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



**BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD**



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



# COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

05 November 2021

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# 1. Status Summary

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

## Border

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Border measures	●	●	<p>Saliva testing at boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 3 November, 24,404 individuals and 1,509 businesses had registered with Asia Pacific Healthcare Group (APHG), the saliva testing provider engaged by the Ministry for saliva testing to meet testing requirements to cross Alert Level boundaries.</li> <li>As at 3 November, a total of 70,226 saliva tests for permitted workers crossing the boundary have been completed by APHG.</li> </ul> <p>Boundary testing compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 29 October, at the land border, a total of 965,342 vehicles have been stopped at the checkpoints on Auckland's northern and southern boundaries, with a total of 11,439 vehicles turned around (1.2 percent of total vehicles).</li> <li>On 2 November, at the air border, 231 passengers attempted to travel out of Auckland. Of these, none were refused.</li> </ul> <p>Border Worker Saliva Testing National Rollout</p> <p>As at 3 November 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>2,822 border workers have opted into saliva testing. This number will fluctuate due to the dynamic nature of our border workforce.</li> <li>Of the 1,592 active workers who are undertaking saliva testing, about 90.2 percent are compliant in meeting their testing requirements.</li> <li>A total of 892 saliva tests have been completed by APHG for Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers.</li> <li>11 education business/schools and 64 individuals in the education sector have now registered for saliva testing.</li> </ul> <p>New testing requirements for returnees</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>New testing requirements to reduce the time spent in managed isolation for international returnees will come into effect on 14 November. With managed isolation reducing from 14 days to 7 days, followed by 3 days self-isolation, release will be subject to a negative day 9 test result from a test taken in the community. This follows developments in knowledge of COVID-19 transmission, infectious periods, and testing approaches, particularly around the Delta variant. These developments indicate that the length of time returnees are required to be in managed isolation can be decreased with minimal additional risk to the community.</li> </ul>
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	●	●	<p>Staff Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Compliance reporting is at 97%, (same as last week), for staff who worked in the week of 25-31 October 2021.</li> <li>3% of staff on site in the week of 25-31 October 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue (142 workers). The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers.</li> </ul> <p>Vaccinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 25-31 October 2021, 98.2% have had two doses of the vaccine, 0.4% had one dose and 1.4% have vaccination status 'unknown'.</li> <li>Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR did not identify any breaches of the Vaccination Order. However, on the ground checks found one worker, a bus driver uplifting guests from the Distinction Christchurch, came on site to use the bathroom and bypassed security without signing in to Who'sonLocation or showing vaccination evidence and ID. More detail on this is contained in the body of the report.</li> <li>There were no vaccine exemptions granted last week.</li> </ul>
	●	●	<p>Saliva Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As at 31 October, 935 MIQ workers have opted-in to saliva testing.</li> <li>Saliva testing is currently operational across all active MIQF sites.</li> <li>Engagement is underway with our PCBUs and workers regarding the updated Required Testing Order to support them in shifting to daily testing at quarantine facilities and twice weekly testing at isolation facilities from 11 59pm 8 November. We anticipate there may be an initial decrease in compliance as our workforce transition to these new testing cycles, so we will continue closely monitoring and supporting our workforce through this change.</li> </ul>









**Border (continued)**

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment	
Two-way QFT with Australia	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>QFT to Australia from anywhere in New Zealand began on 1 November 2021, depending on requirements of individual states and territories which have their own rules and guidance. QFT from Australia remains suspended.</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s6(a) changes have been made to MIQ and testing as part of recent repatriation flights which will contribute to the two-way readiness work.</li> </ul>
Two-way QFT Niue	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s6(b)(i)</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cook Islands response work is looking to restart as the Cook Islands Government looks to how to respond to the ongoing Delta cases in NZ.</li> </ul>
Reopening new travel pathways - Pacific Islands	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Despite the main island of Tonga, Tongatapu, entering lockdown until 9 November, the Government of Tonga has advised that the first expanded QFT flight will still go ahead on 9 November, subject to readiness of its pre-departure check processes. An RSE charter flight is set for 8 November. At this stage, a repatriation flight on 23 November will proceed as planned; the departure airport still needs to be confirmed (likely Christchurch). s9(2)(a)</li> <li>The first expanded QFT flight from Vanuatu is scheduled for 20 November. The Government of Vanuatu is expected to utilise the return legs of three upcoming RSE charter flights in November to repatriate its nationals (there will likely be a cap of approximately 100 pax per flight), in addition to the three remaining commercial repatriation flights scheduled before the end of the year. Separately, known contacts of last week's two positive border cases have all tested negative to date.</li> <li>The first expanded QFT flight from Samoa is scheduled for 13 November. 95 RSE workers are expected to repatriate to Samoa on the return leg. RSE charters are also scheduled for 17 and 21 November.</li> </ul>

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

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment	
Place and conditions of stay	MBIE	●	●	<p>Ventilation Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ventilation remediation work has been completed for 27 of our 33 facilities.</li> <li>Remediation work at the remaining six facilities is underway.</li> <li>Ventilation remediation has been impacted by the current high demand for rooms but will continue where possible within demand constraints.</li> <li>The first 300 air filtration units from an order of 1,500 are due to arrive 2 November – these units will be shared between MoH and MIQ.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	●	●	<p>Renewing Contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s9(2)(b)(ii)</li> <li>We now have the legal contracts for 29 facilities, with three contracts currently out for signing.</li> <li>In regards to the three remaining contracts, there have been some ongoing negotiation on rates and whether or not rebranding is included in this. s9(2)(b)(ii)</li> <li>Full and final execution versions of the contracts are now out with the Jetpark Auckland, Hamilton and M Social.</li> <li>We are continuing to progress the Services Agreement with the Elms Christchurch in preparation for go live in late November.</li> <li>This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with the hotels.</li> </ul>

