



18 March 2022



Ref: OIA-2021/22-0141

Dear 

Official Information Act request for decision making documents relating the COVID-19 Case identified on 17 August 2021

Thank you for your Official Information Act 1982 (the Act) request received on 19 August 2021. You requested:

- 1. Decision making documents and status updates relating to the Covid-19 community case reported on Tuesday August 17 and the subsequent outbreak, to midday on August 19.*
- 2. A timeframe of key decisions relating to the Covid-19 community case reported on Tuesday August 17 and the subsequent outbreak, to midday on August 19.*

On 16 September 2021, the timeframe for responding to your request was extended under section 15A of the Act by 20 working days. This was because consultation was needed before a decision could be made on the request. On 14 October, the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) notified you that as this agency is directly involved in the government response to COVID-19, our timelines to respond to requests have been impacted. I apologise for this delay and am now in a position to respond.

In relation to part 1 of your request, I have decided to release the documents listed below, subject to information being withheld as noted. The relevant grounds under which information has been withheld are:

1. section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals
2. section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion
3. section 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege

Document Number	Document Title/Description
1.	Alert Level Four – COVID-19 Public Health Response Orders
2.	COVID-19 Alert Level Public Health Advice: Auckland Community Case
3.	Email chain regarding additional advice to the Minister for the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) order (No 9)
4.	Options to Mandate Face Coverings at Alert Level 4
5.	Physical Distancing on Flights at Alert Level 4
6.	Alert Level Boundary Options for Consideration

Please note that Document 5 is incorrectly dated 18 July 2018. This report was prepared and sent to the Minister for COVID-19 Response on 18 August 2021.

Regarding part 2 of your request, Appendix 1 of this letter provides an overview of when documents were considered by Cabinet during the period specified in your request. This information was prepared by the Cabinet Office.

Please note that due to the rapid development of policy in the early stages of the Delta outbreak some items were taken to Cabinet as oral items. As stated in paragraph 5.23 of the *Cabinet Manual* “[d]iscussion at Cabinet and Cabinet committee meetings is informal and confidential...The detail of discussion at Cabinet and Cabinet committee meetings is not formally recorded, or included in the minutes.” I am therefore refusing your request for these documents under section 18(g)(i) of the Act, as this information is not held by DPMC, and I have no grounds for believing the information would be held by another agency or Minister.

In making my decision, I have taken the public interest considerations in section 9(1) of the Act into account.

You have the right to ask the Ombudsman to investigate and review my decision under section 28(3) of the Act.

This response will be published on the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet’s website during our regular publication cycle. Typically, information is released monthly, or as otherwise determined. Your personal information including name and contact details will be removed for publication.

Yours sincerely



Cheryl Barnes
Deputy Chief Executive
COVID-19 Response

Appendix 1

Date/time	Meeting	Item title	Ministerial Portfolio	Relevant Agencies	Document ID
17/08/21 14:15	Cabinet	COVID-19: Auckland Community Case	COVID-19 Response	DPMC Ministry of Health	CAB-21-MIN-0324
18/08/21 10:00	COVID-19 Ministerial Group	COVID-19: Auckland Community Cases: Physical Distancing on Flights at Alert Level 4	COVID-19 Response	DPMC Ministry of Health Ministry of Transport	CVD-21-MIN-0002.01
		COVID-19: Auckland Community Cases: Wage Subsidy Issues	COVID-19 Response	Treasury	CVD-21-MIN-0004
		Oral Item: Auckland Community Cases: Vaccination and Immunisation Matters	COVID-19 Response	Ministry of Health	CVD-21-MIN-0001
		COVID-19: Auckland Community Cases: Options to Mandate Face Coverings at Alert Level 4	COVID-19 Response	DPMC Ministry of Health MBIE	CVD-21-MIN-0003
19/08/21 10:00	COVID-19 Ministerial Group	Oral Item: Update on Vaccine Rollout at Alert Level 4	COVID-19 Response	DPMC Ministry of Health	CMG-21-MIN-0002
		Oral Item: Returning New Zealanders to Home Locations	COVID-19 Response Transport	DPMC Ministry of Health Ministry of Transport	CMG-21-MIN-0003
		Alert Level Boundary Options for Consideration	COVID-19 Response	DPMC Ministry of Health Waka Kotahi Ministry of Transport Ministry of Primary Industries New Zealand Police	CMG-21-MIN-0004

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~

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

Briefing

ALERT LEVEL FOUR – COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE ORDERS

To Minister for COVID-19 Response (Hon Chris Hipkins)			
Date	17/08/2021	Priority	URGENT
Deadline	17/08/2021	Briefing Number	DPMC-2021/22-190

Purpose


Attached to this briefing, for your signature, is the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 9) 2021. This Order has the effect of placing New Zealand into Alert Level 4 effective from 11:59pm today, Tuesday 17 August 2021. This briefing provides an overview of this order, demonstrates procedural compliance and recommends that you sign it.

Recommendations

1. **Sign** the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 9) 2021 (**Attachment A**).

YES / NO

 Ruth Fairhall Head of Strategy & Policy COVID-19 Group, DPMC
17/8/21/...../.....

 Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-9 Response
17/8/2021/...../.....

~~IN CONFIDENCE~~

Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Ruth Fairhall	Head of Strategy & Policy, COVID-19 Group	s9(2)(a)	
Jess Gorman	Principal Solicitor, DPMC		✓

Minister's office comments:

- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

ALERT LEVEL FOUR – COVID-19 PUBLIC HEALTH RESPONSE ORDERS

High Level Summary of the Alert Level 4 Order

1. This Order imposes the requirements agreed by Ministers to be put in place for COVID-19 Alert Level 4 including requirements:
 - a) to only undertake essential personal movement, where permitted (cl 16);
 - b) to comply with physical distancing protocols (cl 17);
 - c) for most workplaces to close for most purposes (cl 18);
 - d) for workplaces, when they can open, to have systems and processes in place for physical distancing protocols (cl 19); and
 - e) prohibiting attending gatherings in outdoor spaces (cl 21);
2. Schedule 2 sets out Alert Level 4 Businesses and Services that can operate at Alert Level 4. The order allows for their workers to travel to and be on their premises, as required.
3. Clause 24 empowers the Director General of Health to grant exemptions from the Order. To do so he must be satisfied the exemption is necessary or desirable in order to promote the purposes of the Act or Order, and the extent of the exemption is not broader than is reasonably necessary to address the matters that gave rise to the exemption.

Process for Making a Section 11 Order

4. Under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 (the COVID-19 Act), an Order may be made if either:
 - a) a state of emergency has been declared (under the Civil Defence Emergency Management Act 2002);
 - b) an Epidemic Notice is in force (under the Epidemic Preparedness Act 2006); or
 - c) it has been authorised by the Prime Minister.
5. There is currently an Epidemic Notice in place, which allows Orders to be made under section 11 of the COVID-19 Act.
6. As the Minister for COVID-19 Response, you may make an Order under section 11 of the COVID-19 Act.
7. To make an Order under section 11 you must:
 - a) have received advice from the Director-General about –
 - i. the risks of the outbreak or spread of COVID-19; and
 - ii. the nature and extent of measures that are appropriate to address those risks; and

- b) have regard to any decision by the Government on how to respond to those risks and avoid, mitigate or remedy the effects of the outbreak or spread of COVID-19 (including considering any social, economic or other factors); and
- c) be satisfied that the proposed Order does not limit, or is a justified limit, on the rights and freedoms in the New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990; and
- d) have consulted the Prime Minister, the Minister of Justice and Health and any other Ministers you think necessary; and
- e) be satisfied that this Order is appropriate to achieve the purpose of the COVID-19 Act.

Other points of note

- 8. You should note that that New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) can operate under a general exemption from the order, pursuant to cl 23(k). Accordingly, the making of this order will not have an impact on imminent operations in relation to the events in Afghanistan or any other NZDF operations.
- 9. We are advised it is intended that banks should be allowed to open with social distancing and contactless interactions for customers with no other means of accessing banking services. However, this was not able to be captured in the text of the order as drafted this evening and will instead be allowed through an exemption granted by the Director-General of Health pursuant to clause 24 of the order.
- 10. There are currently between 3000 and 4500 people in the Cook Islands who travelled there under Quarantine Free Travel (QFT) arrangements. Under the definition of essential personal movement, people returning to New Zealand who are not subject to the Isolation and Quarantine Order (such as QFT travellers) are able to travel home upon arrival in New Zealand.

Consultation

- 11. Under section 9(1)(c) of the COVID-19 Act you are required to consult with the Prime Minister, Minister of Justice and Minister of Health before making a COVID-19 Order. They attended the meeting with Ministers with Power to Act earlier today. Accordingly, your requirement to consult with these Ministers has been complied with.

Public Health Advice

- 12. Earlier today, the Director General of Health provided you advice [Health Report 20211889 refers], which detailed what is known about the current community case of COVID-19. The Director General's advice stated in part: "my public health advice is to move Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula to Alert Level 4 for an initial period of seven-days and the rest of the New Zealand for at least 72 hours from 11.59pm on 17 August 2021."
- 13. Accordingly, the requirement to receive advice from the Director-General of Health about the risks of the outbreak or spread of COVID-19 and the nature and extent of measures that are appropriate to address those risks has also been complied with.

New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990

s9(2)(h)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

s9(2)(h)



Attachments:	
Attachment A:	COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 9) 2021 (Signature copy)

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Briefing

COVID-19 Alert Level public health advice: Auckland community case

Date due to MO: 17 August 2021 **Action required by:** 17 August 2021

Security level: ~~IN CONFIDENCE~~ **Health Report number:** 20211889

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response

Copy to Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister
 Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health
 Hon Kris Faafoi, Minister of Justice

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Dr Ashley Bloomfield	Te Tumu Whakarāe mō te Hauora Director-General of Health	s9(2)(a)
Maree Roberts	Deputy Director-General System Strategy and Policy	

Minister's office to complete:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn | |

Comment:

COVID-19 Alert Level public health advice: Auckland community case

Security level: ~~IN CONFIDENCE~~ **Date:** 17 August 2021

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response

Purpose of report

1. Following my verbal update provided to Cabinet on Tuesday 17 August 2021, this report provides further advice on the emerging risk of COVID-19 community transmission. In summary, I recommend that you move Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula to Alert Level 4 for one week and the rest of the country for at least 72 hours from 11.59pm on Tuesday 17 August.

