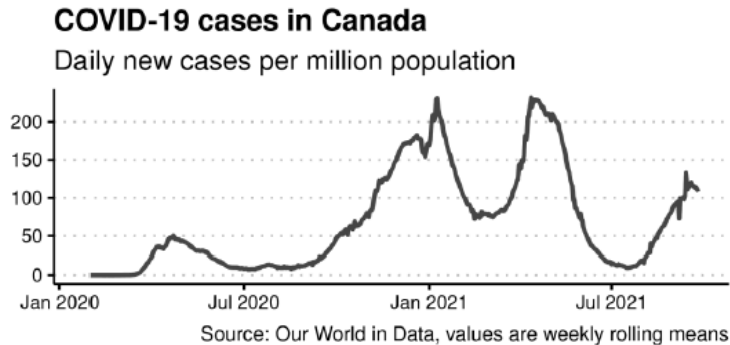


- New COVID-19 cases in the Philippines have declined over the past fortnight from the record high of over 20,000 cases reported per day, although the 7-day rolling average remains at 17,518.⁷²
- Of the population of 108 million, 2.47 million cases have been reported to date.⁷³ 117 deaths are being reported daily on average; however, as data is irregular and testing is not extensive, the true burden of cases and deaths is likely to be higher.⁷⁴
- Daily average new COVID-19 tests are 0.64 tests per 1,000 and test positivity has been steadily increasing to a very high level of 27.2%. Of recently sequenced cases, over 80% are the Delta variant.⁷⁵
- Many hospitals are operating beyond capacity, with some no longer accepting COVID-19 patients, while others will not accept non-COVID patients.⁷⁶
- Only 15% of the total population of the Philippines has been fully vaccinated, with an additional 8.2% partially vaccinated.⁷⁷ The rollout has mostly included Sinovac, Sputnik V, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer doses.⁷⁸
- s6(a)

Metro Manilla is trialling a new lockdown model to assess whether loosening regional restrictions and putting hotspots into lockdown for 14 days is as effective as regional lockdowns for controlling outbreaks.⁸⁰ This system consists of five alert levels and allows areas from cities to households to lock down, preventing

movement out of the area.⁸¹ This approach has drawn criticism from the World Health Organisation, warning it is likely to increase transmission and further overwhelm hospitals.⁸² Schools in the Philippines have been closed since March 2020; and children are largely confined to their homes, except now in Metro Manila where the new lockdown settings allow children outside for exercise.⁸³

Canada



- Nationally, growth in new COVID-19 cases in Canada's fourth wave is slowing following recent tightening of COVID-19 restrictions in areas of surging cases, with a 7-day average of just over 4,000 new cases reported per day. Over 95% of sequenced cases are the Delta variant.⁸⁴
- There is significant variation in prevalence between provinces, with several still experiencing growth in new cases. Alberta is currently experiencing the highest case rates, reporting over one third of national cases, followed by Saskatchewan, the Northwest territories, and First Nations reserves.⁸⁵
- Despite slowing of new cases, hospital admissions are continuing to rise. An average of 2,267 people were treated daily for COVID-19 in Canadian hospitals in the week to 23 September, 729 of which were in ICU.⁸⁶
- Just over 70% of Canada's total population has been fully vaccinated, with an additional 6.1% having received one dose.⁸⁷
- Over the month to 4 September, the rate of new COVID-19 cases was 11 times higher in unvaccinated than fully vaccinated individuals, and hospitalisations were 38 times higher in the unvaccinated.⁸⁸

Public health strategies are determined by provincial governments and vary widely. In early July, Alberta lifted public health restrictions earlier than other parts of Canada, at the point where around 40% of the population was fully vaccinated.⁸⁹ Restrictions were almost entirely lifted when cases were around 50 per day, which included ending asymptomatic testing and no longer notifying close contacts of cases.⁹⁰ New cases soared and now over 1,500 are being reported daily, with more than 20,000 active cases being handled by the province, almost half of all active cases nationally.⁹¹ Provincial government officials have expressed regret on opening too early.⁹² Restrictions were reintroduced on 16 September to curb effects on the healthcare system.⁹³ Restrictions include limits on public and private gatherings, masking and requirements for vaccine certificates to enter certain public spaces.⁹⁴

From early August, fully vaccinated travellers with a negative pre-departure test from the US were permitted to enter Canada without 14-day quarantine.⁹⁵ This has been expanded from 7 September to travellers from any country who are fully vaccinated with approved vaccines.⁹⁶ The regulations allow the government to add and remove vaccines from the approved list.