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

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Place and conditions of stay	MBIE	 	<p>Self-Isolation Pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>104 applicants have provided documents for verification. 55 have been approved and we are waiting for further information from a number of others.</li> <li>We have seen 60 withdrawals. A further 52 have not yet contacted us at all to provide information after being notified that they were successful in the ballot.</li> <li>We are replacing these with new EOIs from the ballot but will discontinue this on Wednesday 3 November to finalise participation.</li> </ul>
	MBIE		<p>Recommissioning the Ramada</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ramada Federal Street Auckland was designated as a Managed Isolation Facility (MIF) on 2 November 2021 and operational readiness is complete.</li> <li>31 deportees arrived into New Zealand on 2 &amp; 3 November 2021 and will all be managed at the Ramada MIF.</li> <li>The deportees will exit the MIF slightly sooner (one or two days, depending on arrival date) than the usual 14 day stay due to the new MIQ seven-day stay coming into effect on 14 November.</li> <li>We are working with Police and Ara Poutama Aotearoa (Corrections) to plan for the earlier release from MIQ and to ensure the deportees have the required accommodation and reintegration support in place.</li> <li>Now that the Ramada is back up and running, we will only report on this by exception.</li> </ul>
	MBIE		<p>Health workforce supporting MIQ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The MIQF health workforce continues to be stretched, particularly in Auckland with the ongoing challenges related to supporting the needs of community cases and contacts isolating/quarantining in MIQFs.</li> <li>The transition to the 7 day stay model from 14 November 2021 represents some significant workforce challenges. In particular, the workload associated with ensuring all routine returnee testing is completed within the required timeframes – as well as Rapid Antigen Testing on day of departure – is substantial, especially when layered upon other routine tasks such as returnee health checks and clinical management, and staff testing (the frequency of which has recently increased).</li> <li>The Ministry of Health will present some options to alleviate the pressure created by the testing requirements under the 7 day stay model in a briefing later this week covering the plan for implementing shorter MIQ stay and self-isolation.</li> </ul>
Post-managed isolation processes	MBIE	 	<p>Fees collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We allow 2-3 weeks from when someone leaves MIQ to invoice as this time allows us to gather all the information we need to determine liability and contact details. Invoicing is now up to returnees leaving MIQ on 11 October.</li> <li>A solution to allow credit card payments to be received went live Friday 15 October. We have processed almost \$700k via the credit card solution so far.</li> <li>The new backlog solution has been completed and is in production. 217 invoices have been sent so far valued at \$898k. We are sending letters to physical addresses where no email has been found. Once we have processed up to March 2021 we will review the remaining invoices that were not able to be sent.</li> </ul> <p>Debt Recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Of the now 1,063 invoices worth \$3.413m sent to a debt collection agency:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$419k (up \$43k, 12%) has been paid (or will be paid through instalment)</li> <li>\$569k is currently awaiting information from customers or has been credited due to an error</li> <li>a further \$615k (this includes the Gone no address/overseas category) requires more detailed tracing</li> <li>the remaining \$1,810k (includes the passive collection) debt continues to be a work in progress.</li> </ul> </li> <li>1,474 invoices worth \$5.139m have now been passed to MBIE's partner firm for active management. To the week ended 31/10/2021, \$371k has now been paid.</li> <li>This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices and while we continue to make progress on debt recovery.</li> </ul>
	MBIE	 	<p>P2/N95 Mask Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>It is now mandatory for MIQ workers to wear a fit checked P2/N95 mask in defined areas of MIQFs.</li> <li>The Request for Quote (RFQ) has been released to market for fit testing services. Responses from potential suppliers have been received and are currently being evaluated. The suppliers will be in place mid-November.</li> <li>MoH has received supply of the new P2/N95 primary model for workers at MIQFs. The new model will be commissioned onto sites once fit testing commences. This change has been well received and aligns with the fit testing timelines.</li> <li>Fit testing of workers in quarantine facilities continues independently of this project and is being undertaken as new quarantine sites are commissioned.</li> </ul>