Summary

2. On Tuesday 17 August 2021 the Ministry of Health was informed of a confirmed new COVID-19 community case in Devonport, Auckland (Case A). Until it is confirmed otherwise, officials assume it is the Delta variant.
3. The source of infection is still unclear and is under investigation. Whole genome sequencing results are not yet available. One line of investigation is that the source might be from two of Case A's colleagues that reported illnesses during July. These colleagues are being tested.
4. Case A is considered to have been infectious since Thursday 12 August, became symptomatic on Saturday 14 August, and felt unwell on Sunday 15 August. On Monday 16 August, he developed a cough and other symptoms and was tested at the Devonport Medical Centre.
5. The doctor who tested Case A was in full personal protective equipment (PPE) and Case A entered the medical centre via the rear entrance, avoiding other patients.
6. There are currently ten exposure events, including locations of interest across Auckland and at 13 in the Coromandel Peninsula. The latter includes a crowded hotel bar in where Case A watched the Bledisloe rugby test match. Case A was a frequent user of the COVID-19 Tracer App.
7. Given the unknown source of this case, the number of locations of interest, and the period Case A was infectious, I cannot rule out the possibility of wider community transmission.
8. Based on the available evidence at 5pm today **I recommend that Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula should move to Alert Level 4 for one week and the rest of the country for at least 72 hours from 11.59pm on Tuesday 17 August.**

Recommendations

We recommend that you:

- a) **Note** my advice as the Director-General of Health on the prerequisites for making an Order under the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020, including: **Noted**
- i) the risks of an outbreak or spread of COVID-19
 - ii) the nature and extent of measures that are appropriate to address those risks.
- b) **Note** my public health advice is to move Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula to Alert Level 4 for an initial period of seven-days and the rest of the New Zealand for at least 72 hours from 11.59pm on 17 August 2021. **Noted**
- c) **Note** that my advice as the Director-General of Health is that COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 9) 2021 for signing is in line with the purpose of the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020 to prevent, and limit the risk of, the outbreak or spread of COVID-19 by implementing appropriate public health measures. **Noted**
- d) **Note** that the Ministry of Health will continue to review the situation and our advice based on ongoing case investigations and testing. **Noted**



Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora
Director-General of Health

Date: 17 August 2021

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Date:

COVID-19 Alert Level public health advice: Auckland community case

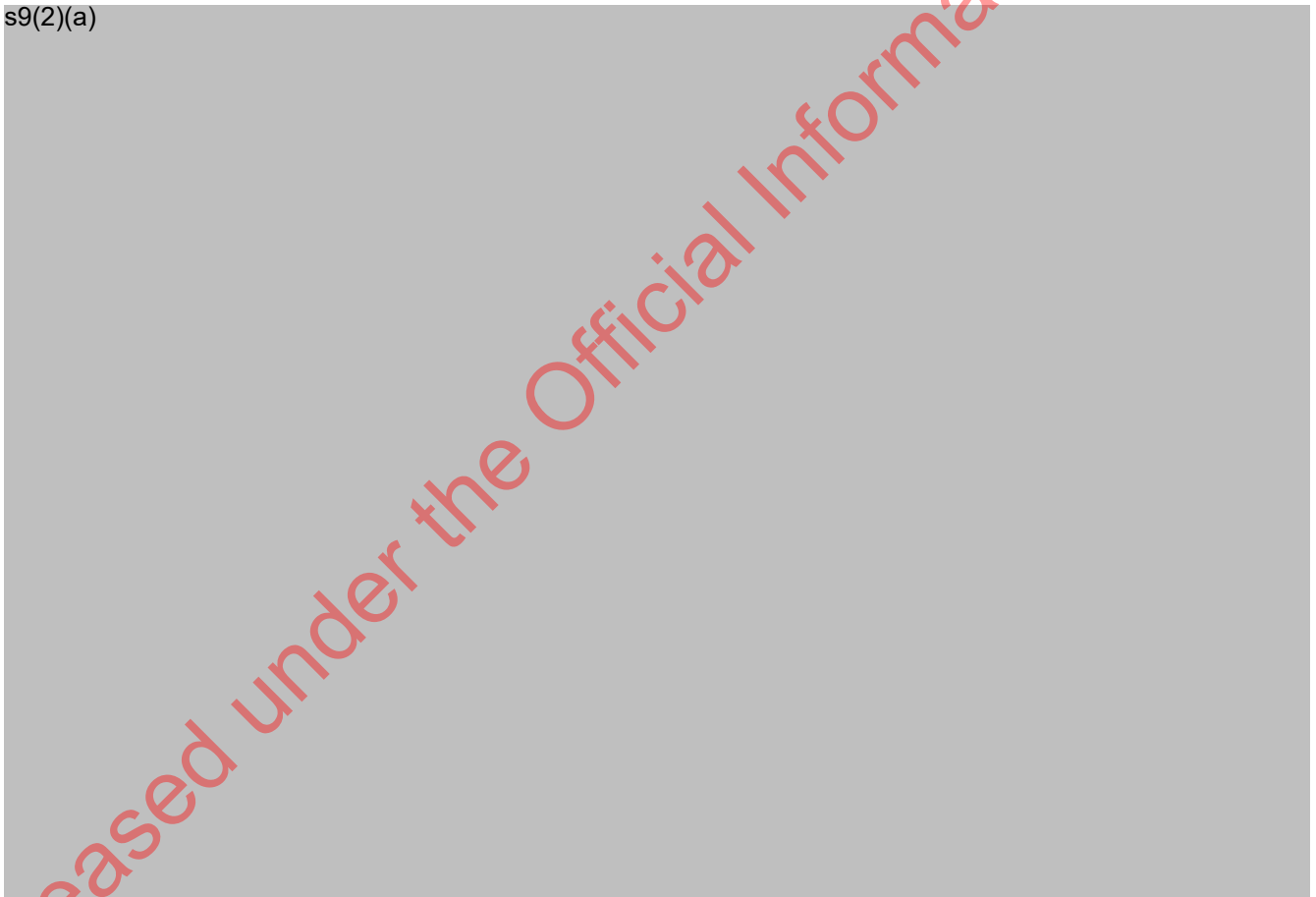
Background

9. On the afternoon of 17 August, Cabinet met to discuss Alert Level settings to address the risk of COVID-19 transmission posed by this new community case in Auckland. I provided a verbal update based on the information available at that time.

Case information

10. On Tuesday 17 August 2021 the Ministry of Health was informed of a confirmed new COVID-19 community case in Devonport, Auckland (Case A). Until it is confirmed, officials assume it is the Delta variant.

s9(2)(a)



16. Testing teams are on stand-by to set up testing stations as required including arranging extended hours for the evening of 17 August. This will include pop up testing sites in Devonport, Auckland. Testing levels in Auckland have been steady the previous few weeks.
17. There is reasonable managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) capacity dependent on where the contacts and/or future cases will need to be isolated or quarantined. As of 17 August, of the 189 quarantine rooms available across the country, 129 are in Jet Park, Auckland.

Public health advice

18. Given the unknown source of Case A's infection and no obvious link to the border, the number of locations of interest, and the transmissibility of the Delta variant, I cannot rule out the possibility of wider community transmission at this stage.
19. To minimise the risk of further undetected transmission, an Alert Level change is required to stop the movement of any potential contacts of Case A and other potential chains of transmission.
20. Based on the available evidence at 5pm today and consistent with our 'early aggressive approach', my advice is that **you should move Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula to Alert Level 4 for an initial period of seven days and the rest of the country for at least 72 hours from 11.59pm on Tuesday 17 August 2021.**
21. If a source or chains of transmission can be shown to be isolated these Alert Levels could be reduced quickly, informed by the most recent information at the time.
22. I consider a move to Alert Level 4 is proportionate due to the:
 - a. lack of a confirmed source of infection currently and possible as-yet-undetected chains of transmission
 - b. transmissibility risk of the Delta variant
 - c. high number of locations of interest across the Auckland and Coromandel region
 - d. risk that the virus has travelled outside of Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula and that lines of transmission outside of that area have not yet been ruled out
 - e. consistency with wider public messaging on the response to a Delta variant outbreak.
23. It is important to note that this approach will mean a slowdown of the COVID-19 vaccination as vaccinations will need to be paused initially at Alert Level 4. A safe restart under Alert Level 4 can however be planned and be implemented, while avoiding any potential further community transmission in the short-term.
24. I consider that return travel from quarantine-free travel countries (the Cook Islands and one-way travel from Niue) can continue during this period. Those returning to New Zealand will need to adhere to all relevant Alert Level 4 restrictions.
25. We will issue a new Direction under section 70 of the Health Act 1956 to mitigate the public health risk who have been at any location of interest. This will place legal obligations on people to contact Healthline, get a test, and isolate.
26. I did consider a move to Alert Level 4 for Auckland and the Coromandel Peninsula and Alert Level 3 for the rest of the country. However, noting the above points, I do not consider it an appropriate response given the risk posed by this community case of COVID-19 at this time.
27. I also considered a move to Alert Level 4 for the North Island and a lower Alert Level for the South Island. However, this would not have been logical as people have been travelling freely in and out of Auckland during the period prior to Case A's infection being identified.

Factors to consider when making decisions about COVID-19 Alert Levels

28. The public health factors to be considered when making decisions about COVID-19 Alert Levels were agreed by Cabinet on 4 May 2020 [CAB-20-MIN-0199 refers]. These factors continue to be relevant in the context of the new outbreak. They are my degree of confidence that:
- transmission is restricted to households and known clusters
 - testing and contact tracing capacity is adequate
 - border control and isolation measures are robust
 - there is sufficient health and disability system capacity to manage COVID-19 cases, including adequate PPE for people for whom it is recommended.
29. Cabinet also agreed three other factors:
- evidence of the effects of the measures on the economy and society more broadly
 - evidence of the impacts of the measures for at risk populations
 - our ability to operationalise the restrictions, including satisfactory implementation planning.
30. The National Response Leadership Team will advise Cabinet separately on these factors.

Equity

31. There are two factors to balance in considering equity implications:
- we know from historical examples that Māori and Pacific peoples are likely to be disproportionately affected by a widespread epidemic
 - we also know these communities are also likely to be disproportionately affected by the impact of any controls, for example, they are less likely to be able to work remotely.
32. The moves that have been taken to control the outbreak strongly and quickly are intended to prevent the spread of COVID-19 to all New Zealanders, including these vulnerable populations. As such, the measures are intended to promote equity of health outcomes. We note that imposing restrictions to achieve better health outcomes could involve worse economic outcomes for vulnerable populations in the short term.
33. As the risk of community transmission abates, the relaxation of the temporary controls and restrictions on gathering sizes will reduce the impact of controls and therefore the impact on equity (e.g. in terms of any economic harms involved).

Next steps

34. Investigation of this case will continue, and I will review my advice regularly as new information becomes available and keep you informed.

ENDS.

From: s9(2)(a)
 To: Jessica Gorman [DPMC]; s9(2)(a)
 Subject: RE: Signature copy of Alert Level 4 Amendment Order - to be signed and returned as soon as possible
 Date: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 6:53:56 pm
 Attachments: image002.png

I will put this into a PDF and leave it in your inbox pending the order

Are you ok processing the order, as per last night?

Noho ora mai | Stay well



s9(2)(a) (he/him) | Private Secretary, COVID-19 Response
Chris Hipkins
 Minister for COVID-19 Response
 waea pūkoro s9(2)(a)
 imēra @parliament.govt.nz

From: Jessica Gorman [DPMC] [mailto:Jessica.Gorman@dpmc.govt.nz]
 Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 6:53 PM
 To: s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz; Ben White [DPMC] <Ben.White@dpmc.govt.nz>; Tania Warburton [DPMC] <Tania.Warburton@dpmc.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall [DPMC] <Ruth.Fairhall@dpmc.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @parliament.govt.nz
 Cc: s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz; Publications <publications@pco.govt.nz>; s9(2)(a) @pco.govt.nz
 Subject: RE: Signature copy of Alert Level 4 Amendment Order - to be signed and returned as soon as possible

Kia ora koutou,

s9(2)(a), could you ensure that the following is provided to the Minister together with the Order amending the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) order (No. 9) [DPMC-2021/22-190] that was enacted last night to put New Zealand in Alert Level 4

High Level Summary of the Amendment Order

Face coverings:

This amendment brings into force the mandating of face coverings during Alert Level 4, unless otherwise exempt, as agreed by Ministers with powers to Act this morning [DPMC-2021/22-189]. The order:

- Requires that face coverings are worn by a person who is a passenger on a small passenger service vehicle (e.g. taxis);
- Requires that face covering must be worn by every person on the premises of an alert level 4 business and service that has customers onsite with the standard exclusions applying

Care of children and others and visiting residential disability care:

The order is amended to allow for the provision of childcare for a person who is required to work outside their home as part of the order (i.e. within an Alert Level 4 business or service or otherwise exempt business or service) and who does not have someone within their bubble to provide childcare. The person providing the childcare needs to form a shared bubble with the person who is working.

Parliamentary Services:

This amendment clarifies that the order does not apply to:

- MPs and Parliamentary Staff and officers of parliament (because the Act prevents the closure of parliament)
- Ministers of the Crown and the Ministerial staff in relation to government business

48 Hour Notification Period Not Required

The Act requires that a COVID-19 order must be published or gazetted at least 48 hours before it comes into force. However, this notice period is not required to be observed where the Minister is satisfied that the order should come into force urgently to prevent or contain the outbreak or spread of COVID-19 or the effect of the order is only to remove or reduce requirements imposed by a COVID-19 order.

In this instance, officials advise that the amendments to meet this threshold as the use of face coverings is required urgently in order to contain the spread of COVID-19 by limiting transmission. Other amendments to the order are considered a reduction of requirements imposed by the order.

Consultation

The consultation required under the Act took place on the basis of the advice received and agreed to by Ministers this morning [CVD-21-MIN-0003].