3. Ministry of Health



3.1 Items to Note/Updates

3.1.1 Near Field Communication Tag Trial with NZ COVID Tracer App

This item updates you on the Ministry of Health's plan to trial Near Field Communication (NFC) tap-to-scan technology with the NZ COVID Tracer app, as an alternative to scanning QR codes, which was signalled in the 9 July 2021 update on the Bluetooth-enabled Contact Tracing Card and the NZ COVID Tracer app.

The pilot is underway at the Ministry of Health's head office at 133 Molesworth St and two neighbouring cafes and will start on 4 October 2021 at Victoria University of Wellington. The trial will inform future decisions about wider implementation. The objective of the trial is to understand whether using NFC tags would remove some of the social awkwardness of scanning, which is particularly prevalent with younger adults and teenagers who do not tend to use the NZ COVID Tracer app, and to understand whether NFC improves accessibility for those unable to scan QR codes.

NFC tags use the same technology as contactless payments or 'tagging' on and off the bus. The tag does not rely on the user's phone camera focusing on the QR code, and the amount of time involved is minimal (one to three seconds). Users simply hold their phone briefly against a tag, which then automatically opens the NZ COVID Tracer App and adds the location in the app's digital diary. The information remains private and is stored only on the user's phone unless they choose to share it.

Apple and Google have confirmed NFC tags would meet their app store privacy requirements but that Bluetooth beacons would not, as checking in with an NFC tag requires a user action.

In addition to the pilot itself, key elements to be confirmed are the pricing of the tags, constraints around availability of the tags, feasibility of certifying third party tag suppliers, distribution of the tags and how this can be managed in a self-service way for businesses that want to use the tags.

Next steps

It is expected that the pilot of NFC tags will be completed before the end of October 2021, to inform a subsequent decision about wider deployment.

3.2 Policy/Programme Updates

3.2.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11.59 pm on 28 September 2021, 5,132,627 vaccinations have been delivered, including 1,865,831 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 17 percent are Asian.

314,427 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 28 September.

656 sites were active on 28 September.

Group 4 rollout

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

On 25 September the Programme passed the major milestone of five million doses being administered. More than 80 percent of the eligible population of Auckland has now received at least one dose of the vaccine, and we will shortly reach this figure for the entire country.

Equity

Work is underway to identify the demographic traits of the 'yet to engage' population. The variables being analysed (alongside ethnicity and age) include deprivation, rural/urban and access times. Engagement with Whakarongarau is also underway to understand what other metrics we might add to this dataset.

The rollout of vaccination buses has had a positive start in Auckland. The focus of these buses is reaching into communities where there might be access challenges or transportation issues. The first buses were handed over to Māori and Pacific providers last week. The providers have already been working with their communities to understand the areas of greatest need and will continue communicating with these areas as they confirm their bus travel plans. We aim to soon have a total of 12 buses on the road, seven of which will be run by Māori providers and five will go to Pasifika providers.

The Programme is now working on a strategy to improve uptake of the vaccine. This includes supporting innovative approaches to vaccine uptake, providing contract flexibility where it is needed, ensuring mobile options are in place where they are needed to reach whānau, and to target vaccination communications and access at particular cohorts of people.

District health boards (DHBs) are providing a range of services to meet the needs of disabled people within their areas. These include mobile vaccination services, residential disability services and, in some instances, home visits. While not always possible under higher alert level conditions, home vaccinations continue to be delivered across the majority of the country.

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 28 September more than 35,859 people have been vaccinated since 20 August, who have been identified in the COVID Immunisation Register as essential workers.

Mandatory vaccination of healthcare workers

The Ministry of Health is starting to consult some key stakeholders on a proposal that requires the majority of healthcare workers to be vaccinated against COVID-19. This is in line with current requirements for managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) and port workers, and reflects practices in other countries, including Australia, UK and Canada.

While vaccination uptake is high in some parts of the sector, we need vaccination rates to be higher across this workforce to protect healthcare workers and the wider community better from COVID-19.

Our consultation will include health unions, professional associations, the Office for Disability Issues, the Privacy Commissioner, Māori representatives and aged care employers.

Latest research on vaccination uptake

Results of the August survey undertaken by Horizon Research, in association with the School of Population Health, University of Auckland, were published on the Ministry of Health's website last week. The August results found an increase in overall potential uptake, which is the total number of people either already vaccinated and those who are likely to get a vaccine. This is estimated to be 86 percent, up from 79 percent in July and 77 percent in June.