### Community Protection

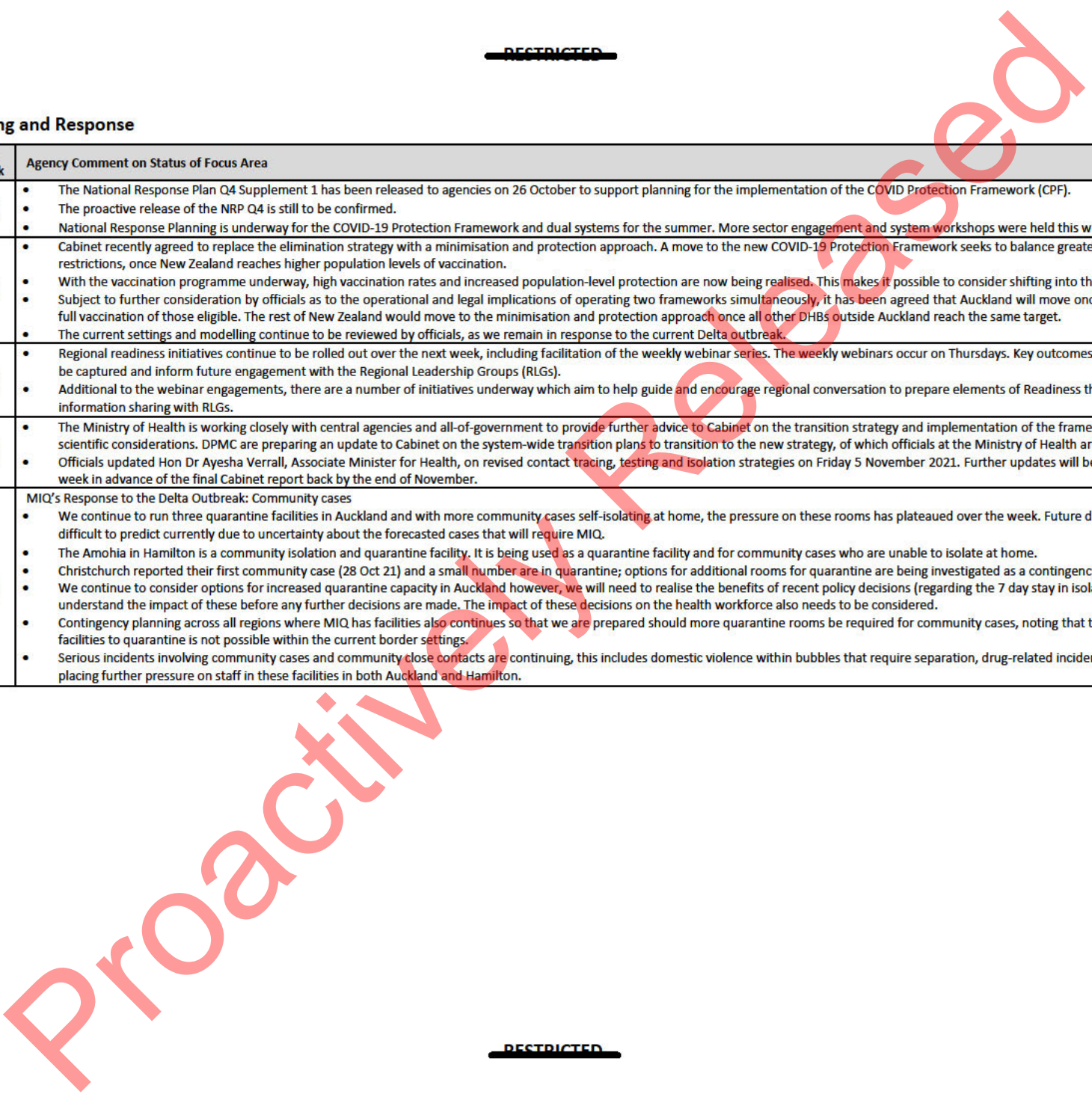
Case investigation, surveillance and testing	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	
	MoH	●	●	<p>As at 9 00am on 4 November:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>there have been 3,871 community cases associated with the Delta Community Outbreak. Of these, 2,139 are active cases, 1,730 are recovered and two deaths.</li> <li>there are 54 cases linked to the Auckland Community outbreak who are currently in hospital.</li> <li>there are 3,569 open contacts. Of these 143 are Close Plus contacts and 1915 are Close contacts.</li> </ul> <p>As at 3 November the testing sites in operation are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>There are 18 community testing centres (CTCs) available across the Auckland Metro Area, including 6 regular CTCs and 12 Pop-Ups.</li> <li>There are 8 CTCs open across the Waikato region, including 5 CTCs and 3 Pop-Ups.</li> <li>There are 11 CTCs available in Northland.</li> <li>There are 4 CTCs open in Canterbury.</li> <li>In addition to the above, there is mobile testing of at-risk individuals and households in Auckland, as well as of close contacts in Waikato and Canterbury.</li> <li>29,521 tests were processed on 2 November with a rolling 7-day average of 26,016.</li> </ul> <p>Rapid Antigen Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The use of rapid antigen tests in Auckland metro hospitals in areas deemed as 'high-risk' continues. A report on the Middlemore pilot has been completed. NRHCC has also submitted a regional report based on the pilots undertaken by the 3 metro DHBs and a plan of suitable use case scenarios for the region.</li> <li>The use of rapid antigen testing as a point of arrival test as part of the traveller self-isolation pilot in Auckland is underway.</li> <li>The business sector trial with MBIE is underway and due to be completed by the end of November.</li> <li>Planning is underway for a phased rollout of rapid antigen tests for all businesses and community.</li> <li>Returnees will require a rapid antigen test before going into self-isolation after their 7 days in Managed Isolation if the result for their day 5/6 test is not yet available.</li> </ul>

### Vaccination

Implementation and operation	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>As of 11.59 pm on 2 November 2021, 6,926,192 vaccinations have been delivered, including 3,201,226 people who are fully vaccinated.</li> <li>88 percent of people aged 12+ are booked or have been vaccinated with at least one dose. This figure is over 96 percent for the 65+ age group.</li> <li>Five DHBs (Waitemata, Auckland, Capital and Coast, Canterbury and Southern) have hit or passed 90 percent first doses, and a number of others are very close.</li> <li>A specific plan has been developed to achieve a 90 percent vaccination rate for Māori by 17 December 2021.</li> <li>All DHBs continue to focus on vaccinating hesitant and under-vaccinated populations, using a combination of small, targeted events and initiatives, mobile vaccine clinics, and onboarding additional Primary Care and community pharmacies as vaccination sites.</li> <li>Work is underway on the establishment of a central COVID-19 vaccination register for the health and disability workforce included in the Order. This will initially rely on employers maintaining records before the fully operational register is deployed.</li> <li>The COVID-19 vaccination certificates are progressing, with two pilots for consumers to request a digital pass or certificate planned to take place in the week of 8 November 2021.</li> <li>Medsafe is currently reviewing Pfizer's application for a booster dose and expects to make a decision in the coming weeks.</li> </ul>

### Resurgence Planning and Response

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Resurgence planning including review of the response	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Response Plan Q4 Supplement 1 has been released to agencies on 26 October to support planning for the implementation of the COVID Protection Framework (CPF).</li> <li>The proactive release of the NRP Q4 is still to be confirmed.</li> <li>National Response Planning is underway for the COVID-19 Protection Framework and dual systems for the summer. More sector engagement and system workshops were held this week.</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Cabinet recently agreed to replace the elimination strategy with a minimisation and protection approach. A move to the new COVID-19 Protection Framework seeks to balance greater freedoms with less population-wide restrictions, once New Zealand reaches higher population levels of vaccination.</li> <li>With the vaccination programme underway, high vaccination rates and increased population-level protection are now being realised. This makes it possible to consider shifting into this new phase of COVID-19 response.</li> <li>Subject to further consideration by officials as to the operational and legal implications of operating two frameworks simultaneously, it has been agreed that Auckland will move once each DHB in Auckland reaches 90% full vaccination of those eligible. The rest of New Zealand would move to the minimisation and protection approach once all other DHBs outside Auckland reach the same target.</li> <li>The current settings and modelling continue to be reviewed by officials, as we remain in response to the current Delta outbreak.</li> </ul>
Readiness planning	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Regional readiness initiatives continue to be rolled out over the next week, including facilitation of the weekly webinar series. The weekly webinars occur on Thursdays. Key outcomes and insights from the sessions will be captured and inform future engagement with the Regional Leadership Groups (RLGs).</li> <li>Additional to the webinar engagements, there are a number of initiatives underway which aim to help guide and encourage regional conversation to prepare elements of Readiness through forming connections and information sharing with RLGs.</li> </ul>
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health is working closely with central agencies and all-of-government to provide further advice to Cabinet on the transition strategy and implementation of the framework, including operational, legal and scientific considerations. DPMC are preparing an update to Cabinet on the system-wide transition plans to transition to the new strategy, of which officials at the Ministry of Health are key contributors.</li> <li>Officials updated Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Associate Minister for Health, on revised contact tracing, testing and isolation strategies on Friday 5 November 2021. Further updates will be provided to COVID-19 Ministers this week in advance of the final Cabinet report back by the end of November.</li> </ul>
QFT response	MBIE	●	●	<p>MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak: Community cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continue to run three quarantine facilities in Auckland and with more community cases self-isolating at home, the pressure on these rooms has plateaued over the week. Future demand for quarantine rooms is difficult to predict currently due to uncertainty about the forecasted cases that will require MIQ.</li> <li>The Amohia in Hamilton is a community isolation and quarantine facility. It is being used as a quarantine facility and for community cases who are unable to isolate at home.</li> <li>Christchurch reported their first community case (28 Oct 21) and a small number are in quarantine; options for additional rooms for quarantine are being investigated as a contingency should the cases surge.</li> <li>We continue to consider options for increased quarantine capacity in Auckland however, we will need to realise the benefits of recent policy decisions (regarding the 7 day stay in isolation for border returnees) and understand the impact of these before any further decisions are made. The impact of these decisions on the health workforce also needs to be considered.</li> <li>Contingency planning across all regions where MIQ has facilities also continues so that we are prepared should more quarantine rooms be required for community cases, noting that transition of any further isolation facilities to quarantine is not possible within the current border settings.</li> <li>Serious incidents involving community cases and community close contacts are continuing, this includes domestic violence within bubbles that require separation, drug-related incidents and bubble breaches which are placing further pressure on staff in these facilities in both Auckland and Hamilton.</li> </ul>