Crown Law have also reviewed the proposed order.

Public Health Advice

Public Health advice regarding mandating the use of face coverings was considered by Ministers this morning [CVD-21-MIN-0003].

Public health have advised that the proposed amendment to allow for the provision of childcare is acceptable as long as the bubble is exclusive of no more than 2 bubbles joining and as long as standard public health advice is applied (i.e. to stay home if symptomatic, if have been at a location of interest, or they are a contact of a case).

New Zealand Bill of Rights Act 1990

s9(2)(h)

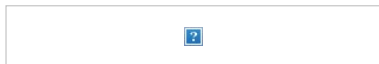
Ngā mihi

Jess ca Gorman

Principal Solicitor
Strategy, Governance and Engagement Group
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

Please note I do not work Wednesdays

M s9(2)(a)
E jessica.gorman@dpmc.govt.nz



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From: S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>
Sent: Wednesday, 18 August 2021 6:49 pm
To: Jessica Gorman [DPMC] <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; Ben White [DPMC] <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; Ben White [DPMC] <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; Tania Warburton [DPMC] <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>; Ruth Fairhall [DPMC] <[redacted]@parliament.govt.nz>
Cc: S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>; S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>; S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>; S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>; Publications <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>; S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>; S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>; S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>
Subject: Signature copy of Alert Level 4 Amendment Order - to be signed and returned as soon as possible

Hi all

I attach a copy of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 9) Amendment Order 2021 (PCO24061, v 5 0) for signing by the Minister

I'll leave it to each of you to forward this to others who should be in the loop

Can you please arrange for the attached Order to be signed by the Minister, scanned and returned as soon as possible.

We need the signed copy of this Order back before 11.00 pm at the absolute latest if it is to be published and Gazetted before 11 59 pm

Please send it back to—

- S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>
- Publications@pco.govt.nz
- S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>
- S9(2)(a) <[redacted]@pco.govt.nz>

Any questions, please give S9(2)(a) a call at S9(2)(a)

Kind regards

S9(2)(a)



Parliamentary Council Office Te Tari Tohutohu Paremata

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Briefing

OPTIONS TO MANDATE FACE COVERINGS AT ALERT LEVEL 4

To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Hon Grant Robertson
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Associate Minister of Health
CC: Hon Kris Fafoi
Minister of Justice
CC; Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Health

Date	18/08/2021	Priority	High
Deadline	18/08/2021	Briefing Number	DPMC-2021/22-189

Purpose

This briefing provides you with options to mandate the use of face coverings while New Zealand is at Alert Level 4. This follows the decision of Ministers with Power to Act to move all of New Zealand to Alert Level 4 from 11.59pm on 17 August 2021.

Recommendations

1. **Note** face coverings can add an additional layer of protection against the transmission of COVID-19, especially where physical distancing is more challenging and other public health measures are limited.
2. **Note** face coverings are only mandated on public transport at Alert Level 4. People are encouraged to wear a face covering when they leave the house, but this is not a legal requirement.

- 3. **Note** Cabinet agreed to expand the settings in which face coverings are mandated on 16 August 2021, including at the following settings at Alert Level 4:
 - a) on public transport and at departure points e.g. train stations and bus stops;
 - b) on flights;
 - c) in taxi or ride-share vehicles (drivers and passengers);
 - d) visitors to healthcare facilities; and
 - e) inside any retail business that are still open, including supermarkets, pharmacies and petrol stations [CAB-21-MIN-0315].

4. **Note** the face covering requirement changes agreed to by Cabinet on 16 August, and outlined in recommendation 3, have not been announced and will not take effect until October 2021.

5. **Agree** to further expand mandatory face covering requirements at Alert Level 4 so a face covering must be worn

EITHER:

a) Option 1: by all people at all businesses and services operating at Alert Level 4 that involve customer contact; **YES / NO**

OR

b) Option 2: by all people at indoor businesses and services operating at Alert Level 4; **YES / NO**

OR

c) Option 3: by all people at all times when outside their home. **YES / NO**

6. **Note** that all options in recommendation 4 exclude health care and aged care facilities because they have existing practices for PPE however we consider visitors to health care facilities should still be required to wear face coverings.

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Ruth Fairhall Head of Strategy & Policy, COVID-19 Group	Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister
...../...../2021/...../2021
Hon Grant Robertson Deputy Prime Minister	Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response
...../...../2021/...../2021
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Associate Minister of Health	
...../...../2021	

Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Ruth Fairhall	Head of Strategy & Policy, COVID-19 Group	s9(2)(a)	✓
Ashlee Bowles	Senior Advisor, Strategy & Policy, COVID-19 Group		

Minister's office comments:

OPTIONS TO MANDATE FACE COVERINGS AT ALERT LEVEL 4	DPMC-2021/22-189
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- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to

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OPTIONS TO MANDATE FACE COVERINGS AT ALERT LEVEL 4

Background

1. There are two key reference points for considering mandated use of face coverings at Alert Level 4 – the current Alert Level 4 settings and the expanded settings agreed to by Cabinet on Monday, 16 August 2021.
2. Currently, face coverings are only mandated on public transport at Alert Level 4. People are encouraged to wear a face covering when they leave the house, but this is not a legal requirement.
3. Under the settings agreed to by Cabinet on 16 August (which are yet to be announced, but will come into effect in October 2021), face coverings would be mandated in the following settings at Alert Level 4:

- b) on public transport and at departure points e.g. train stations and bus stops;
 - c) on flights;
 - d) in taxi or ride-share vehicles (drivers and passengers);
 - e) visitors to healthcare facilities; and
 - f) inside any retail business that are able to operate, including supermarkets, pharmacies and petrol stations.
4. The use of face coverings in specific settings can provide an additional layer of protection against the transmission of COVID-19. Their use is particularly important where physical distancing is more challenging and where other public health measures (e.g. record keeping requirements) are limited. Any mandatory use of face coverings at Alert Level 4 should consider these principles and practicality considerations.

Options to mandate face coverings at Alert Level 4

- 5. Three options are set out below. Attachment 1 lists the business and services that can operate at Alert Level 4, including whether the business or service involves customer contact, and whether face coverings would be required under Option 1 (where there are customers on site), Option 2 (all staff and customers). All would be captured by Option 3 that requires everyone to wear a face covering when outside of their home.
- 6. Under Options 1 and 2, use of face coverings will continue to be strongly encouraged (but not legally required) whenever a person leaves their home during Alert Level 4. Under Option 3, use of face coverings will be legally required whenever a person leaves their home during Alert Level 4. The existing enforcement options for non-compliance with face covering requirements would apply. This includes an infringement notice and \$300 fee being able to be issued for non-compliance.
- 7. Health services are exempt from the Order and instead follow guidance provided by the Ministry of Health to the sector, which includes existing practices for PPE.
- 8. The definition of a face covering as anything that covers the nose and mouth (not limited to masks) will continue to apply. The list of exemptions from face covering requirements in the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order (No 8) 2021 would also continue to apply.¹

Option 1: Face coverings are mandatory at all businesses and services where customers can be on to the premises

- 9. This option would require the wearing of face coverings by all people in the following businesses or services when indoors:

¹ Clause 12 provides that face covering requirements do not apply if there is an emergency, where it is unsafe to wear the covering, if a person is in a defined or enclosed space separate from the passenger area, where a person is communicating with a person who is deaf or hard of hearing, where removal is requested to ascertain identity or otherwise required or authorised by law, where removal is needed to take medicine or to eat and drink, the person is under the age of 12 years or has a physical or mental illness that makes mask wearing unsuitable.

- a) Supermarkets, pharmacies, liquor stores in licensing trust areas, dairies, foodbanks, self-service laundries, petrol stations (including stores operating as part of a petrol station);
 - b) Accommodation services (e.g. retirement villages, campgrounds, backpackers);
 - c) Courts, tribunals and the justice system;
 - d) Entities required to provide distance or online learning for primary and secondary education (where two or more people are present);
 - e) Social and community-based services provided to support persons to maintain critical well-being or as crisis support for people who are unsafe or homeless;
 - f) Hardware and do it yourself stores for the purposes of sale to trade customers; and
 - g) Transport (passenger services (including public transport) by road, rail, air or sea, includes small passenger vehicles).
10. This option would see an additional layer of protection added to settings where there is greater risk of people being unable to physically distance, and where record keeping of all people on the premises is less certain. All of the settings Cabinet agreed to mandate face coverings in on 16 August (including taxis and rideshare services) would be covered under this option.
11. This option would not mandate face coverings for workplaces where only employees are present, or where people are outdoors. This is the option preferred by officials.

Option 2: Face coverings are mandatory for all people at indoor businesses and services operating at Alert Level 4

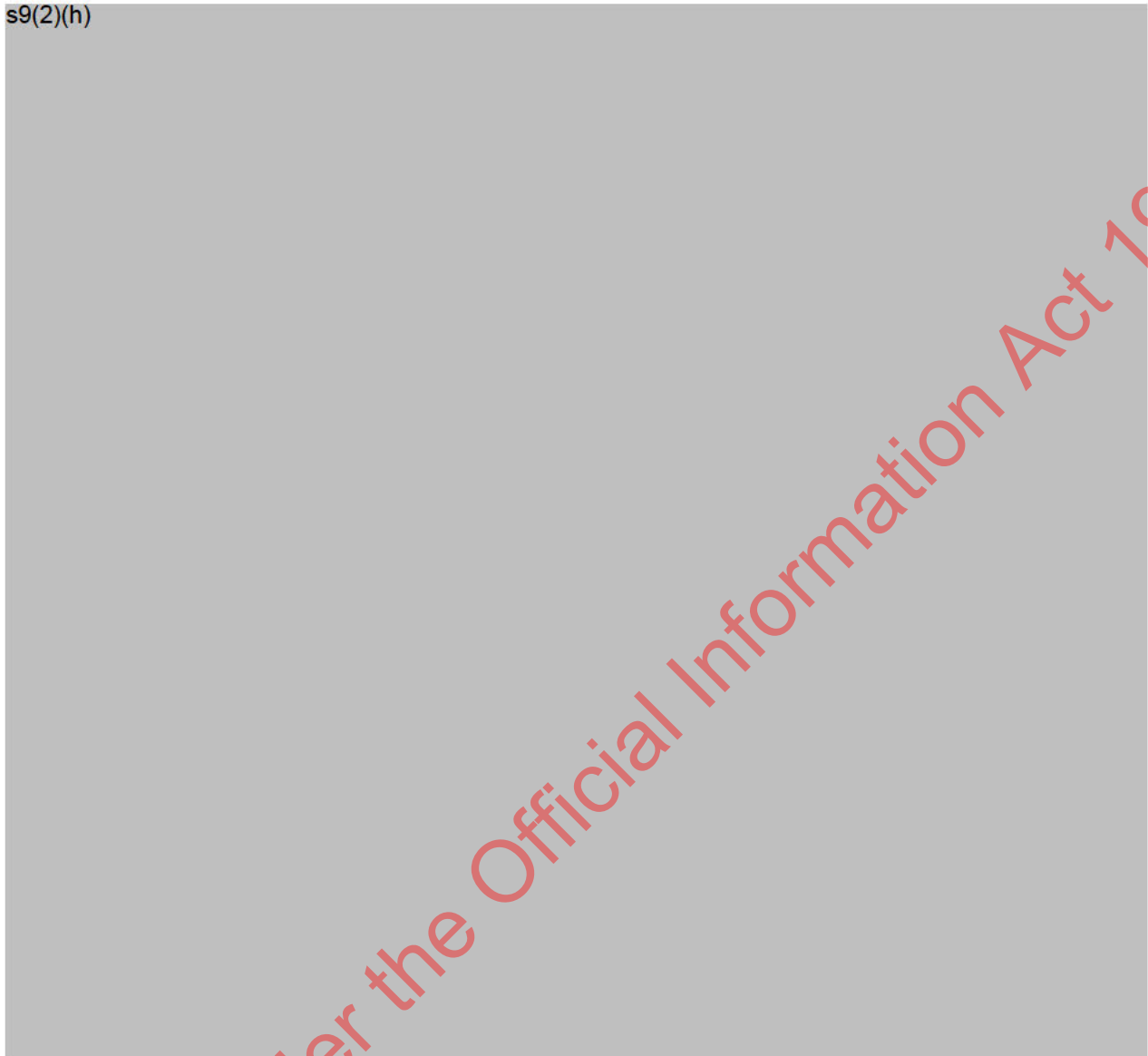
12. This option goes further than the previous option by requiring all people in an indoor setting to wear a face covering. It therefore provides a greater level of protection than Option 1. Compared to Option 3, this option is more proportionate. Face coverings would not be required when people are at home, or while they are outside of their homes. For example, while undertaking daily exercise or when working in outdoor businesses or services (e.g. construction or farming).
13. This option could be limited so that it only applied if two or more people were present.