Increases were also seen in potential uptake among Māori, Pacific peoples and people who identify as disabled.

Ten percent of respondents not already vaccinated said they were unsure if they would get a vaccine.

Workforce

As at 28 September, 14,182 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 8,932 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

The pool of trained vaccinators is expected to continue to increase over the coming months. The Immunisation Advisory Centre has advised that there has been a surge in the registrations and completion of vaccinator training.

The Hands Up database has over 16,500 registrations as at 28 September. The workforce team is developing guidance to support DHBs with a quick process for recruitment that reflects the need to recruit staff quickly and under various alert levels.

Book My Vaccine

As of 28 September, Book My Vaccine holds 1,195,682 future bookings at 697 sites.

General practice and pharmacy rollout

Onboarding of primary care continues to progress well. There are now more than 700 active primary care sites, with the number of pharmacies in particular increasing considerably. There are now over 350 pharmacies onboarded to provide COVID-19 vaccinations across New Zealand.

Technology

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.

Supply

The expected Pfizer delivery of 425,880 doses arrived as scheduled.

New Zealand support for vaccine roll-out in the Pacific

The Cook Islands and Niue will begin the rollout of the vaccine for their 12 to 15-year-old population group in early October.

Planning is underway with Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji on plans to vaccinate their 12 to 17-year-old cohorts using the Pfizer vaccine. We are expecting vaccine delivery to the three respective countries to commence in October.

3.3 Technical Advisory Group: Update

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) did not meet in the week commencing 20 September. The next COVID-19 TAG meeting is scheduled for 15 October and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 21 September and discussed:

- COVID-19 vaccines that New Zealand could recognise for people entering Managed Isolation and Quarantine
- recommendations for administering additional doses for immunocompromised people
- third booster doses for the elderly/general population
- decision to use for 12 to 15-year-olds (review).

There is no CVTAG meeting this week. CVTAG next meets on 5 October and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

3.4 Recent and Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 28 September 2021

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
28 Sept 21 ongoing	Auckland outbreak: daily communications and support for the health sector and public Locations of interest and updated health advice	Ministry of Health	Communications, key messages, website, stakeholder engagement	Optional
28 Sept 2021	Announcement of further changes to boundary crossing rules, for relocation and returning home	DPMC / Ministry of Health	Web content, talking points, operational communications	Yes - announcing
28 Sept 2021	Announcement of additional testing in MIQ at day 6	Ministry of Health / MBIE	Web content, talking points, operational communications	Optional
29 Sept 2021	Announcement of further details of self-	MBIE / Ministry of	Web content, talking points,	Yes

	isolation pilot	Health	operational communications	
29 Sept 2021	Announcement of COVID-19 Amendment Bill	Ministry of Health / DPMC	Web content, talking points	Yes
1 Oct 21	Preparing for NZ COVID Tracer app NFC trial at Victoria University Wellington mandatory record keeping and the new QR poster designs	Ministry of Health	Collateral, stakeholder engagement, website, PR	Optional

3.5 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 S9(2)(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: Community cases

The demographic of a large proportion of the community cases is of significant and increasing concern to MIQ. Large numbers have considerable offending histories, various gang affiliations and a history of aggression and anti-social behaviour. MIQ, Police and ARPHS have worked over the past few weeks to ensure risk assessments are completed as soon as possible so appropriate mitigations can be put in place. However, with only a small number of facilities being utilised for quarantine of community cases, the risk of anti-social activities remains very high.

We are seeing a marked increase in physical damage to rooms, violent actions between "bubbles" and significant nervousness amongst staff who are not used to dealing with people who are being intimidating. MIQ staff are not trained in dealing with such complex issues or anti-social behaviours, unlike Corrections staff.

As mentioned last week, we have done training on de-escalation techniques and are reviewing the skill set of our security staff to try to ensure that those with the most applicable experience are working in the quarantine facilities. However, the current cohort (and therefore the likely future cohorts, based on the close contacts of the current cases) present significant risks that MIQ was not expecting to have to deal with given its establishment for border cases. Border cases have not presented the same issues in the same numbers. Currently we have two Police liaison officers at each quarantine facility on each shift. However, two officers would be unlikely to be sufficient if there was a large scale incident between opposing gangs. s9(2)(g)(i)

We worked closely with ARPHS last week to manage a large number of close contacts from 6 boarding hostels, many of whom were known to have issues with authority. In that situation it was agreed that it would be best for those people to isolate in their existing hostel arrangements, rather than be moved to MIQ. MIQ supports this approach as although the people remain isolating in the community, they are in familiar settings with wrap around support and are less likely to react as negatively as they could if put into MIQ.