## 2. COVID-19 Insights

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

#### 2.1.1 Countries Approaches to Reporting COVID-19 Through the Media

##### **Introduction**

Many countries are entering a new phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, shifting the focus from suppression of COVID-19 outbreaks to ensuring that hospital services do not become overrun. This change of approach has occurred alongside COVID-19 becoming endemic, and a rise in the rate of COVID-19 vaccinations. With this change in context, it has also become apparent that some countries and regions have undertaken a change in COVID-19 reporting practices.

##### **Moving Focus Away from Daily Case Numbers to Severe Disease and Hospitalisations**

There has been a change in focus from reporting on COVID-19 case numbers, to instead reporting the number of COVID-19 patients in hospital, as has been observed in Singapore, and to some extent in the United Kingdom,<sup>1 2</sup> and recommended by epidemiologists in Australia.<sup>3</sup> In the United Kingdom, government press conferences from April shifted to vaccination rates and hospitalisations, and how this related to the United Kingdom's reopening strategy.<sup>4</sup> Similarly, Singaporean reporting changed to focus on case numbers in ICU or numbers requiring ventilation and the total number of cases in hospital.<sup>5</sup> There has also been a change in the frequency of COVID-19 reporting from daily, to weekly, as observed in Florida, and the United States.<sup>6 7</sup> Singapore also stopped reporting on linked and unlinked COVID-19 cases.<sup>8</sup>

##### **Case Numbers and Vaccination Rates When Messaging Changed**

At the start of September when Singapore made changes to their reporting, the 7-day rolling average number of cases was 141, and was on the increase, with 75% of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 and 78% of the population having received at least one dose.<sup>9</sup>

Messaging in Australia appeared to change at the end of August, when the 7-day rolling average number of COVID-19 cases was 1,195, and increasing, with 29% of the population fully vaccinated and 48% having received one dose.

The number of cases in Florida at the start of June when changes to reporting began were at a 7-day rolling average of 1,849, and were on the increase, with the proportion of the population fully vaccinated against COVID-19 39% with 49% having received one dose.

In the United Kingdom, when government briefings shifted focus to vaccine deployment and hospitalisation, the 7-day rolling average number of cases was 4,518, with 8% of the population fully vaccinated and 46% having received one dose.<sup>10</sup>

*Thank you to the following teams that assisted with these insights: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade and the Ministry of Health*

### 2.2 Insight of Note Written by the Ministry of Health

#### 2.2.1 COVID-19 International Perspectives: 3 November 2021

After a sustained decline in global new COVID-19 cases since late August 2021, daily cases and deaths have both increased by approximately 7% in the last fortnight as of 30 October 2021.<sup>11</sup> To date, 246 million cases (~3.1% of the global population) have been reported in the pandemic.<sup>12</sup> Global lives lost have surpassed 5 million people.<sup>13</sup> The USA, EU, UK, and Brazil account for one eighth of the world population, but nearly half of all reported deaths.<sup>14</sup> Challenges in the attribution of causes of death means that the true number is likely to be far higher.<sup>15</sup> Approximately 39% of the global population is fully vaccinated.<sup>16</sup> A further 11% have received one dose.<sup>17</sup>



The Delta variant and its sub-lineages continue to increase in prevalence worldwide, dominating in all countries with reliable genomic data, with the exception of Colombia.<sup>18</sup> The AY.4 Delta sub-lineage currently accounts for 50% of Delta cases globally.<sup>19</sup> AY.4.2, a descendent of AY.4, has been detected across 42 countries and is growing particularly quickly in the UK, accounting for approximately 12% of cases.<sup>20</sup> Experts suggest there may be an 'increase in transmissibility of 10-15% compared to the original Delta variant, however, evidence is still emerging on AY.4.2 and the potential risk posed is still yet to be established.'<sup>21</sup>

