



## Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall:

### **COVID-19 Response Weekly Reports - September 2022**

The following documents have been included in this release:

**Title of paper:** COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 2 September 2022

**Title of paper:** COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 9 September 2022

**Title of paper:** COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 16 September 2022

**Title of paper:** COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 23 September 2022

**Title of paper:** COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 30 September 2022

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

### **Key to redaction codes:**

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals;
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



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



**Te Whatu Ora**  
Health New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE  
MANATŪ AORERE



BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD

# COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

30 September 2022

Contents

1. Status Summary Updates.....	2
2. Ministry of Health .....	3
2.1 Programme Updates .....	3
3. Te Whatu Ora.....	4
3.1 Vaccination Insights .....	4
3.2 Equity .....	5
4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report .....	7
4.1 Top Items to Note .....	7
4.2 Operational Update .....	7
4.3 Ombudsman Complaints.....	8
5. Border Executive Board Report .....	9
5.1 Border Executive Board Meeting .....	9
5.2 Border Executive Board Annual Report .....	9
6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report .....	9
6.1 Items to Note/Updates .....	9
7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board .....	9
8. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group.....	9
9. Upcoming Cabinet Papers.....	10

Proactively Released

## 1. Status Summary Updates

Key		
Symbol	Colour	Meaning
●	Amber	Slow progression, some delays, some roadblocks present
●	Red	Not progressing, on hold, significant delays

### Border Workstreams

Pacific Travel	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Samoa: All COVID-19 restrictions for travel to Samoa have been removed with effect from 22 September, including mandatory COVID-19 testing and proof of vaccination. Health declaration cards for arrival are still required. Samoa has vaccinated over 90% of its eligible population and active case numbers appear to have plateaued.</li> <li>The status remains amber due to the COVID-19 border restrictions in some Pacific Islands.</li> </ul>

### Community Protection

Surveillance and Testing	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
	Te Whatu Ora	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Manatū Hauora have proposed shifting to a new community sequencing target to meet surveillance purposes. A paper was provided to Minister Verrall's office on WGS Reporting on 2 September proposing this change. Te Whatu Ora have previously reported this as amber, due to the low number of PCR samples available leading to fewer available for Whole genome Sequencing (WGS). The role of WGS as a surveillance measure, and its effectiveness in detecting a variant as a result of the removal of mandatory post-arrival testing, are being reviewed by the Public Health Agency within Manatū Hauora. A report on broader surveillance and the role of WGS will be provided to the Minister in October.</li> <li>As a result of retiring the COVID-19 Protection Framework and National Border Solution (NBS), international travellers are no longer automatically identified through the Digital Solution. Instead, they need to self-identify when getting a PCR test. This means they are manually recorded in the system, based on self-identifying as an imported case. As this is a manual process, the data for imported cases are significantly under-represented, and are not a true count of imported cases. Imported case data will be combined with the number of reported community cases.</li> <li>In the week ending 23 September ESR requested 441 samples with 345 (78%) sequenced. This includes: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>124 (28%) imported cases;</li> <li>56 (13%) hospital cases;</li> <li>163 (37%) community cases; and,</li> <li>2 (0.5%) considered as both imported and hospital cases.</li> <li>96 (22%) samples had not been sequenced by the reporting period.</li> </ul> </li> <li>Reported case rates have continued to decrease nationally leading to fewer samples for sequencing. To improve this, several steps have been taken: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ESR are requesting and sequencing all PCR samples with a CT value of &lt;30;</li> <li>Work continues with diagnostic laboratories to ensure all requested samples are sent to ESR; and</li> <li>ESR daily reconciling samples sent, with samples received and following up as needed.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>

### Other Workstreams

All the other workstreams, including the other Border and Community Protection workstreams, Isolation and Quarantine, Vaccination, and System Readiness & Planning are on track with no significant delays anticipated.