4.1.2 Self-Isolation Pilot

Following decisions made by Cabinet on Monday, we are now preparing to run the pilot in both Auckland and Christchurch. The addition of Auckland adds risk and complexity, particularly in relation to the health workforce and due to the fact that Auckland remains in Alert Level 3 preventing any 'on the ground' engagement. We will be proposing that a lower volume of arrivals come through Auckland to ensure that we can manage the pilot as safely as possible in that location. We will provide you with a briefing early next week on the proposed split.

The online EOI process will go live at 9am on Thursday 30 September and remain open until 9 October. Applicants will be advised of the outcome by 15 October. Depending on the volume of EOIs, one ballot or several ballots may be run in order to evenly spread participants over the arrival window of 30 October to 8 December. This minimises risk to both the community and to MIQ in terms of holding rooms in contingency. Your office will ensure that you receive nominations for official delegation participants. You have been authorised by Cabinet to determine how many places should be reserved for official delegation participants and to determine the selection of these participants. A decision on official delegation participants will need to be made before 9 October in order to include spaces for them in the pilot.

4.1.3 MIQ Lobby Release

The second lobby release was completed on Tuesday 28 September. The lobby opened at 4.30pm, 30 minutes ahead of the announced 5pm start, to ensure that the volume of people who had already started to enter the site could be managed without any system overload. Those who entered the lobby early did not gain any advantage.

Participants were again asked to register in advance and check the “flight checker” on the MIAS website to confirm in advance the dates on which flights from their country of origin were available. A flight schedule was also available on the MIQ website to make it easier for people to check flights when they entered the lobby.

During the room release, the lobby held just over 31,300 people. The queue was randomly formed at 6pm and all 3718 rooms were taken by 8.10pm. 6231 people from 125 countries reserved MIQ spaces. They have 48 hours to confirm their flights in the system, at which time they will be issued with an MIQ voucher. December spaces were taken first, by 6.48pm, with November and October last to be taken.

The next release will be held next Tuesday with the time to be confirmed.

4.1.4 MIQ’s role in Afghan evacuation

A total of 406 Afghan evacuees have arrived in New Zealand. The table below shows the MIQ status of the Afghan evacuation programme as at 4PM Tuesday 28 September:

Place	Category	Number	Notes
Naumi MIF	Evacuees	1	
Pullman MIF	Evacuees	1	
Jet Park QF	Evacuees	1	Transferred from Naumi 18 Sep after positive test
Rydges MIF	Evacuees	5	Family evacuated via s6(a), s6(b)(i) with support of NZ Aid
Waipuna MIF	NZDF	6	
TOTAL Returnees in MI		14	Total Departed MI: Afghan Nationals 398 (plus baby), NZ National 1, AOG Staff 84

The last of the AoG staff that deployed to AMAB will depart managed isolation on 7 October.

There are 21 further Afghan evacuees expected in the next week.

Work continues in the interagency task force (Task Force GOLF, comprising MBIE (MIQ, INZ), NZDF and MFAT) to develop a border policy and an operational plan for managing subsequent Afghan arrivals based on the MIQ Group Allocations process.

4.2 Operational Update

4.2.1 Capacity Update – As at 29 September

A total of 38,157 vouchers have been released on MIAS for the period of June through to the end of December 2021.

123,876 returnees have secured a voucher to return home from March through to the end of December.

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

4.2.2 Ventilation

Ventilation remediation work continues with urgency for the remaining facilities, in parallel with the deployment of air filtration units for the remaining two facilities’ common spaces and the quarantine rooms at Jet Park Auckland, Commodore Christchurch and Sudima Christchurch.

The ventilation remediation at Four Points is on track to commence on 1 October and expected to be completed prior to a cohort arriving on 10 October.

The number of air filtration units being delivered and installed daily at Jet Park Auckland has increased this week from 10 to 15. 160 have been installed to date with the remaining 43 expected to be delivered by the end of the week (one week ahead of forecast).