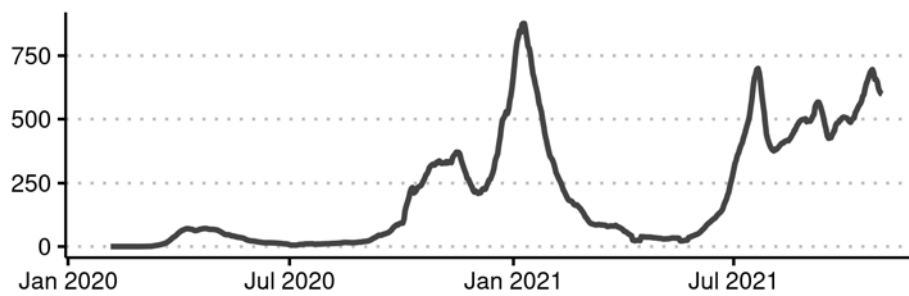
Increasing numbers of countries are beginning to move away from elimination and suppression to ultimately find a 'new normal.' Restrictions and lockdowns are reduced in favour of maximising vaccination, while aiming to ensure healthcare systems are not overwhelmed. Many European countries, such as the UK, have largely removed restrictions and accepted high case rates, whilst others, such as Singapore, are more cautiously easing restrictions. In the UK, increasing proportions of cases are in children and young adults who tend to be unvaccinated or have low vaccination rates. In this context, the analysis of the COVID-19 strategies in these jurisdictions is beneficial and relevant to informing future responses to the current Delta variant outbreak.<sup>22</sup>

#### United Kingdom

- Daily new COVID-19 cases remain high in the UK.<sup>23</sup> Average daily cases have been declining in the past week, following a series of peaks and troughs in cases between July and September.<sup>24</sup>
- The 7-day rolling average of cases of almost 41,000 daily cases is below the peak of almost 60,000 in January.<sup>25</sup>
- Deaths have been increasing slowly since early October, but the 7-day rolling average of 157 daily deaths is much lower than the peak of 1,250 daily deaths in January.<sup>26</sup>
- s6(a) hospitalisations are within hospital capacity (5,000 to 7,000 each week), s6(a)
- The UK government has prepared 'Plan B', the Winter COVID-19 Strategy, to be used if the health system is overwhelmed with COVID-19 patients.<sup>28</sup> Masks would be mandated, working from home encouraged, and vaccine passports required in certain settings.<sup>29</sup> However, the UK government has resisted calls to move to 'Plan B' and has dismissed the possibility of a winter lockdown.<sup>30</sup>
- First and second dose uptake has slowed or is stagnated in most UK age groups.<sup>31</sup> 79% of those over 12 are fully vaccinated, and an additional 7% have received one dose, while just over 11% have received a booster.<sup>32</sup>
- Waning levels of vaccine-induced immunity may be playing a role in continued high levels of COVID-19 infections, with many receiving vaccinations over six months ago, particularly in older and vulnerable populations.<sup>33</sup>
- Booster doses are now offered at walk-in clinics to anyone who received their second dose at least six months prior.<sup>34</sup>
- The proportion of COVID-19 cases in children and young adults in England continues to increase.<sup>35</sup> In the week to 19 October 2021, nearly half of all cases were in people under 19 years of age.<sup>36</sup>
- Vaccination coverage is lowest in the those under 18 years of age.<sup>37</sup> Only around 10% of 16- to 18-year-olds are fully vaccinated.<sup>38</sup> Less than 20% of 12- to 15-year-olds have received their first dose (although only a single dose is recommended for this age group).<sup>39</sup>

## COVID-19 cases in United Kingdom

Daily new cases per million population



Source: Our World in Data, values are weekly rolling means

### Singapore

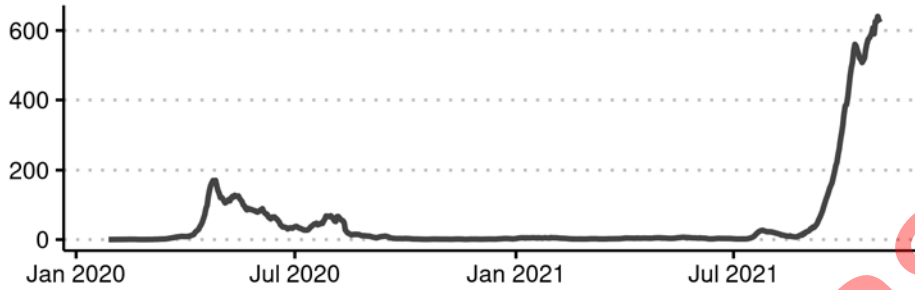
- New COVID-19 cases in Singapore continue a steep climb that began in late August 2021 after the country loosened restrictions, transitioning from an elimination strategy to 'COVID-19 resilience.'<sup>40</sup>
- Singapore's 7-day rolling average passed 2,000 cases per day on 1 October, 3,000 a day on 8 October 2021; and was over 3,500 a day at the end of October 2021 with signs that growth is levelling off in the population of almost 6 million.<sup>41</sup>
- Daily deaths are also rising. An average of 13 deaths were being reported per day at the end of October 2021, mainly in the unvaccinated aged over 60.<sup>42</sup>
- While most new cases are asymptomatic or mild, hospitalisations have gradually increased since September 2021 to between 1200 and 1400 each week.<sup>43</sup> As of 1 November 2021, the occupancy rate of all general ward beds in Singapore is 90%, with 18% occupied by COVID-19 patients; 67% of the 200 ICU beds are occupied.<sup>44</sup> Approximately half of the general hospitalisations and two-thirds of the ICU patients are unvaccinated; most are over 60 years of age.<sup>45</sup>
- The number of PCR tests reported in Singapore began declining in mid-October 2021, while PCR test positivity has surged to a very high 16%.<sup>46</sup> This follows significant changes to testing guidelines from 11 October 2021 alongside an increase in the use of rapid antigen testing (RAT).<sup>47</sup> The changes to the testing guidelines include:
  - Symptomatic individuals will still receive a PCR test if directed by a physician.<sup>48</sup> Asymptomatic individuals who receive a positive result from a RAT no longer need to have a confirmatory PCR test and should re-test with a RAT after three days.<sup>49</sup> They can return to their normal routine if they receive a negative RAT.<sup>50</sup>
  - The required isolation period for those who have received a positive result and are vaccinated has also been shortened from 14 to 10 days.<sup>51</sup>
  - Close contacts are no longer required to get a PCR test and instead can continue their routine provided they receive a negative RAT result before leaving home.<sup>1</sup>
- As of 30 October 2021, 84% of Singapore's total population are fully vaccinated, 85% have received at least one dose, and 16% have received a booster dose.<sup>52</sup>
- From 1 January 2022, only employees who are fully vaccinated, or have recovered from COVID-19 within the past 270 days, can return to the workplace.<sup>53</sup> In addition, 96% of the Singaporean workforce has been fully vaccinated as of 25 October 2021.<sup>54</sup>
- Singapore recently extended its current COVID-19 restrictions to curb the growing surge in cases, with caps on social gathering sizes and dining in at restaurants.<sup>55</sup> The decision to extend restrictions until the end of November 2021 s6(a)
- Border restrictions continue to ease in Singapore.<sup>57</sup> The government announced the launch of a quarantine-free travel bubble with Australia for fully vaccinated travellers from November, initially for