Option 3: Face coverings are mandatory for all people at all times when outside their homes

14. This option is a very risk-averse approach to mitigating transmission. The risk of transmission in outdoor settings is significantly lower than indoor settings. s9(2)(g)(i)
15. This option is arguably disproportionate. Requiring people to wear face coverings while exercising is less necessary as they can maintain their bubbles or keep 2 metre distance from other people. Further, people working outdoors may be working by themselves or at large distances so it would be unnecessary for them to wear a face covering.

Bill of Rights Act considerations

s9(2)(h)



Next Steps

22. Pending your decisions on this briefing, drafting instructions will be issued to the Parliamentary Counsel Office to draft the requirements.
23. The new requirements will be prepared as a new section 11 Order for Minister Hipkins to sign into force. Consultation with relevant Ministers is taking place on the basis of this paper.
24. Officials recommend the Order comes into force with immediate effect once it is signed, not after 48 hours pursuant to section 14(3) of the COVID-19 Public Health Response Act 2020. This is because the requirements in the order are intended to prevent or contain the outbreak or spread of COVID-19.

Communications

25. Any Alert Level 4 face covering requirements agreed to could be communicated as part of the mandatory record keeping and face covering announcements. These announcements are planned for Wednesday, 18 August 2021.
26. Clear public messaging will be communicated to the public and key stakeholders via official Unite Against COVID-19 channels.

Consultation

27. The Ministry of Health, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment and Crown Law were consulted on this paper.

Attachments:	
Attachment A:	Alert Level 4 Business and Services

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ATTACHMENT A

Alert Level 4 Businesses and Services where face coverings would be required under Options 1 and 2

Businesses and services	Workers	Contact with customers	Face coverings required
Supermarkets, pharmacies, liquor stores in licensing trust areas, dairies, foodbanks, self-service laundries, petrol stations (including stores operating as part of a petrol station)	✓	✓	1, 2
Hardware and do it yourself stores for the purposes of sale to trade customers	✓	✓	1, 2
Accommodation services (e.g. retirement villages, campgrounds, backpackers)	✓	✓	1, 2
Building and construction on nationally important infrastructure, including those in the supply and support chain, and work required to address immediate risks to health and safety, or to prevent serious environmental harm and relevant essential supply chain elements. Any entity with statutory responsibilities that is involved in building and resource consenting necessary for the above processes. [Definition of nationally important infrastructure from AL3 schedule]	✓	✗	
Courts, tribunals and the justice system	✓	✓	1, 2
Freight services (road, rail, air, sea) – includes postal operators and courier services.	✓	✗	
Financial services (e.g. banks, consumer and business financial services, funds management, a stock exchange, associated support services)	✗	✗	Operating to be enabled by an exemption that could require face covering as a condition
Primary industries (food and beverage production for both domestic consumption or export, plus the relevant support services) and veterinary and animal health and welfare services	✓	✗	1 (if indoors)

OPTIONS TO MANDATE FACE COVERINGS AT ALERT LEVEL 4	DPMC-2021/22-189
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Businesses and services	Workers	Contact with customers	Face coverings required
Scientific services [AL3 schedule definition]	✓	✗	2
Entities required to provide distance or online learning for primary and secondary education	✓	✗	2
Social and community-based services provided to support persons to maintain critical well-being or as crisis support for people who are unsafe or homeless	✓	✓	1, 2
Transport and logistics (passenger services (including public transport) by road, rail, air or sea, includes small passenger vehicles), support and maintenance services (including at an aerodrome)	✓	✓	1, 2
Key utilities and communications (e.g. electricity, gas, three waters, waste, fuel, telecommunications, firewood, news, internet) [AL3 schedule definition]	✓	✗	2
Government services, including services provided by state services and local authorities but only if: - The service is a regulatory or social service or the COVID-19 response or relates to infrastructure - Provision of the service cannot reasonably be delayed (for example because a delay would breach an enactment, risk harm to people or communities or risk damage to the environment)	✓	✗	2
Foreign Government (maintaining critical operations at foreign missions based in New Zealand)	✓	✗	
Security services (including locksmiths)	✓	✗	2
Pest management services	✓	✗	2
Essential elements of pulp and paper plants	✓	✗	2
Emergency services	Exempt	Exempt	
Supply chains for the alert level 4 services	✓	✗	2

Businesses and services	Workers	Contact with customers	Face coverings required
Health services (plus any entities involved with the deceased or producing health sector materials)	Exempt from Order	Exempt from Order	Could require visitors
Parliament including members of Parliament, Parliamentary staff and any officer of parliament	Exempt from Order	Exempt from Order	

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Briefing

PHYSICAL DISTANCING ON FLIGHTS AT ALERT LEVEL 4

To: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister
Hon Grant Robertson
Deputy Prime Minister
Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall
Associate Minister of Health
Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Health
Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Justice

Date	18/07/2018	Priority	High
Deadline	18/07/2018	Briefing Number	[Briefing Number]

Purpose

This paper seeks a decision on whether to expect physical distancing on domestic passenger flights at Alert Level 4 following the initial 48 hour period where distancing is not expected.

Recommendations

1. **Note** that Ministers agreed to no physical distancing being expected on domestic passenger flights at Alert Level 4 for the first 48 hours to allow people to return home.
2. **Note** that public health advice is that physical distancing of 2m on flights is not required as other public health measures are in place to manage the risk.

- 3. **Agree** to physical distancing being expected for domestic passenger flights following the initial 48 hour period (status quo)

OR

YES / NO

- 4. **Agree** to not expect physical distancing on domestic passenger flights at Alert Level 4.

AND

YES / NO

- 5. **Agree** that wearing a mask be required throughout the passenger journey

YES / NO

Ruth Fairhall Head of Strategy & Policy	Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister
...../...../2021/...../2021
Hon Grant Robertson Deputy Prime Minister	Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response
...../...../2021/...../2021

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Hon Kris Faafoi Minister of Justice
...../...../2021

Hon Andrew Little Minister of Health
...../...../2021

Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Associate Minister of Health
...../...../2021

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Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Ruth Fairhall	Head of Strategy & Policy, COVID-19 Group	s9(2)(a)	✓
Alice Hume	Policy Manager		

Minister's office comments:

- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to

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PHYSICAL DISTANCING ON FLIGHTS AT ALERT LEVEL 4

Purpose

1. To seek your decision on whether to expect physical distancing on domestic passenger flights at Alert Level 4 following the initial 48 hour period where distancing is not expected.

Background

2. On 17 August 2021 Ministers agreed that the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level Requirements) Order be drafted to allow 48 hours for people who were away from their normal residence to return home. They agreed that in order to ensure that people were able to travel within this period that physical distancing would not be expected on domestic passenger flights as other public health measures would be in place.
3. The Order does not impose a specific physical distancing requirement on flights. Instead, physical distancing is required under the Order so far as is reasonably practicable, supported by guidance issued by the Ministry of Transport that sets Government's expectations for distancing. The current guidance gives effect to Minister's decisions, by (a) stating that flights can run in the first 48 hours without physical distancing, and (b) setting out physically distanced seating configurations expected for the period after 48 hours.

Public health risks are manageable through existing measures without requiring physical distancing

4. Public health advice is that 2m physical distancing on flights is not required, following the initial 48 hour period, as long as providers maintain physical distancing as far as is reasonably practicable, given that other public health measures are in place to manage the risk.
5. This advice is based on the additional public health measures and the environmental factors in place during domestic flights.
6. Passengers are required to wear a mask during air travel. Guidance has been given to airlines that food and drink services should be suspended at Alert Level 4, therefore masks will be required throughout flights. Mask wearing on flights is generally well adhered to and actively managed by the airlines.
7. Although a flight is an indoor setting, the risk is reduced by the plane's ventilation system.
8. Contact tracing is straightforward due to named passenger lists and known seating arrangements on all flights.
9. This in line with previous advice provided by the Ministry.
10. If you decide that physical distancing is not required, the Ministry of Health recommends that wearing a mask throughout the passenger's whole journey be made a requirement (with the usual exceptions).

Requiring physical distancing could limit the ability of flights to operate

11. The Ministry of Transport advise that expecting physical distancing would significantly limit the capacity of domestic flights. Given health advice, reducing capacity of these flights does not appear to be necessary or desirable and would impede the ability of people to return home.
12. The Ministry of Transport advises that due to the large number of people booked on flights over the next few days the ability for people to move to a flight within the initial 48 hour period is limited.
13. Additionally, many people outside Auckland may have chosen to shelter in place with the expectation that Alert Level 4 will only apply for 72 hours. Should the Alert Level 4 be extended, there may be further demand for people to return home.
14. There may therefore be a need to amend the Order to allow return home after 48 hours. The Ministry is monitoring this situation and will report back if a change to the return home period is desirable.

Next Steps

15. Officials are seeking a decision on whether or not to expect physical distancing on domestic passenger flights following the initial 48 hour period, noting that public health advice is that the risk can be managed through other measures already in place.
16. If you decide not to expect physical distancing on domestic passenger flights, the Ministry of Transport will amend its guidance to the transport sector.

Consultation

17. The Ministry of Health, Crown Law and the Ministry of Transport were consulted on the advice in this paper.

Communications

18. The Ministry of Transport will update their guidance to transport operators.



Briefing

ALERT LEVEL BOUNDARY OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

To Hon Minister Hipkins, Minister for the COVID-19 Response

Date	18/08/2021	Priority	High
Deadline	19/08/2021	Briefing Number	DPMC-2021/22-195

Purpose

- The purpose of this paper is to provide an update regarding possible regional boundary options ahead of a review of the current Alert Level 4 arrangements on 20 August 2021.

 Graham Maclean Head of System Readiness and Planning, COVID-19 Group	Hon Minister Hipkins Minister of the COVID-19 Response
18/08/2021/...../.....

Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Graham Maclean	Head of System Readiness and Planning, COVID-19 Group	s9(2)(a)	✓
Sija-Robertson-Stone	Manager, Insights and Reporting Team, COVID-19 Group		

Minister's office comments:

- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to

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ALERT LEVEL BOUNDARY OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

Purpose

2. The purpose of this paper is to provide an update regarding possible regional boundary options ahead of a review of the current Alert Level 4 arrangements on 20 August 2021.

Background

3. The principles for setting Alert Level boundaries have been agreed by Cabinet. These are:
 - a) boundaries are appropriate and proportionate to support a public health response to COVID-19 that prevents and limits the spread of COVID-19 (primary consideration);
 - b) boundaries minimise the need for people to travel between areas at different Alert Levels to go to work, a place of learning, or to receive medical treatment;
 - c) boundaries are practical and safe to enforce;
 - d) boundaries minimise economic disruption to business and supply chains – e.g. ensuring businesses can continue to operate if safe to do
 - e) boundaries minimise equity impacts – e.g. access to life critical services such as food.
4. Any potential boundary must be informed by a public health risk assessment and advice. The Ministry of Health will provide this assessment on Thursday 19 August.
5. For Cabinet consideration on 20 August 2021, five options are currently being formulated. The options are provided in the table included as attachment A, along with some policy and operational considerations for each.
6. When these boundaries have been formulated, the following information has been taken into account:
 - a) Commuter flows based on 2018 Census data
 - b) Health risk
 - c) Access to Alert Level 4 services
 - d) Adjustments to enable legal definition.
7. Considerations for the five boundary options currently being formulated include:
 - a) The characteristics of the Delta variant require a cautious approach in regards to population movement
 - b) Enforcement considerations, for example:

- i) To simplify enforcement, boundaries will ideally be contiguous
 - ii) The resources required for effective enforcement should be considered (noting that augmenting NZ Police with other agencies at scale is not supportable without compromise of other commitments). New Zealand Police have advised boundary options B, C, D and E would take frontline Police resources away from community policing
 - iii) If boundaries are too long they become difficult to enforce and would require a choice of community policing versus checkpoints
- c) System capacity, for example:
- i) The system may not be able to support the complexity of more than two Alert Levels, in regards to public communication, enforcement and exemptions. MBIE have indicated there would be issues with the travel exemptions process if multiple alert levels were to be managed at once.