## 2. Ministry of Health

### 2.1 Programme Updates

#### 2.1.1 Technical Advisory Group: Update

No Technical Advisory Groups (TAG) met in the week commencing 19 September 2022. Future TAG meeting times are outlined below:

TAG Group	Scheduled Meeting Date
COVID-19 Therapeutics TAG	30 September 2022
COVID-19 TAG	7 October 2022
COVID-19 Vaccine TAG	11 October 2022
COVID-19 Testing TAG	No scheduled meetings

#### 2.1.2 Communications Issues and Activities

As at 28 September 2022

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
s9(2)(f)(iv)				
30 September	Publication of COVID-19 mortality analysis.	Manatū Hauora	Publication online, media statement, reactives	No
TBC September / October	COVID-19 therapeutics being gifted to Realm countries.	Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT)	MFAT leading communications with Manatū Hauora supporting	TBC which Minister
s9(2)(f)(iv)				

#### 2.1.3 Upcoming Publication

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
The National Ethics Advisory Committee consultation on its draft publication on pandemic ethics	26 July – 18 October 2022	The National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) has drafted a publication on pandemic ethics for New Zealand. This publication was previously called <i>Getting Through Together</i> and has been renamed <i>Ethical Guidance for a Pandemic</i> . NEAC will consult with the public on their proposed ethical principles and approach.	Clare Perry, Deputy Director-General, Regulatory Services s9(2)(a)

### 3. Te Whatu Ora

#### 3.1 Vaccination Insights

As of 26 September, 2,697,006 people had received their first booster, which is 73% of the eligible population. For age groups 18 and over, at least 50% of those eligible received their first booster dose, which includes 50% of 18 to 24-year-olds, and 75% of 45 to 49-year-olds. A total of 570,743 second booster doses have been administered.

For those aged 50 and over:

Age Group	Booster	Māori Uptake %	Trend	Pacific Uptake %	Trend	Total uptake %	Trend
50-64	1	76%	↗	79.5%	↔	82.3%	↔
	2	24.4%	↔	23.4%	↔	21.3%	↔
65+	1	90%	↗	87.8%	↗	92.6%	↔
	2	44.6%	↔	39%	↔	54.5%	↔

Approximately 31.1% of all eligible Māori and Pacific people aged 50 years and older have received a second booster, an increase from 30.5% the previous week. Roughly 55.7% of non-Māori non-Pacific aged 65 years and older have received a second booster, an increase from 55.1% the previous week.

#### Outreach Campaigns

For the week 19 to 22 September 2022, 31 national phone campaigns were undertaken to support population uptake on boosters, with a focus on those aged 50 and over and on prioritising eligible Māori and Pacific populations.

In total, 19,489 eligible people were called with 22% (4,297) answering these calls. Of those who answered, 1.41% (61) went on to book an appointment, while 33.8% (1,370) advised they did not require assistance as they will attend a walk-in or manage this through their primary health provider.

#### COVID Vaccine Stock Expiry

COVID-19 Vaccines currently in stock across the country, and wastage to end of day 26 September:

COVID-19 Vaccine	Central Storage Stock	Wastage to date
Paediatric Pfizer	229,300 doses with an expiry between 31 October 2022 and 28 February 2023. A six-month shelf-life extension application is in progress to extend the total shelf life to 18 months.	150,160 doses
12+ Pfizer	1,905,240 doses with an expiry between 31 December 2022 and 31 March 2023. A three-month shelf-life extension application has been approved to extending total shelf life to 15 months.	497,424 doses
AstraZeneca	N/A	95,720 doses
Novavax	973,200 doses with a current expiry date of 31 October 2022.	1,001,960 doses

## **Novavax**

The Nuvaxovid stock recently delivered to New Zealand has not met Medsafe release requirements. Novavax has supplied Medsafe with additional information to support the release of this stock, with a response expected by 30 September 2022. Alternative batches may be available from Australia to ensure continuous supply, should the stock in New Zealand not meet release requirements. The in-use stock will expire on 31 October.

## **Communications and Engagement**

The nationwide campaign encouraging New Zealanders to be up to date with their COVID-19 vaccinations, including boosters, ended on Friday 30 September. A range of targeted initiatives continue, including a partnered advertising campaign with Karawhiua due to get underway on 3 October to promote booster uptake in Māori communities.

Ngāti Porou's Tomo Mai vaccination campaign funded by the National Immunisation Programme (NIP) has led to the creation of a wellness brochure, updated web content, radio advertising (English and Te Reo Māori), print advertising, billboards, social media and videos. Tomo Mai also partnered with East Coast rugby across the National Provincial Championship Heartland Men's competition, and the Senior Women's competition, to further promote vaccination. Seven vaccination events were organised to leverage off this promotional activity.