<sup>1</sup>COVID-19 Quarantine Orders scrapped, simpler rules to be rolled out in Singapore from October 11 [Internet]: Straits Time; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://www.straitstimes.com/singapore/health/covid-19-quarantine-orders-scrapped-simpler-rules-to-be-rolled-out-in-singapore>.

international students and business travellers.<sup>58</sup> Tourists are anticipated to be allowed to enter Australia from December 2021 onwards.<sup>59</sup>

### COVID-19 cases in Singapore

Daily new cases per million population



Source: Our World in Data, values are weekly rolling means

Proactively Released

## 3. Ministry of Health



### 3.1 Policy/Programme Updates

#### 3.1.1 Health System Preparedness Programme: Update

This item updates you on the health system preparedness programme (the programme).

The programme received the four regional resilience plans this week, which were presented to the Steering Group. The resilience plans outline the self-reported requirements of the four regions. These requirements are now being analysed for key themes, which will be presented back to the Steering Group with an evidence-based view of success measures for 'preparedness'. The Steering Group was also presented with an update on all the public health measures that are currently in place.

The programme has completed the first phase of work – identifying all the preparedness activities occurring throughout the sector. The programme will present the preparedness activities at the next Steering Group meeting. This will be accompanied by a first draft of activities and national deliverables.

The new first iteration of the national model (operational guidance) for managing COVID-19 care in the community was released on 1 November 2021. This model will be updated over the coming weeks and months as the experience from frontline providers is incorporated.

#### **Next steps**

The programme will continue to consult the Steering Group weekly, and Assurance Group fortnightly, on the regional resilience plans and on defining preparedness success.

#### 3.1.2 DHB Community-Supported Isolation and Quarantine Operational Plans

This item provides an update on community-supported isolation and quarantine (community-SIQ) operational plans. The Ministry of Health has received summary community-SIQ operational plans from all district health boards (DHBs) apart from those in the Auckland region. The Auckland region already has robust plans in place, operating a parallel model that pre-dates community-SIQ.

The summary community-SIQ operational plans set out at a high level how both components of the community-SIQ service (wrap-around services and small-scale alternative accommodation options) are being developed, strengthened, and delivered. Key areas touched upon in the plan include identified accommodation options, welfare referral pathways, clinical care, and commissioning of, and engagement with, Māori health providers.

DHBs range in overall readiness to support cases/contacts with wrap-around care either in home or in alternative accommodation. However, all are ready to support a medium number of cases/contacts in their own home and most can provide at least a small number of alternative accommodation options.

#### **Next steps**

The community-SIQ operational plans are working documents that continue to be developed and refined by their community-SIQ service co-ordination managers.

We are actively working with these managers to develop the services provided under community-SIQ and work through identified gaps and issues. These include those relating to workforce, scalability, and transport solutions.

For those who have not done so already, the intention is that DHBs will proactively release comprehensive plans within the next six weeks.

### 3.1.3 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As of 11.59 pm on 2 November 2021, 6,926,192 vaccinations have been delivered, including 3,201,226 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori and six percent are Pasifika.

414,971 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents 11 percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 2 November 2021.

799 sites were active on 2 November 2021.

On 28 October 2021, the Programme reached the milestone of 50 percent of Māori being fully vaccinated.

#### **Driving uptake**

More than 91 percent of the eligible population of Auckland has now received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 88 percent of the eligible population has received their first dose nationwide. Five DHBs (Waitematā, Auckland, Capital and Coast, Canterbury and Southern) have hit or passed 90 percent first doses, and a number of others are very close.

To achieve 90 percent vaccinations rate across all populations, the Ministry of Health is working closely with those DHBs that have not yet achieved 85 percent of first doses. A key focus of this work is on driving uptake among priority populations. These DHBs are also receiving direct and targeted support to continue the onboarding of primary care.

The Ministry of Health will continue to provide DHBs with data and information to identify where resources are best placed to lift rates. The Ministry of Health has also built a shared resource for DHBs to view the strategies and tactics implemented around the country. All DHBs have confirmed they have sufficient capacity available to support the delivery of vaccinations for their remaining populations in their district by the end of 2021.

#### **Judicial Review**

On 1 November 2021, the High Court delivered its ruling on the Judicial Review brought by Whanau Ora Commissioning Agency (WOCA) of the Ministry of Health's decision not to provide WOCA with individual data of unvaccinated Māori. The High Court ruled in favour of WOCA and set aside the Ministry of Health's decision. The Ministry of Health was directed to urgently remake its decision within three days. The Ministry of Health is considering the Court's findings.

#### **Booster doses**

Medsafe is currently reviewing Pfizer's application for a booster dose and expects to make a decision in the coming weeks. The Programme's clinical and technical experts continue to look at the international evidence on boosters and how this relates to New Zealand.

#### **Equity**

A specific plan has been developed to achieve a 90 percent vaccination rate for Māori by 17 December 2021. This plan is built around a goal of administering 3,500 doses per day, alongside an additional 10,000 doses via weekend events across all 77 hauora vaccination sites.

All DHBs are focused on vaccinating hesitant and under-vaccinated populations and engagement with Māori health providers, iwi, and primary care providers is ongoing. DHBs have identified priority locations within their regions that require innovative approaches to increase vaccination rates. Increasingly the focus is on outreach initiatives such as small events, mobile and pop-up clinics to reach more hesitant and remote populations.

Pop-up vaccination clinics at community events are being paired with educational materials and phone consultations in areas with low uptake. These settings provide a more consultative approach for consumers. School-based education events and women's welfare league activities and events are also being used.

Onboarding of primary care and community pharmacies continues to be a priority to expand uptake within their enrolled populations and established vaccination hubs continue to provide points of access for urban populations.