Next Steps

- 8. Following feedback from Ministers and further public health advice on 19 August 2021, further options and advice will be provided to Cabinet for the meeting on 20 August 2021 regarding any potential regional boundary.

Consultation

- 9. Key agencies have been consulted for their views on the policy and operational considerations required to implement the boundaries. This includes Waka Kotahi, NEMA, Ministry of Transport, Ministry of Primary Industries, and New Zealand Police. Not all agencies have been able to respond in the timeframes, however more thorough advice will be provided to the office on Thursday 19 August, as part of the review of the Alert Level arrangements.
- 10. Wider consultation outside Government has not occurred at this point.



Attachments:	
Attachment A:	Alert Level Boundary Issues for Operationalisation and Policy Considerations




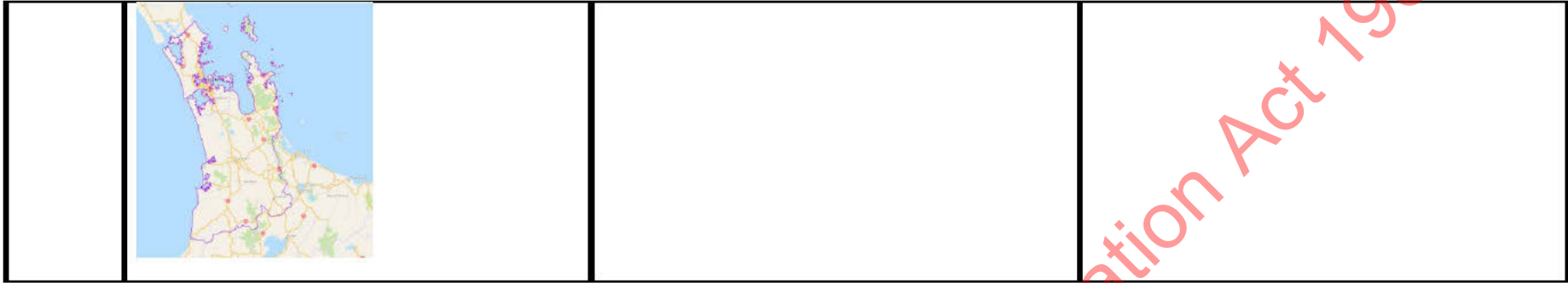
ATTACHMENT A

Alert Level Boundary Issues for Operationalisation and Policy Considerations

Option	Description	Issues for Operationalisation (eg practicable, reasonable, timeframes)	Policy Considerations (eg, access, impacts, feasibility)
A	NORTH ISLAND / SOUTH ISLAND	<p>The largest and easiest geographical area to manage.</p> <p>Would contain a significant proportion of the population and require relatively few checkpoints to enforce.</p>	<p>Depending on the public health advice and the emergence and location of other cases, there may be an issue of proportionality.</p> <p>Given what is known about the transmissibility of the Delta variant and the experience of the New South Wales response where their efforts to keep the containment area small were not successful, a broader boundary may be proportional.</p>
B	AUCKLAND + WAIKATO	<p>19 checkpoints in total: 13 State Highway checkpoints; and 6 local road checkpoints</p> <p>Of these, 5 would be Northern checkpoints.</p> <p>The Southern boundary would require 11 State Highway Checkpoints and 3 local road checkpoints.</p> <p>Significant resource would be required.</p> <p>Traffic volumes would be low so freight lanes may not be needed.</p>	<p>We would be isolating communities from Taupo (medical and supplies) such as Waiouru, Ohakune they would have to go south or to Taihape.</p>

		Three to four contractors involved on the Southern Boundary.	
C	<p>AUCKLAND + COROMANDEL PENINSULA</p> 	<p>Requires 15 checkpoints in total: 5 State Highway checkpoints; 10 local road checkpoints</p> <p>Traffic Management Deployment would be OK – three different contractors involved.</p> <p>Freight lanes possible on SH1 etc</p>	<p>Traffic flows in Coromandel during the infectious period suggest that this area may not sufficiently contain the virus.</p>

D	<p>AUCKLAND</p> <p>+</p> <p>WAIKATO</p> <p>+</p> <p>BAY OF PLENTY</p> <p>(with small adjustments)</p> 	<p>15 checkpoints in total - 11 State Highway checkpoints, 4 local road checkpoints</p> <p>9 new State Highway and 1 new local road checkpoints</p> <p>5 Contractors involved – traffic management resourcing should be OK</p> <p>2-3 policing districts involved – although they work together.</p> <p>Least impact on primary industries. Greater impact on forestry which is not an AL4 business.</p>	<p>Te Urewera Iwi will have a high level of interest at this runs right through their land.</p> <p>Community separation is okay but Waiouru and Ohakune would have to go south for their supplies</p>
E	<p>AUCKLAND</p> <p>+</p> <p>CUTTING ACROSS WAIKATO</p> <p>(with adjustments to allow Tauranga area to connect with the lower North Island)</p>	<p>This boundary has not yet been consulted, having only recently been generated. It includes the same Northern boundary, requiring 5 checkpoints. The number of checkpoints on the Southern boundary is has not yet been determined.</p>	<p>This boundary would allow movement to continue between Tauranga and the lower North Island.</p>



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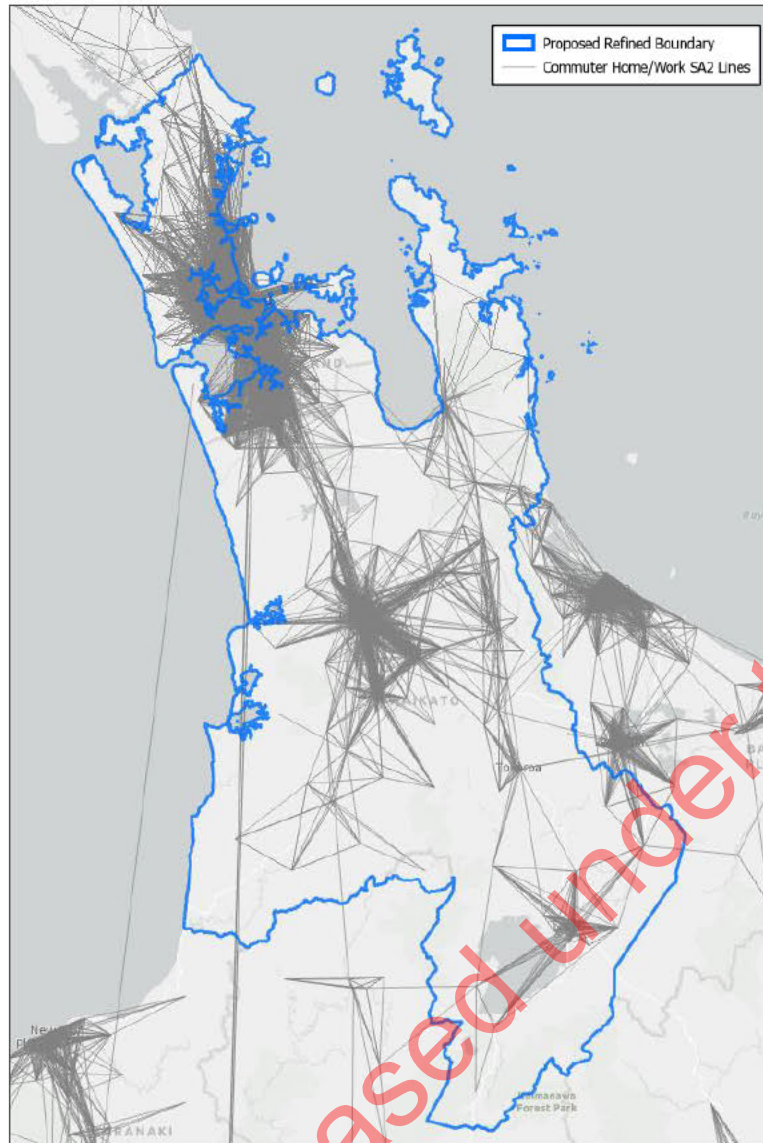


Objective of Alert Level boundaries: minimise the risk of transmission while causing the least social and economic disruption

Step 1

COMMUTER FLOWS

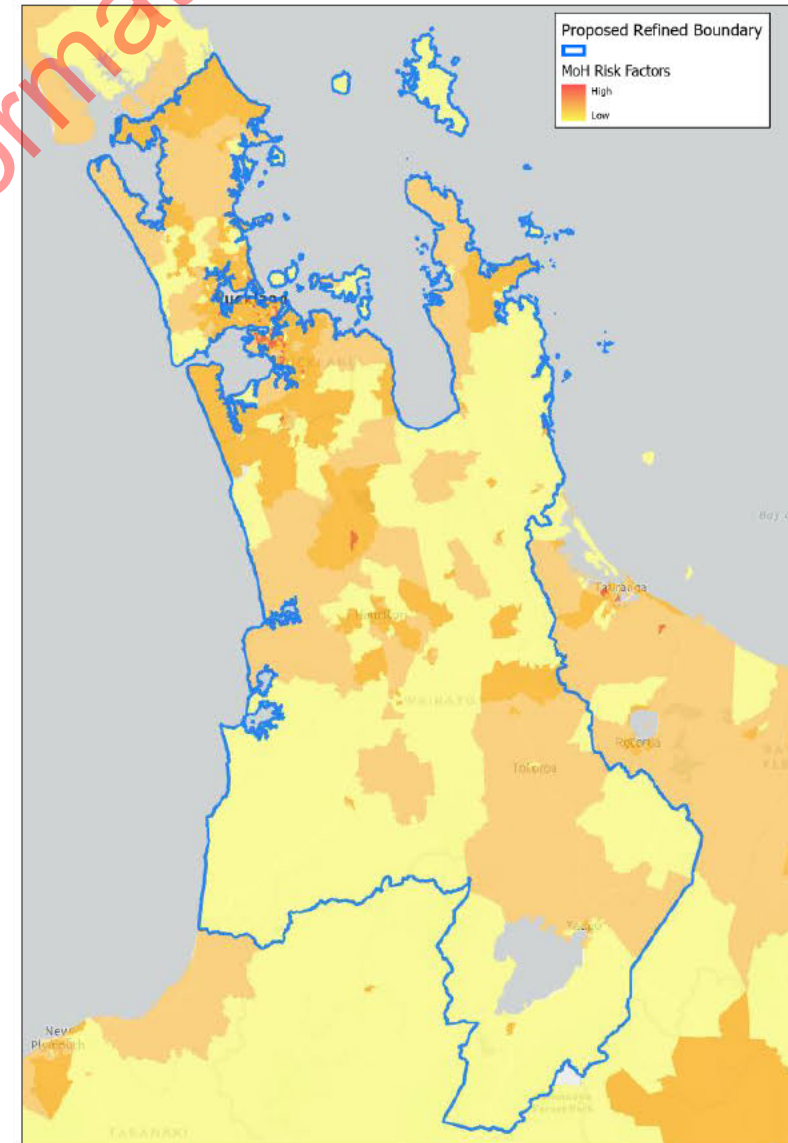
Commuter flows into and out of areas based on 2018 Census data are utilised.



Step 2

COVID RISK FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Health COVID Risk Framework is overlaid with the output from Step 1. This includes four risk categories i) presence of undetected cases, ii) potential for exposure, iii) potential for transmission, and iv) poor health outcome. The first risk category changes daily depending on community transmission, where the later three are more static. They include things like MIQ location risk, demographics, socioeconomics, and healthcare.