The Ramada (Auckland) and the Elms (Christchurch) sites are being investigated this week to identify the location of existing corridor power points in order to determine placement of the common space air filtration units and/or the need to install additional power points. Work is also underway with both facilities to coordinate ventilation remediation work (ideally) ahead of returnee arrivals.

Installation of air filtration units for common spaces for the remaining 2 of 31 facilities (Sebel Manukau and Rydges Auckland) continues. Estimated completion for the Rydges Auckland is by the end of this week. For the Sebel, 41 units have been delivered to site and have been installed but a need for additional units has been identified. We are currently working through the specifics in terms of numbers and locations. At this stage it is expected to be less than 10 additional units required by the facility.

The remediation work for Holiday Inn Auckland was signed off last week bringing the total number of sites completed to date to seven (30% of rooms across the entire portfolio).

The remediation work at the Novotel Christchurch Airport is in progress in parallel with completing fire damper work to obtain building code of compliance. The ventilation work can be carried out with the same number of 35 rooms being unavailable as was needed to carry out the fire damper work. Both pieces of work are expected to be completed no later than 20 November.

Remediation work for the Grand Mercure (Wellington) is nearing completion with rebalancing and final testing occurring this week. It is currently on track for all work to be completed prior to the next cohort that is due to arrive 6/7 October.

4.2.3 Vaccination of Frontline Staff

For workers on site for the week 20-26 September, BWTR shows that 97.3% had two doses of the vaccine, 1.6% had one dose and the remaining 1.2% (54 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 54 workers with an 'unknown' vaccination status, 15 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing Team is investigating the remaining 39 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.

However, we have identified one hotel worker on site at an Auckland managed isolation facility this week who was vaccinated overseas but has not received the Pfizer vaccine (as required by the Vaccination Order). They were on site on 22, 24 and 26 of September. They have been informed and will not come on site again until they meet the vaccination requirements. Security on site and the employer have been reminded of the vaccination requirements.

Of the 81 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 13-19 September 2021 weekly report:

- 62 have been confirmed as being compliant with the vaccine order;
- 17 are compliant, but have been passed to MoH for investigation as potential NHI issues;
- 1 was an incorrect sign-in; and
- 1 has been contacted and we are awaiting a response.

4.2.4 Staff Testing

Reporting from BWTR shows that 4,679 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.

Compliance dropped 1% to 97% since last week.

Workers on site 20 – 26 September 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,510	97%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	154	3%
Need NHI-match	15	
Workers on site	4,679	

Of the 154 overdue, 66 of those are less than 4 days overdue, 80 are 4-10 days overdue and 8 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 15 that still need an NHI-match, 12 were created in BWTR in the last 7 days.

Of the 8 workers previously reported as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 13-19 September, follow-up showed:

- Four are compliant but have been referred to MOH as NHI issues,
- 1 we have confirmed has been swabbed, and
- 3 have been instructed to be swabbed.

4.2.5 Saliva Testing

As at 27 September 2021, 427 MIQ workers have opted-in to saliva testing.

Saliva testing is currently operational across 22 sites in Wellington, Rotorua, Hamilton, Christchurch and Auckland. The remaining sites will become operational over the next week.

Following advice from Ministry of Health, we are strongly encouraging workers to opt-in to saliva testing and for those workers at quarantine facilities to provide daily saliva samples while at work during this current outbreak.

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. We are working through the operational impacts of these testing changes and how we will manage communication and engagement with our workforce as well as the reporting and monitoring impacts arising as a result.

4.2.6 Ombudsman Update

We have received ten Ombudsman notifications this week. All of these were preliminary requests for information or follow ups on old cases. As of 27 September, we have six open cases.

A response to an OPCAT notification is due on 1 October, concerning the Jet Park Hamilton.

4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 28 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 was 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	46 (65 pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month. Note that this includes 9 pax (5 rooms) who still need to confirm their flights & have vouchers issued.
	Nov 2021	60	TBC	
	Dec 2021	60	TBC	
Refugee Intakes	30 Sept 2021	8	2 (8 pax)	s9(2)(a)
	TBC	24	12 (24 pax)	Capacity is currently full at the Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre which affects the ability to bring in further big groups of refugees under the current alert levels. Due to this, the focus for the next 1-2 months will shift to bringing through emergency refugee cases. There are 6 family cases known that will arrive in the next 1-2 months over various dates.
Afghanistan Evacuees	07 Sept 2021	1	1	A process is under development between MIQ, INZ, NZDF, and MFAT to determine a sustainable way to bring in future Evacuees, particularly with the need to obtain advanced notice of arrivals from MFAT. s9(2)(a) Evacuees arrived in New Zealand without prior knowledge on 22 September. This adds complexities for MIQ National Planning, as well as to ensure the evacuees receive the necessary wrap around support. s9(2)(a) (20 pax) are due to arrive on 2 October.
	10 Sept 2021	1	6	
	16 Sep 2021	3	1	
	22 Sep 2021	5	5	
	25 Sep 2021	1	1	
	27 Sep 2021	1	1	
2 Oct 2021	20	10		