On 28 October 2021 a new tool was launched that supports disabled people to get vaccinated against COVID-19. The Manaakitanga Journey graphic online tool packages up key information to help disabled people get vaccinated against COVID-19. It contains consolidated information specifically for disabled people and those who have underlying health conditions, such as supported decision-making, arranging transport and information in alternative formats.

### **Third primary dose for immunocompromised people**

The implementation of a third primary dose for immunocompromised people has commenced. All eligible consumers are able to access a free consultation with their primary care provider or specialist and receive a script that is accepted at all vaccination sites. Over 600 immunocompromised people have received their third dose.

### **Mandatory vaccination of healthcare, education, and corrections workers**

The requirement for the majority of health, education, and corrections workers to be vaccinated came into effect on 25 October 2021.

Health, disability, and education workers included in the Order must have received their first dose of vaccine by 15 November 2021, and their second dose by 1 January 2022. Corrections workers included in the Order must receive their first dose of the vaccine by 6 November 2021 and their second dose by 8 December 2021.

The Ministry of Health's website has been updated with guidance documentation and links to key information. Work continues on providing access to the COVID Immunisation Register (CIR) for large providers to access vaccination data for their employees. The Ministry of Health is meeting daily with the Ministry of Education to support implementation of the Order.

The Programme is working on a phased implementation approach to meet the challenges in establishing and maintaining an accurate central register for the health and disability workforce. The initial phase, from 15 November 2021, will involve a high-trust model relying on employers maintaining records and progressively providing them to the Ministry of Health for inclusion in the register.

The second phase (indicatively starting in early December 2021 but likely to correspond more closely to January 2022) will involve a fully operational register for the healthcare sector, with the vast majority of healthcare employees being included in the register. Monitoring, compliance and reporting functionality would be expected to commence with the second phase.

### **Workforce**

As at 2 November 2021, 14,715 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 10,174 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

More than 1,000 primary care sites are now onboarded as vaccination sites.

### **Book My Vaccine**

As of 2 November 2021, Book My Vaccine holds 206,445 future bookings at 746 sites. With increasing numbers of fully vaccinated people and the popularity of drive-through and walk-in vaccination clinics, a continuing reduction in booking numbers is expected.

### **Technology**

Work continues at pace for the digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates to be available in November 2021. On 28 October 2021 the first functionality was released to enable vaccination certificates to be issued out of the CIR or the call centre. We will be running two pilots for consumers to request a digital pass or certificate, which will run during the week of 8 November 2021.

Work is also ongoing in relation to the international vaccination certificates, with a pilot currently planned to start from the week of 15 November 2021.

### **Supply**

The expected Pfizer delivery of 95,000 doses arrived as expected.

Overall wastage is tracking well at approximately 0.29 percent, well below our own target of less than 2 percent. An effective immunisation programme recognises that some wastage is inevitable.

### **New Zealand support for vaccine rollout in the Pacific**

The Cook Islands have completed first doses on both Rarotonga and the southern region for those aged 12 to 15-years, with a vaccination uptake of 86 percent. Second doses began in Rarotonga from 31 October 2021.

Niue has completed its first dose rollout for those aged 12 to 15 years old. Final numbers are yet to be released but it is expected that more than 90 percent of those eligible have received their first dose.

We have indicated to Tokelau a vaccine delivery of mid-November 2021. We are commencing planning activities with the Tokelau Department of Health and Department of Transport to ensure we are able to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine to Tokelau and maintain cold chain. The vaccine will be transported frozen. Transitioning to the use of commercial options is important to ensure ongoing sustainability of vaccine delivery routes in the future.

Samoa and Tonga commenced rollout to their 12 to 17-year-old cohorts, utilising a school-based setting for vaccine administration. Tonga expects to complete its vaccine rollout by late November 2021. Samoa expects to complete its vaccine rollout by early December 2021.

Planning with Fiji continues for the New Zealand-supported rollout to their 12 to 14-year-olds. s6(a)

#### 3.1.4 Technical Advisory Group: Update

##### **COVID-19 TAG**

The next COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

##### **CVTAG**

The next COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) meeting is scheduled for 2 November 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

##### **CTTAG**

The COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (CTTAG) met on 28 October 2021 and discussed the following items:

- Testing strategy
- Pilot projects for RATs
- Evaluation framework

The next CTTAG meeting is scheduled for 11 November 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

##### **Therapeutics TAG**

The COVID-19 Therapeutics TAG met on 29 October 2021 and discussed the following items:

- therapeutics: supply and regulation – any issues/queries to raise with Pharmac or Medsafe

- therapeutics: update on work of the Pharmac Clinical Advisory group
- primary care – progress in aligning work
- guideline update
- budesonide position statement on community use.

The next Therapeutics TAG meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

### 3.1.5 Communications Issues and Activities

As at 2/11/21

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Communications material	Ministerial involvement
26 Oct 21 ongoing	Pilots for rapid antigen testing at Middlemore Hospital emergency department, Auckland DHB NICU and Waitematā Delivery Suite are underway	MoH	Talking points, operational communications, policy guidelines, web content	Optional
2 Nov 21 ongoing	Auckland outbreak: daily communications and support for the health sector and public, including cases in the Waikato, Northland, Christchurch. Locations of interest and updated health advice	MoH	Communications, key messages, website, stakeholder engagement	Optional
Week commencing 2 Nov 21	Roche report released	MoH /DPMC	Q&A	Optional
5 Nov 21	Technical specifications and provider of COVID-19 Vaccine Pass announced	MoH	PR, publish specifications to website	Optional
5 Nov 21	Ministry position on rapid antigen testing and programme Plan	MoH	Health report, followed by key messages, website, communications	Yes (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall)
5 Nov 21	Ministry position on saliva testing	MoH	Health report, followed by key messages, website, communications	Yes (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall)
5 Nov 21	New testing strategy	MoH	Communications and engagement strategy/plan	No

### 3.2 Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
Publication: Getting through Together	December 2021	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)
Publication: HISO 10067:2021 COVID-19 Contact Tracing QR Code and NFC Tag Specification	9 November 2021	This document updates the COVID-19 Contact Tracing QR Code Specification to include NFC tags. This standard: defines the data and format to be included in NZ COVID Tracer QR codes and NFC tags specifies the standard quality and behaviour of NZ COVID Tracer NFC tags. The addition of NFC to the NZ COVID Tracer app is going through a trial and an engagement and feedback process with the community, including disability communities and student representative groups at Victoria University of Wellington.	Shayne Hunter, Deputy Director-General, Data and Digital, s9(2)(a)



## 4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

### 4.1 Top Items to Note

#### 4.1.1 MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak

The number of community cases coming into Auckland's quarantine facilities has remained steady this week, due to the increase in community cases assessed as able to self-isolate at home. In Hamilton, community cases entering Amohia increased this week as cases continue to rise with a number of households also self-isolating at home in the region. The Amohia is also being used for a very small number of community close-contacts to isolate who are unable to do so at home.