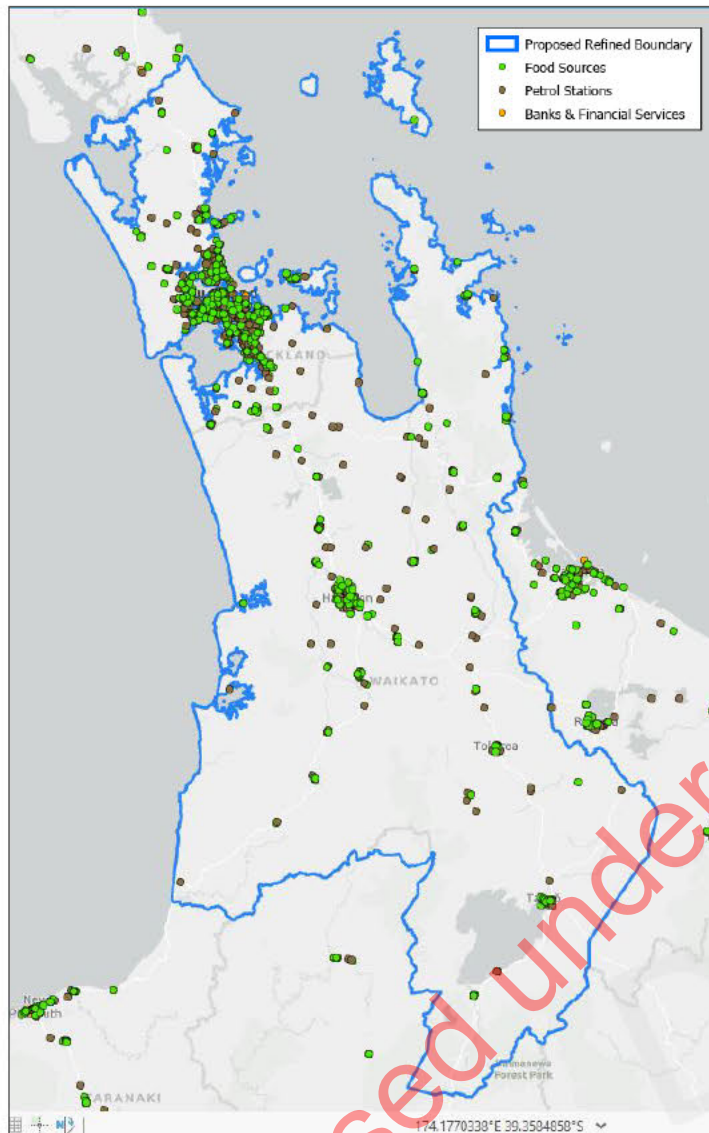
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Objective of Alert Level boundaries: minimise the risk of transmission while causing the least social and economic disruption

Step 3

ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES

The next step addresses the boundary's impact on access to critical services, along with analysing economic and social impacts using data from MSD, NZDF, NZTA, MPI, Treasury and other agencies. This analysis will highlight any potential issues such as significant travel time changes to access critical services, as well as identifying isolated communities.



Step 4

ADJUSTMENTS

The final step is to make final adjustments to align with administrative boundaries, rivers, roads and other features enabling the boundary to be legally defined. Additional small refinements are made to avoid isolating people and to minimise disruption through populous areas.



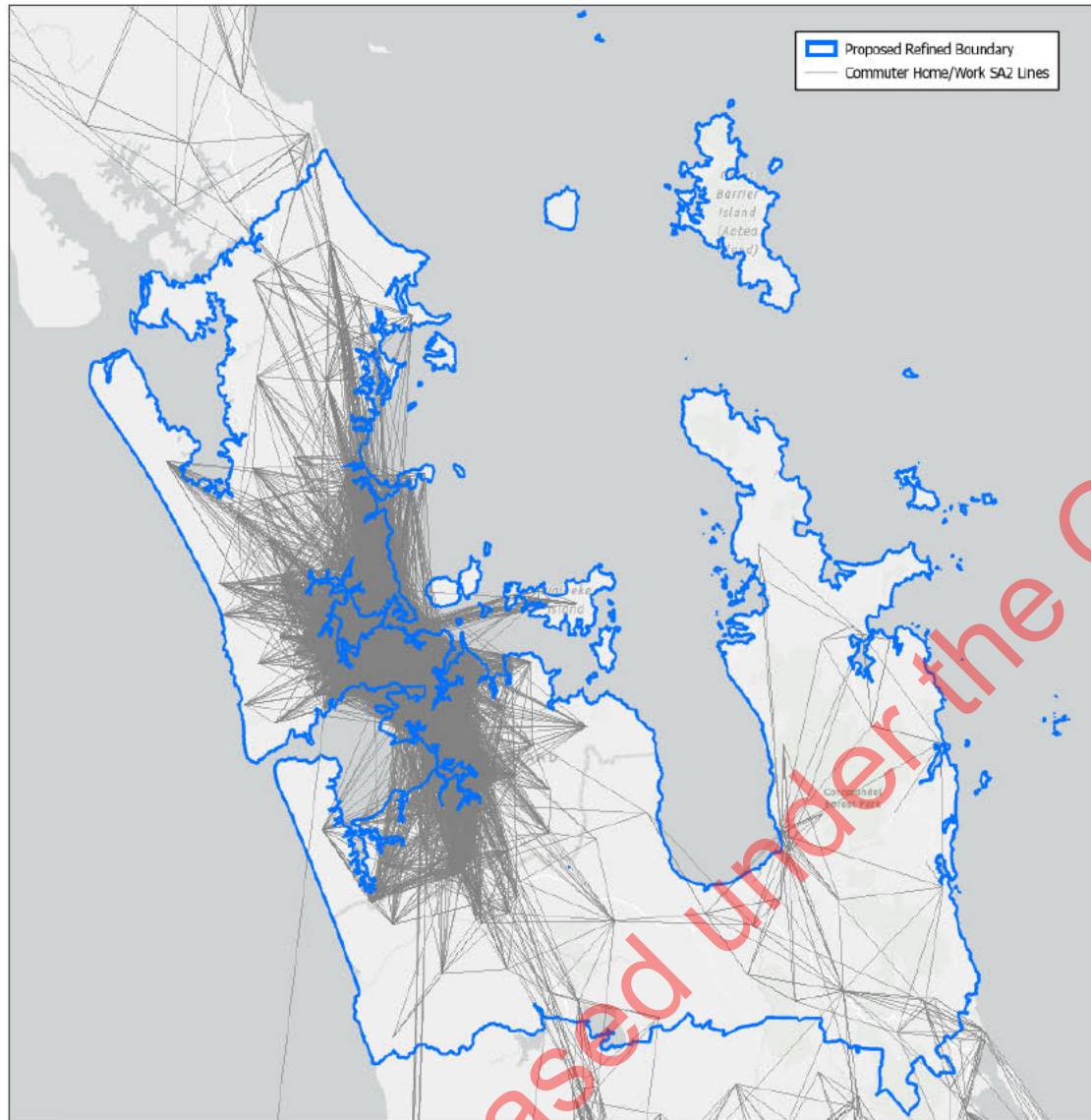
Recommendations are provided, but the Minister and Cabinet make the final decisions. While we can suggest pre-defined Alert Level boundary options there is boundary can be no guarantee these will be used. If required, further engagement with key stakeholders can occur and the refined as new data becomes available, such as information regarding community transmission and the risk of undetected cases.

Objective of Alert Level boundaries: minimise the risk of transmission while causing the least social and economic disruption

Step 1

COMMUTER FLOWS

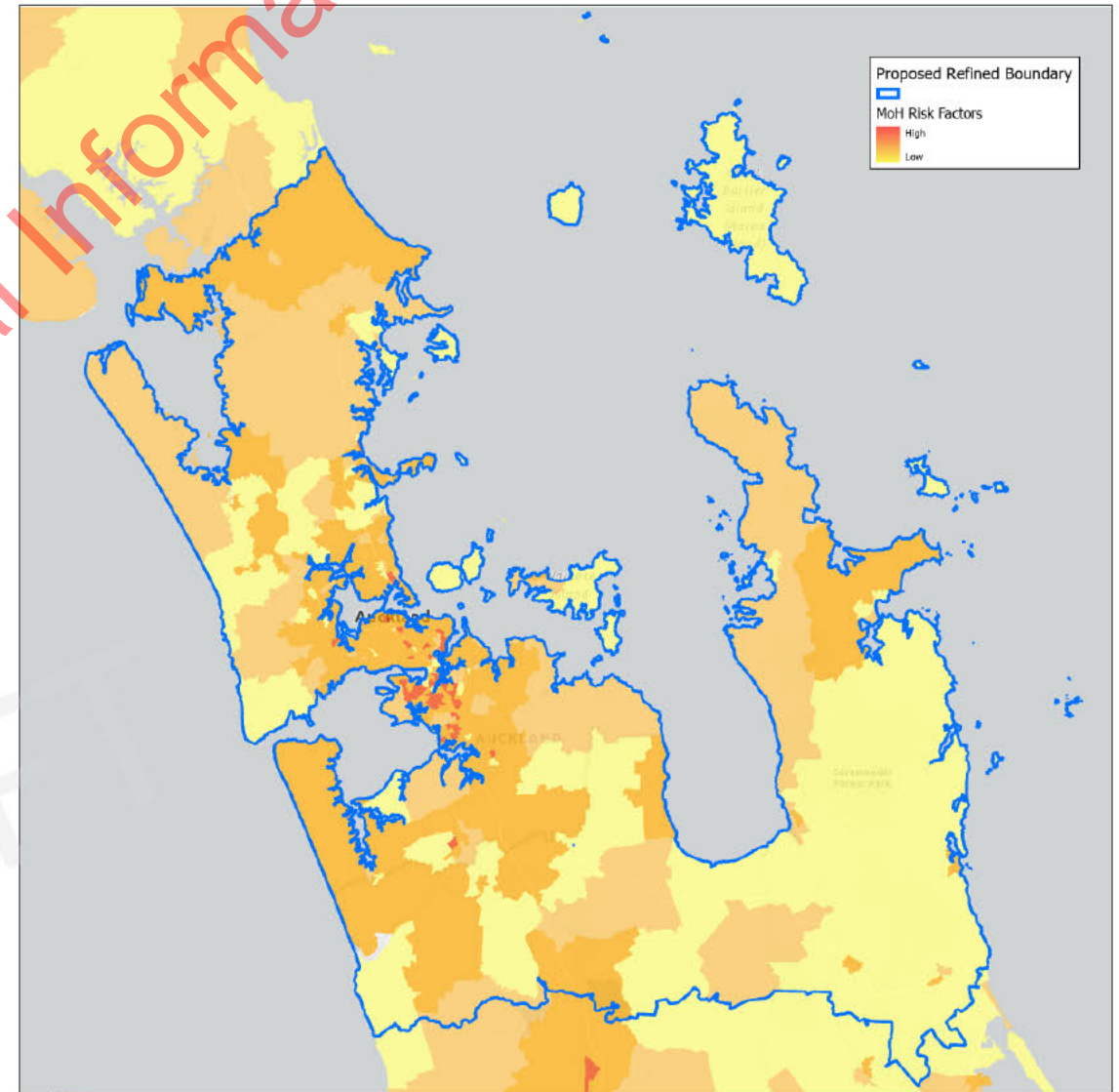
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Step 2