Cricket: White Ferns	30 Sep 2021	30	21 (24 pax)	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption. One voucher cancellation for individual not returning to New Zealand at this stage.
Mariners	21 Sep 2021	100	99	The first flight of 55 have departed MIF. None of the arrivals to date in the group allocation have tested positive. All arrivals up to 9 Nov are conducting MI in CHC. In addition to listed flights arriving under a group allocation, another 81 pax from the same group of companies are arriving into Auckland on self-obtained MIAS vouchers over the period 21 Sep – 12 Oct. This grouping is being provided with equivalent management and support as pax arriving as part of the group allocation. 2 pax from this grouping have tested positive to date.
	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 pers deferred from earlier flights)	TBC	
NZTE	Early Nov	25	TBC	Trial monthly allocation for exporter, administered by NZTE.
	Early Dec	25	TBC	
EXPO	7 Oct	72	13 (17 pax)	
	25 Oct		22 TBC	
	22 Nov	80	80 TBC	
Mountain biking: Crankworx	October	70	50 TBC	
Rugby: All Blacks	Late Nov	65	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Rugby: Black Ferns	Late Nov	65	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Cricket: BlackCaps	22 Sep 2021	24	24	Black Caps returning from Pakistan – bought forward from 7 October due to Emergency situation. Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
	24 Nov 2021	20	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
	9 Dec 2021	33	TBC	This cohort of BlackCaps will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC has begun to plan for their arrival.
NZDF	4 Oct	5	5	
	11 Oct	15	12	
	20 Oct	16	15 (16 pax)	
	21 Oct	50	TBC	
	Early Dec	76	TBC	
Cricket: Bangladesh	Early Dec	35	TBC	Bangladesh will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC has begun to plan for their arrival.
Antarctic Programme	17 Sep	200	186 (200 pax)	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German and Korean programme.
	18 Sep	39	39	
	21 Sep	1	1	
	27 Sep	145	136 (141 pax)	
	1 Oct	27	27 TBC	
	4 Oct	45	43 TBC	
	6 Oct	17	10 TBC	
	9 Oct	10	10 TBC	
	11 Oct	214	213 (214 pax) 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		

Time Sensitive Travel (TST)

The Time Sensitive Travel window for arrivals in Nov/Dec 2021 closed on 14 September. Applications were received for approximately 679 people, including at least 116 family members.

Applications are currently being assessed and it is anticipated approximately 428 rooms will be required. This will be confirmed after the decision meeting on 8 October.

Applications include four ministerial delegations for 30 people and 30 rooms, as follows:

- Prime Minister (estimate 17 pax and rooms)
- Minister Shaw / Climate Change (5 pax and rooms)
- Minister Mahuta / Foreign Affairs (3 pax and rooms)
- Minister O'Connor / Trade and Export Growth (5 pax and rooms)

4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

4.4.1 As at 29 September 2021:

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
30 September	EOI going live for self-isolation pilot	MIQ	Proactive comms	Y – 29 Sept announcement
Late September	Maori King opens ISO Accor paintings exhibition in Hamilton	MIQ	Proactive comms	N
15 October	Announcement of successful 150 SIP	MIQ	Proactive comms	N
October	MIQ Report on Absconder from Novotel Ellerslie	MIQ	Proactive comms and interviews	N
October	Report on 4 MIF transmissions during community outbreak	MoH	Joint MoH and MIQ proactive comms	N
Friday 31 October	Day 6/7 returnee testing	MoH	Reactive comms	N
Late October TBC	Ramada to reopen as MIF for deportees	MIQ	Reactive comms	N
Mid November	New MIF in Christchurch operationalised	MIQ	Proactive communications	TBC

4.5 Fees

4.5.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to the 26th of September.

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).