Work is underway with Te Aupōuri, Tūwharetoa and Te Arawa Whānau Ora to provide communications advice and support on bespoke vaccination campaigns within their iwi. While these campaigns will focus on promoting COVID-19 vaccinations, other vaccines such as flu, MMR and childhood immunisations may also be incorporated where appropriate.

## **Aged Residential Care Facilities**

All districts have confirmed first visits for second booster doses to Aged Residential Care (ARC) facilities will be completed by the first week of October. This excludes facilities where all residents have tested positive for COVID-19 within the last three months. Clinics for these facilities are booked for the date the residents become eligible.

## **Boosters**

Health Districts continue to develop innovative approaches to supporting COVID-19 booster uptake. Te Tai Tokerau District have begun focussing mobile outreach teams to General Practice locations which do not have available appointment capacity. The mobile service is set up in the GP carpark and provides MMR, childhood and COVID-19 vaccinations to take the pressure off GPs enabling them to focus on clients' other health needs.

## **3.2 Equity**

### **Māori Update**

Māori health providers continue to run hauora events where collective aspects of whānau hauora and wellbeing are the focus, of which vaccination is one part.

On Tuesday 20 September, Te Ngaakau a Kiwa Charitable Trust, a volunteer-led Māori health provider established in 2021 and based in the Waikato region, had met with Minister Henare to discuss their mahi, challenges they are currently facing and opportunities to expand their services further in future. Following this meeting, NIP's regional account manager for the Te Manawa Taki/Midlands region will continue to engage with Te Ngaakau a Kiwa to explore how NIP can support them to continue their mahi.

### **Pacific Update**

#### *Pacific Vaccination Events*

Four Pacific vaccination events were held in Tāmaki Makaurau over the weekend of 24 to 25 September. These events included a walk-in pop-up clinic at the Pasefika Vibes Market in Manurewa hosted by Pasefika

Family Health Group and three drive-through events hosted by Southseas Healthcare, The Fono and the Tongan Health Society. A total of 415 COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations were administered.

*Pacific Aotearoa Community Outreach Fund*

The Ministry for Pacific Peoples has received over 400 applications for the Pacific Aotearoa Community Outreach Fund since it was launched at the start of September 2022. The fund's aim is to support Pacific communities across Aotearoa to respond to the impacts of COVID-19 through developing community-led initiatives. While the high number of applications has led to some delay in their processing, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples is working through a process to fast-track the approval of applications to enable funds to be administered to successful applicants as soon as possible.

*Tuvalu Language Week*

Pacific health providers will be running vaccination events in alignment with this year's Tuvalu Language week theme throughout the week.

*Five Reasons to Get Your Booster Campaign*

A range of collateral, including Pacific-focused collateral in Tongan, Samoan and English, has been developed as part of the "Five Reasons to Get Your Booster" campaign. It has been distributed to Pacific health providers and community stakeholders to support increased booster uptake among Pacific communities.

**Disability Update**

As of 22 September 2022, 89% of disabled people aged 12 years and over who receive Disability Support Services (DSS) funding have completed their primary course of vaccination for COVID-19. Seventy-eight percent of this cohort who are eligible for a booster have received one.

Twenty-nine percent of children aged 5 to 11 years who receive DSS funding are fully vaccinated for COVID-19 and a further 21% are partially vaccinated.

As of 22 September 2022, 86% of people aged 12 years and over who use mental health and Alcohol and Other Drug (AOD) services have completed their primary course of vaccination for COVID-19. Booster uptake among this cohort has increased slightly to 59%.

## 4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

### 4.1 Top Items to Note

#### 4.1.1 Proposed COVID-19 Public Health Response Legislation Cabinet Paper: Proposal to Remove MIQ Powers

Cabinet is due to consider a paper from DPMC on significantly reducing many powers in the COVID-19 Act, replacing them with a narrower set of powers that would continue in either an extended or replacement piece of legislation through until 13 May 2025. This proposal includes removing the remaining ‘dormant’ MIQ powers. The paper outlines MBIE’s concerns at a high-level. For your reference, in MBIE’s view there is little to no legal risk in retaining these MIQ powers in case they are needed quickly in the future, and MBIE does not support removing them. MBIE notes that removing the MIQ powers will:

1. **Delay Readiness activation timelines and increase reliance on self-isolation in the interim.** The Readiness Plan timing for accommodating returnees in three to four weeks after the Plan is activated relies on MIQ powers remaining in place. If these powers are removed and MIQ facilities are required, it will take more time than the three to four weeks currently indicated in the Readiness Plan to set up these facilities.