COVID RISK FRAMEWORK

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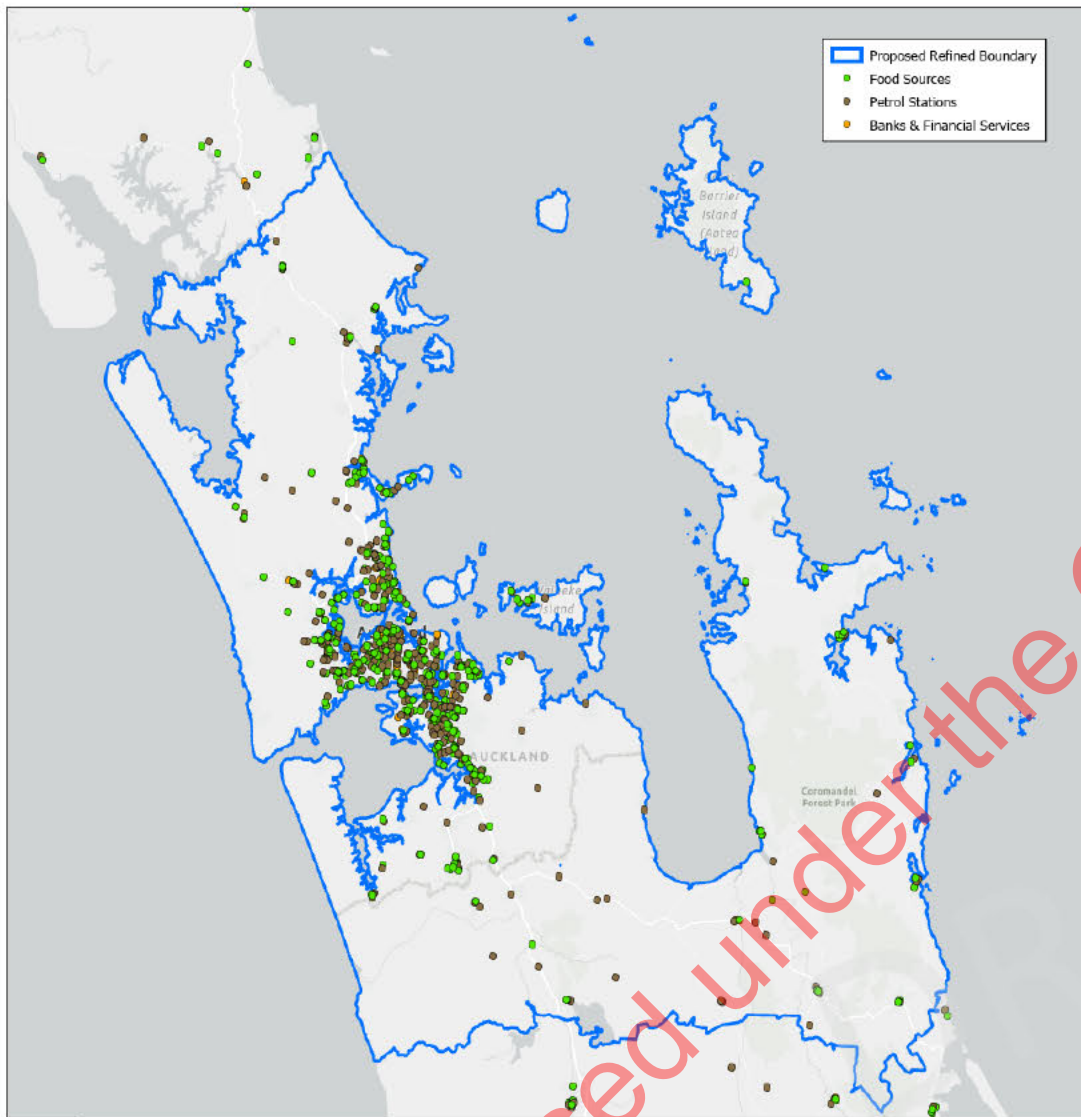
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Objective of Alert Level boundaries: minimise the risk of transmission while causing the least social and economic disruption

Step 3

ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES

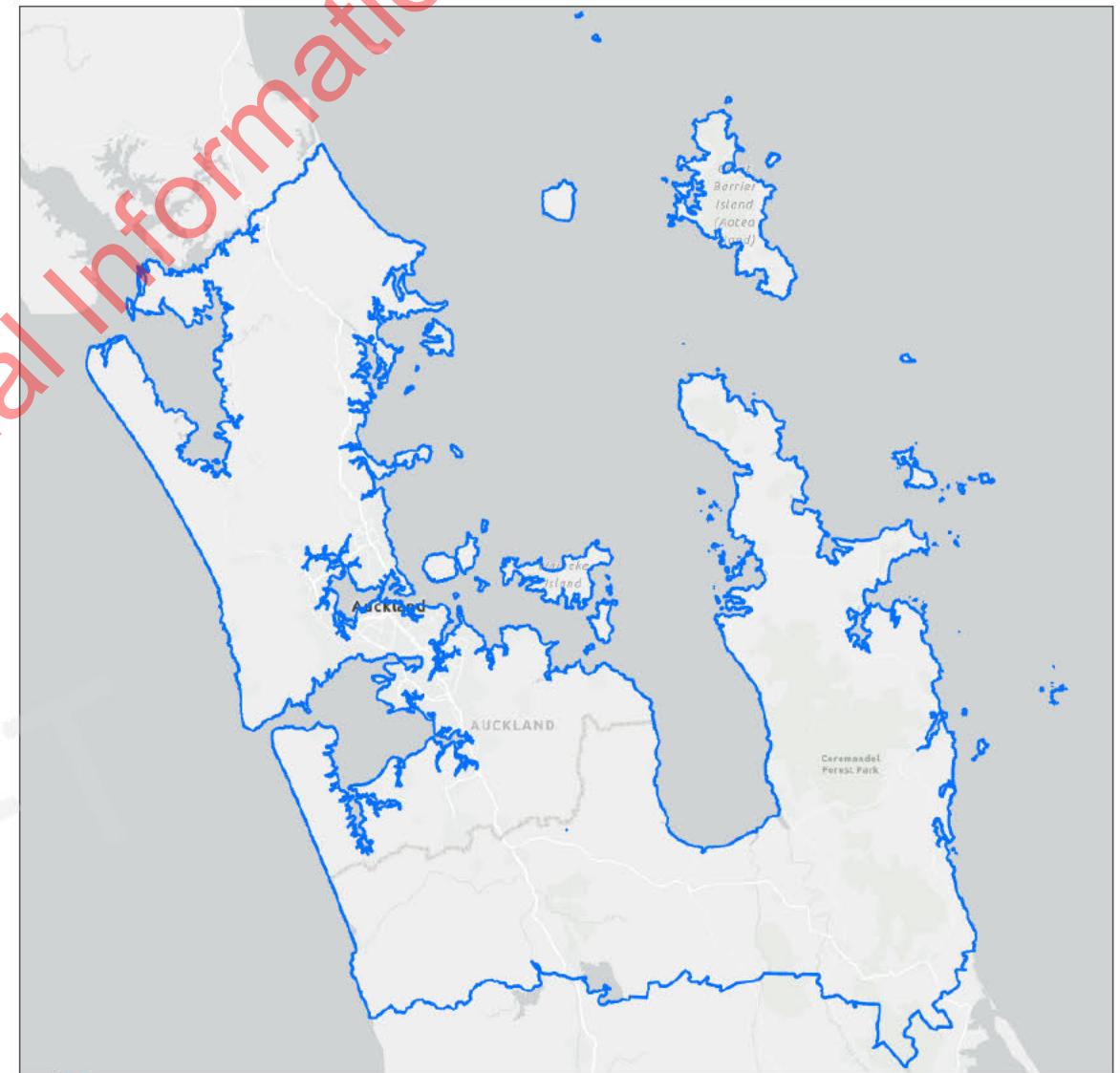
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Step 4

ADJUSTMENTS

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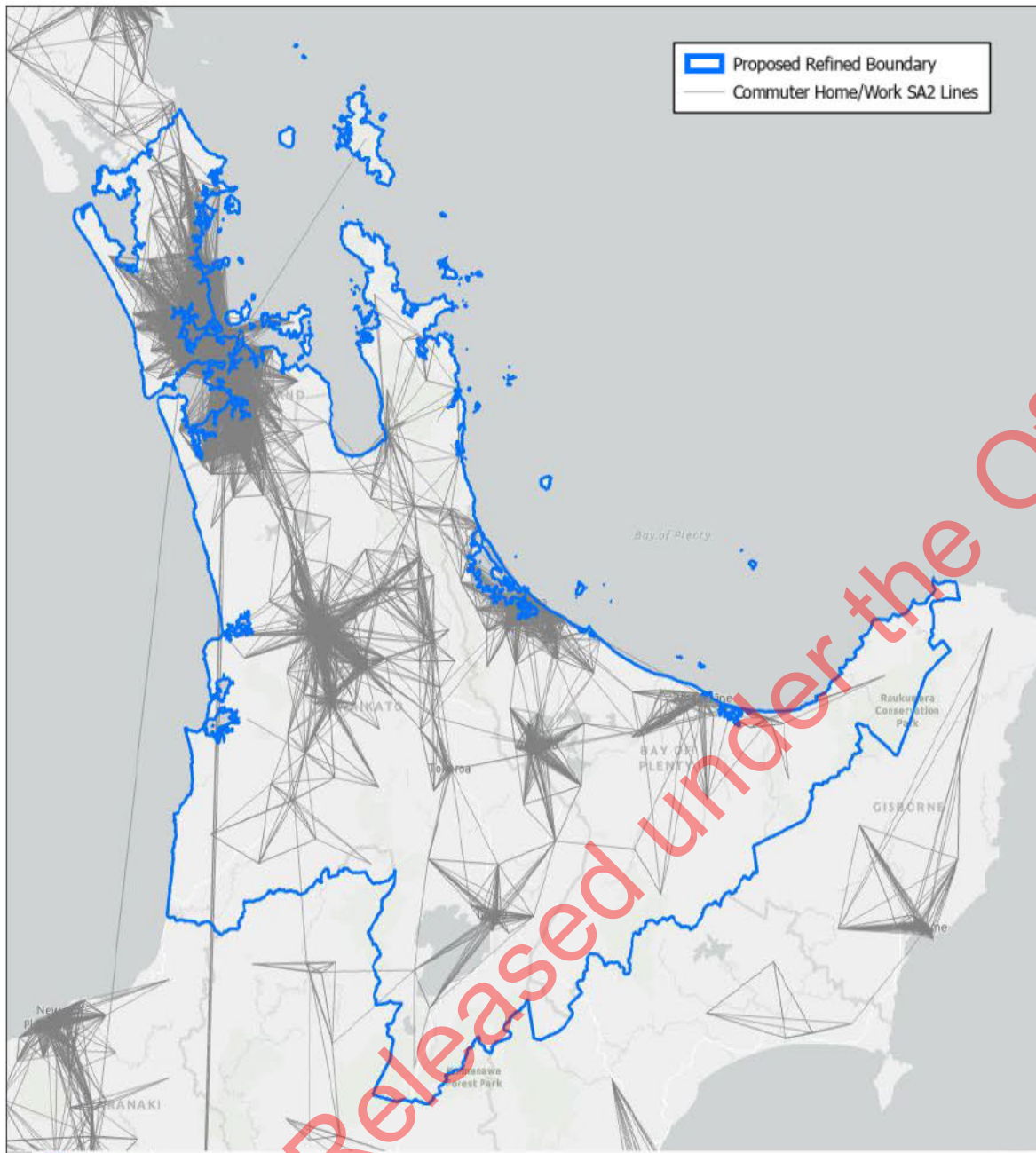
Recommendations are provided, but the Minister and Cabinet make the final decisions. While we can suggest pre-defined Alert Level boundary options there is boundary can be no guarantee these will be used. If required, further engagement with key stakeholders can occur and the refined as new data becomes available, such as information regarding community transmission and the risk of undetected cases.