Please note that for all arrivals from the 20th of August, all invoicing had payment terms of 30 days except for sports groups under Crown Service Agreements who have 10 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 over due	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups /Temp Visa	4,404	1,705	2059	640	\$43,659,053	29,355,481	\$10,716,680	\$3,586,892	0	\$0
Maritime	457	313	118	26	\$2,291,092	\$1,548,622	\$663,068	\$79,402	16	\$41,286
Aircrew	204	145	0	59	\$1,088,205	\$818,039	\$0	\$270,166	53	\$231,637
Other	23,974	13,456	5458	5061	\$81,876,877	\$48,798,877	\$17,045,488	\$16,032,512	1831	\$5,948,983
Total	29,039	15,619	7,635	5,786	\$128,915,227	\$80,521,019	\$28,425,236	\$19,968,973	1,900	\$6,221,906

*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. 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	3,206,707
2-4 weeks	2,896,776
5-8 weeks	2,864,990
9+ weeks	1,875,400

4.5.3 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 26 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
9987	3535	6452	831	5621	87	4814	744	807

4.6 Emergency Allocation Applications

5,840 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020. 435 applications were received in the week ending 26 September 2021, and 216 applications were processed.

From the applications processed in the week ending 26 September 2021, 49% were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 20 September – 26 September	Year to Date Totals 30 October 2020 – 26 September 2021
Approved	106	3113
Declined	110	2727
Applications processed	216	5840

*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 from 20 Sept to 26 Sept	112
Rooms allocated in MIAS	89
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	23

The emergency allocation system is being used by applicants more than could have been anticipated. This causes significant pressures on the Operations teams as they assess each application and are increasingly declining applications. We anticipate that the continued release of vouchers via the lobby system will reduce this pressure over time.

4.7 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 21 September to 27 September is as follows:

Week 21 September – 27 September	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	224	35	272
Improvements	8	0	9
Compliments	3	1	2
Queries	12	0	14
Ombudsman/OPCAT	13	10	6
Parliamentary/OIA	2	1	1
Other	4	2	3

Week	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
21 September – 27 September			
Total	266	49	307

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 141. For the last four weeks, the average is 243 per week.

This week we have received 266 new cases, and have resolved 307 cases. This number has decreased from 319 cases received last week.

MIAS cases represented 50% of all cases received. Numbers spiked on Tuesday and Wednesday due to the lobby launch and voucher release, but steadily came down towards the end of the week.

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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 29 September.

The Border Executive Board has commissioned two independent reviews which are being carried out in tandem:

- Review of COVID-19 Maritime Border Measures
- Review of border worker testing and vaccinations – maritime and aviation borders

To make the reviews as useful as possible, especially considering changes to the Vaccinations Order coming into effect at the end of 30 September, the reviewer, Wendy Venter of Venter Consulting Ltd, provided the Board with her observations to date. She has also shared her insights with the team supporting the implementation of these changes.

So far, the reviews have not identified any new issues. (A separate item at the meeting without the reviewer, provided assurance to the Board that the Vaccinations Order programme had mitigations in place for the remaining known issues.)

The reviewer noted that engaging with industry had brought the private and public sector together and there was interest in maintaining this closer working relationship.

The final review reports are expected in November.

5.1.2 Shout out to the border workforce

Thank you for acknowledging the contribution, and vaccinations rates, of the border workforce during the press conference on 29 September.

5.1.3 Future Border Sprint process

Following the third showcase last week, work continues on developing a framework for a s9(2)(f)(iv)

We are aiming to be ready for s9(2)(f)(iv)

The eight week sprint process will conclude with a final showcase to the Chief Executive sponsors group on 8 October.

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Maritime

Vessel Vanuatu Chief

Vanuatu Chief is a Singaporean flagged bulk container vessel that arrived in Auckland on 25 September with 24 crew on board. The ship's agent in New Zealand advised that two crew who had signed off the vessel in Suva had subsequently tested positive for COVID-19. The crew arriving into New Zealand are currently showing no signs of infection. Pratique has not been granted for the vessel and it remains at anchor under quarantine.

A clinical assessment of swab and blood samples from the crew indicates an active outbreak on board although they continue to report as being asymptomatic. Crew are next expected to be tested on day 12 (1 October). If these tests are negative, then crew will likely remain in quarantine until after 14 days since last port of call.

An all-of-government response meeting was held on 29 September and a plan to work the vessel while under quarantine continues to be developed with positive engagement by all involved (Ministry of Health/Public Health Unit, Ports of Auckland, Stevedores, Unions, and Pilots).