In this event, New Zealand will need to rely on population compliance with self-isolation for longer or apply heavier border restrictions to manage any public health risk. If Cabinet agrees to remove the MIQ powers from the COVID-19 Act, MBIE will need to revisit the timing in the Readiness Plan.

2. **Allow cost recovery of MIQ fees to continue, but transitional provisions should be included in any new COVID-19 legislation to provide clarity and minimize legal risk.** Processing cost recovery, waivers and complaints is still an active process for MBIE.

The repeal of the ‘cost recovery’ provisions in subpart 3A of Part 2 of the COVID-19 Act will remove existing powers relating to the making of regulations for the recovery of MIQF costs.

However, transitional provisions can be included as part of any new COVID-19 legislation to ensure that the ability to recover existing MIQF debts is maintained. To provide certainty around the ongoing cost recovery processes it is important that these transitional provisions are included.

### 4.2 Operational Update

The table below shows the number of invoices issued as of 25 September 2022.

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 20 August 2021, all invoicing had payment terms of 30 days except for sports groups under Crown Service Agreements who have 10 days.

INVOICES ISSUED	INVOICES PAID	INVOICES ISSUED - NOT YET DUE	INVOICES OVERDUE	INVOICES WRITTEN OFF
55,827	45,106 (80% of invoices issued)	97 (0.1% of invoices issued)	7,673 (14% of invoices issued)	2,951 invoices (5%)
TOTAL VALUE OF INVOICES ISSUED \$214M	PAID (BY VALUE) \$185M 87%	ISSUED - NOT YET DUE (BY VALUE) \$407K 0.1%	INVOICES OVERDUE (BY VALUE) \$17M 8%	INVOICES WRITTEN OFF (BY VALUE) \$10.5M 4.8%
			 <b>90+ days overdue</b> 6,485 invoices \$17.5M (by value) 8% (by value of all invoices issued)	

#### 4.2.1 Debt Recovery

The debt recovery percentage is now 87 percent, which is against our nominal target recovery of 90 percent.

As of 25 September, 15,190 invoices worth \$45.8m have been passed to our debt partner. In addition:

- \$19.8m has now been paid (an increase of \$275k);
- A further \$322k of debt is under instalment and is expected to be converted to payments over coming weeks; and
- There are 243 active fee waiver requests, while applications are processed, they are recorded as outstanding debt.

#### 4.3 Ombudsman Complaints

As of 28 September, there are seven active investigations:

- one is on policy advice;
- two are on emergency allocations;
- one is on exemptions from managed isolation;
- one is a declined fee waiver application;
- one is about facilities; and
- one is the Chief Ombudsman's self-initiated investigation.

To date, 259 investigations have been closed, with the Chief Ombudsman issuing 123 opinions in MBIE's favour and eight final opinions against MBIE.

There are 104 preliminary enquiries. Preliminary enquiries are cases where the Ombudsman requests the file to assess the complaint and determine next steps.



## 5. Border Executive Board Report

This update is provided to you as the responsible Minister for the Border Executive Board.

### 5.1 Border Executive Board Meeting

The Board did not meet this week, with the next meeting scheduled for 5 October 2022.

### 5.2 Border Executive Board Annual Report

The Border Executive Board 2021/22 Annual Report is due to be presented to Parliament by Friday 21 October 2022. The Report provides an overview of the Border Executive Board, its functions and responsibilities, progress against the work programme, and highlights of the year. The content of the Border Executive Board Annual Report was approved by the Board.

As The New Zealand Customs Service (Customs) are the servicing department for the Border Executive Board, the financial statements and non-financial performance information relating to the Board are reported as part of the New Zealand Customs Service Annual Report.

To align the two documents, the Border Executive Board Annual Report is appended to the Customs Annual Report for the purposes of publication and presenting it to the House. The Border Executive Board Annual Report will be published on the Customs website after it has been presented to the House.

## 6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



### 6.1 Items to Note/Updates

There are no issues that require your attention.

## 7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

There are no updates this week for the COVID-19 Chief Executives Board. The next meeting is scheduled on 11 October 2022.

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

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group (SPHAG) met on 29 September 2022 to progress their commissioned advice to you, including modelling that will support SPHAG's advice and rationale. Your Office will receive a written progress update on the advice on 30 September.

## 9. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

s9(2)(f)(iv)



Proactively Released