Objective of Alert Level boundaries: minimise the risk of transmission while causing the least social and economic disruption

Step 1

COMMUTER FLOWS

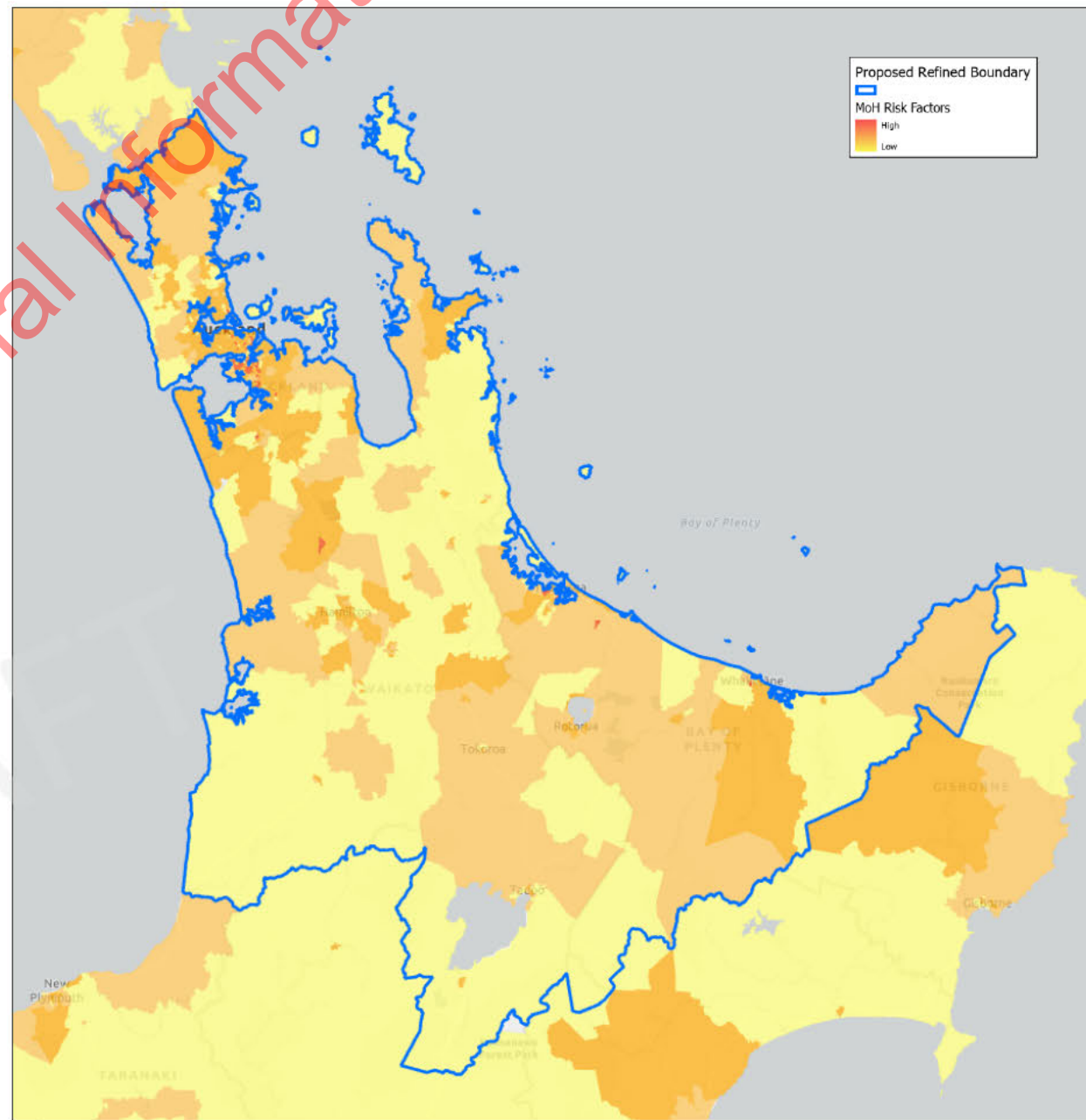
Commuter flows into and out of areas based on 2018 Census data are utilised.



Step 2

COVID RISK FRAMEWORK

The Ministry of Health COVID Risk Framework is overlaid with the output from Step 1. This includes four risk categories i) presence of undetected cases, ii) potential for exposure, iii) potential for transmission, and iv) poor health outcome. The first risk category changes daily depending on community transmission, where the later three are more static. They include things like MIQ location risk, demographics, socioeconomic, and healthcare.

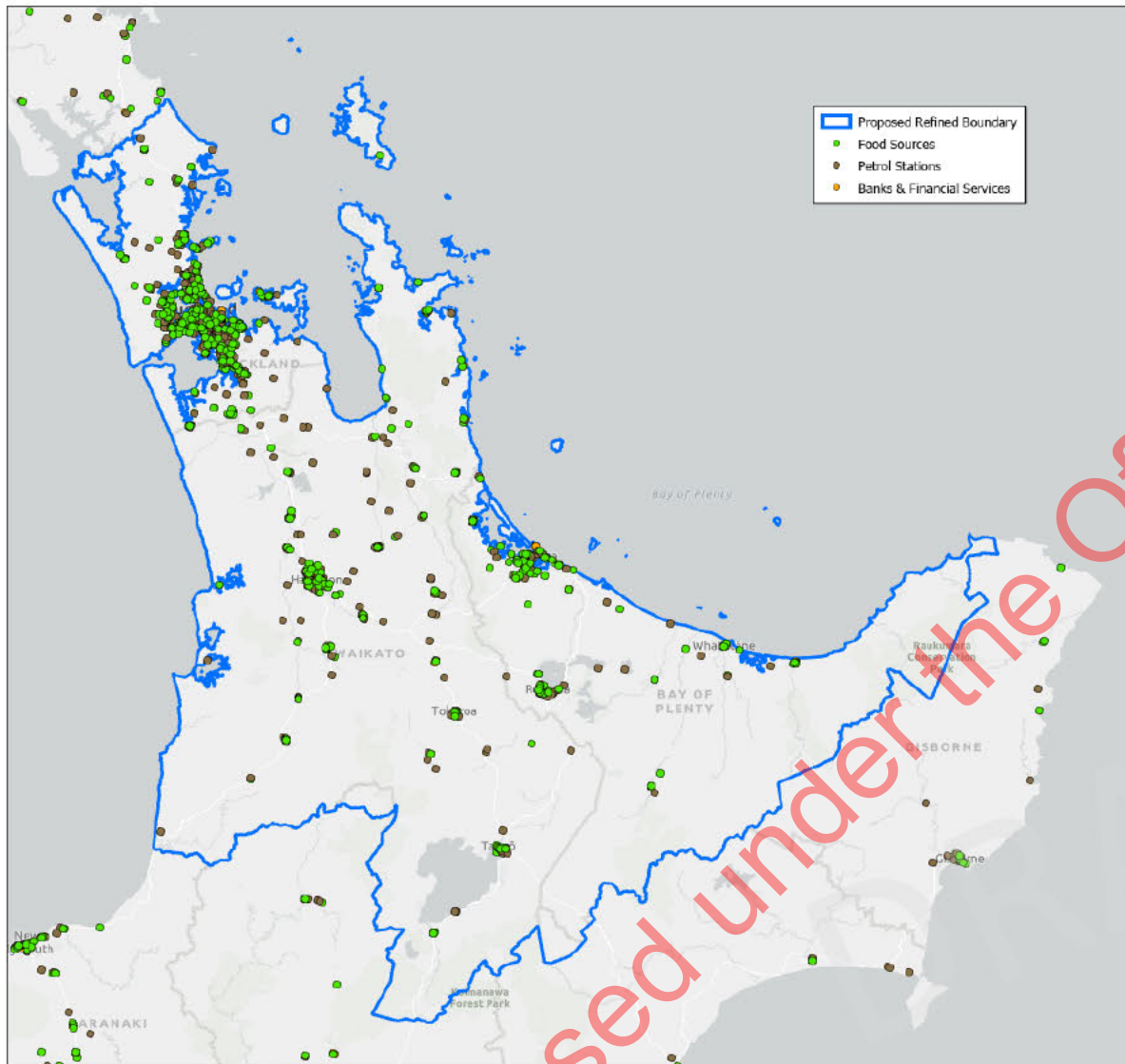


Objective of Alert Level boundaries: minimise the risk of transmission while causing the least social and economic disruption

Step 3

ACCESS TO CRITICAL SERVICES

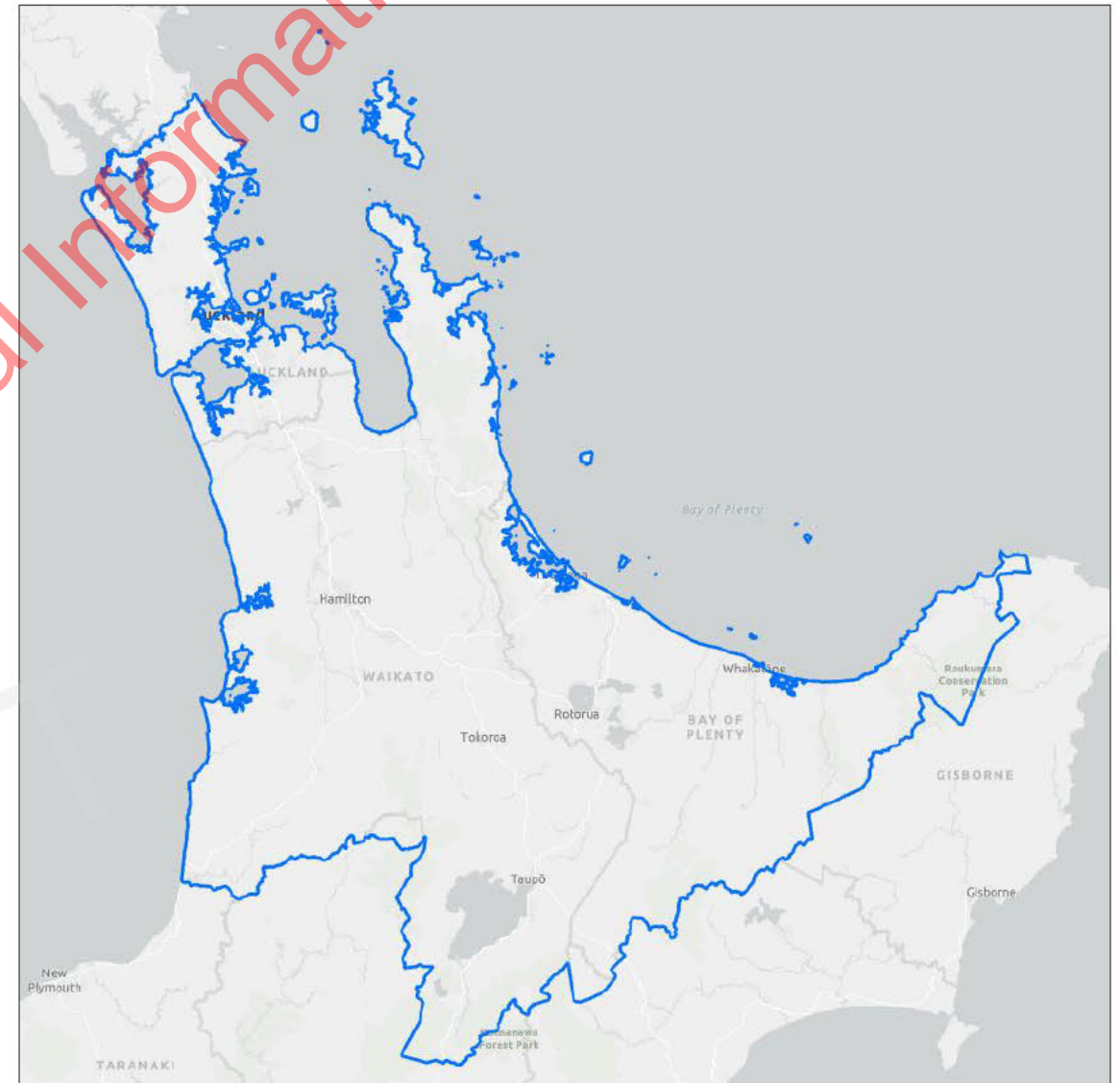
The next step addresses the boundary's impact on access to critical services, along with analysing economic and social impacts using data from MSD, NZDF, NZTA, MPI, Treasury and other agencies. This analysis will highlight any potential issues such as significant travel time changes to access critical services, as well as identifying isolated communities.



Step 4

ADJUSTMENTS

The final step is to make final adjustments to align with administrative boundaries, rivers, roads and other features enabling the boundary to be legally defined. Additional small refinements are made to avoid isolating people and to minimise disruption through populous areas.



Recommendations are provided, but the Minister and Cabinet make the final decisions. While we can suggest pre-defined Alert Level boundary options there is boundary can be no guarantee these will be used. If required, further engagement with key stakeholders can occur and the refined as new data becomes available, such as information regarding community transmission and the risk of undetected cases.