Workshop to review the Rio De La Plata Incident

The New Zealand Customs Service will lead a vessel management workshop with industry representatives on 5 October. The purpose of the workshop is to enable industry and government to develop a collaborative and system wide approach to a national framework for managing vessels carrying suspected and confirmed cases of COVID-19. This is one of the 12 projects under the Managing COVID-19 in the Maritime Environment work stream being led by Maritime New Zealand.

Small Craft Arrivals – Opuā

The operational walkthrough with representatives from the Far North District Council, Ministry of Health/Northland DHB, and Police at the Opuā Marina took place on 28 September. As a result, the Ministry of Health/Northland DHB have confirmed that the current standards in use at Opuā are in line with Delta protocols.

6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 20 September to 26 September, there was one warning issued.

- 23 Sep– A father and child travelling together from Bangladesh via Dubai – warning issued to father as no PDT for child.

Red flights

	Date	20 Sep	21 Sep	22 Sep	23 Sep	24 Sep	25 Sep	26 Sep	Week Total	%
	Passengers subject to PDT	201	291	161	262	196	282	197	1590	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	194	278	157	254	194	273	185	1535	96.5%
	Exemption verified	6	9	4	4	2	7	7	39	2.5%
	Referred to Secondary Area	1	4	0	4	2	0	5	16	1.0%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	1	4	0	3	2	0	5	15	94.0%
	Warned	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	6.0%
	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.

There was one arrival flight from Rarotonga on 24 September with 65 passengers.

7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

7.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board (CCB) did not meet this week. The next meeting for the CCB will be on 12 October.

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 5 October. The Group met with members of DPMC's Policy team on 29 September, to discuss future settings once New Zealand has a highly vaccinated population. Rob Fyfe also met with the Prime Minister, Christine Stephenson and Adrian Littlewood to discuss the Border Sprint work including proposals to test new border systems through a phased approach. Rob Fyfe and Sir Brian Roche have also had follow up conversations with David Murdoch, Chair of the Testing Advisory Group following David's discussion with the Group at their regular fortnightly meeting held on 21 September.

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Group did not meet this week. The next meeting for the Group will be on 7 October.

10. Business Leaders Forum

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum met with DPMC's Policy team on 29 September, to discuss future settings once New Zealand has a highly vaccinated population. The next regular meeting for the Forum is yet to be confirmed.

11. Government Modelling Group

11.1 Items to Note/Updates

Work has continued on modelling the current outbreak (as discussed in the next Alert Level review Cabinet Paper) and scoping further COVID-19 strategy modelling.

12. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

Title	Agency	Committee	Date Expected	Key Contact	Purpose of Paper
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]
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[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

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13. Appendix – Weekly Updates on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the Border

	Audit summary	Audit high-risk findings, and actions taken to remedy	Incidents/reviews	IPC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), Operations Frameworks and guidance documents
Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs)	<p>Six MIQF IPC audits were completed this week</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Commodore Christchurch • Novotel Airport Christchurch • Sudima Christchurch • Crowne Plaza Christchurch • Distinction Christchurch • Chateau on the Park Christchurch. <p>Of the 11 MIQF IPC audits completed for this quarter there was a total of 44 findings (five moderate and 39 low). Moderate risk findings relate to bus transport IPC processes, which continue to be identified.</p> <p>Four MIQFs have had CCTV 'blind spots' identified in returnee areas.</p> <p>At the conclusion of each audit an exit meeting is held with MIF management and the MIQF IPC lead where findings and recommendations are discussed. A progress monitoring spreadsheet detailing findings, recommended corrective actions and timeframes for completion is provided to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to distribute to the MIQFs to update on actions completed.</p>	No high-risk findings	-	Work to finalise the national principles-based guidance for managing door opening and corridor movement is underway. Further refinements to the IPC SOP to clarify operational processes for the use of P2/N95 particulate respirators are ongoing.
Airports	No new updates	-	-	The revised IPC guidance for the air border for green and red zones (version 1.3) was published on the Ministry of Health's website on 16 September. The next review of the documents is scheduled for mid-October as part of the monthly review cycle.
Maritime/ports	No new updates	-	-	The current guidance for pilots and workers undertaking a necessary task on an affected ship is published on Maritime NZ's website. As part of the continued engagement with the sector, the IPC team developed further detailed guidance on how to wear the appropriate PPE; the drafted document was shared with Maritime NZ via the Border Operations team to collate feedback from the sector - this process is ongoing at this stage.

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