We continue to work on practical solutions for additional quarantine capacity to support community cases, particularly in Auckland. Due to the ongoing need to support border returnees, and the number of Afghanistan refugees entering New Zealand being higher than originally anticipated, options within the current system are very limited. We will need to realise the benefits of the approved policy changes regarding the reduced isolation stay for border returnees to enable us to continue to support large numbers of ongoing community cases; it is expected that we should start to see these benefits by the end of November.

Christchurch reported their first community case for this outbreak and they were moved into a quarantine facility. Over the last week the number of community cases have increased minimally. Contingency planning is underway to ensure that there is an adequate number of quarantine rooms available should they be required.

Contingency planning continues nationwide in areas where MIQ has facilities to ensure we can fully support quarantine for community cases if required. All of the options considered will have an impact on isolation availability for border returnees and cannot be implemented without the return of MIQ contingency rooms, reduced border arrivals and the benefits of the reduced isolation stay for border returnees. Options are being worked through regarding the impact of the reduced stay policy on border returnees who will be in isolation and eligible for an early release.

#### 4.1.2 Shortened MIQ Stay Implementation

We continue to support and work with Ministry of Health on the implementation of the approved cabinet paper regarding the shortened stay at MIQ for border returnees and the limited reopening of the border, as directed by Ministers.

#### 4.1.3 Update on Police MIQ deployment

In previous COVID-19 Response Weekly Reports we have advised you of a New Zealand Police (Police) proposal for future MIQ deployment (moving to an 'adaptive' model) and funding to support this.

Police's current commitment to MIQ is 227 FTE (supported by additional funding), although this has recently increased to over 240 FTE, in response to recent increases in quarantine numbers due to the current community outbreak. We understand a scenario is being progressed which would see Police's MIQ funded deployment reduced to 147 FTE and personnel would be deployed to facilities based on a risk-assessment, rather than having a static 24/7 presence at each facility.

While there may in the future be options that can be explored for a reduced Police presence across MIQ nationally in line with medium-risk and high-risk traveller pathways in the Reconnecting NZ programme, at present we view a 24/7 Police presence at MIQs as critical to the continued success and safety of the MIQ operating model. We have articulated this view to Police, along with our expectation that any reduction in Police's MIQ deployment would be a decision for Ministers (where the relevant benefits and trade-offs could be fully considered), and that affected agencies would be adequately consulted.

This matter will be determined in the November Omnibus package. MBIE will provide advice to your Office at this time as to the implications for MIQ.

#### 4.1.4 Self-Isolation Pilot (for approved applicants arriving in NZ between 30 October – 8 December 2021)

104 applicants have provided documents for verification. 55 have been approved and we are waiting for further information from a number of others.

At the time of writing, 60 applicants have withdrawn their applications.

A further 52 participants have not yet contacted us at all to provide information after being notified that they were successful in the ballot.

We are replacing these with new EOIs from the ballot but will discontinue this on Wednesday 3 November in order to give certainty to our stakeholders (particularly the health workforce and airports).

Our first seven participants arrived safely across Auckland and Christchurch between Sunday and Tuesday. We will provide reporting on the number of arrivals and the final number of participants next week.

#### 4.1.5 MIQ's Role in Afghanistan Evacuation

A total of 531 evacuees from Afghanistan have arrived in New Zealand. The table below shows the MIQ status of the Afghanistan evacuation programme as at 10am Wednesday 3 November:

Place	Category	Number	Notes
Naumi MIF	Evacuees	33	18 Rooms
Sebel Manukau	Evacuees	46	26 Rooms
Jet Park QF	Evacuees	0	
<b>TOTAL Returnees in MI</b>		<b>79</b>	<b>Total Departed MI: 452 (excludes births after arrival)</b>

A further 57 Afghanistan evacuees (requiring 27 MIQ rooms) are forecast to arrive in New Zealand in the next 14 days. MFAT reporting suggests that a surge in arrivals is likely in late November – at least 160 eligible travellers are likely to arrive in New Zealand between 15 November and 5 December. This surge will exceed the 50 rooms per month that was signalled some time ago but is assessed as being manageable by National Planning. Current planning will see up to 120 rooms in the Naumi MIF allocated for Afghan evacuees and other refugees until the end of the year.

With the impending onset of winter in Afghanistan and the consequent cessation of most commercial flights and border crossings, it is expected that reduced numbers will flow from Afghanistan to New Zealand over the December/January period.

#### 4.1.6 Improving MIQ's Publicly Available Data – Evolving Away From the 'Daily Snapshot Report'

MIQ have been reviewing the 'Daily Snapshot' report we place online. We have been looking at how we might better and more transparently share with the public the MIQ story through our data. Done well, this project may also reduce the volume of Parliamentary Questions, and OIAs received; or make answering those we do receive simpler, by having more useful data publicly available. With the recently announced changes to MIQ settings, especially moving to shorter stays, reforming our data approach is extremely timely. MIQ anticipate moving away from a daily view, to a more comprehensive 'Weekly Data Snapshot' report. We look forward to sharing a prototype with your Office shortly.

MIQ is currently aiming for this new data reporting to 'go live' on/around 14 November to coincide with the commencement of shorter MIQ stays. However, the priority is on having robust data systems behind the Report to ensure the online data is both accurate and replicable. This is an area of challenge as a lot of MIQ reporting systems to date have developed in expeditious and adhoc ways out of necessity. We continue to work through these issues.

#### 4.1.7 Update on Rapid Assessment 2.0 – MIQ Governance

The review of MIQ Governance is currently underway and the assessment team (Murray Jack and Katherine Corich) have completed most of their interviews with various stakeholders across the wider COVID-19 system. This included the chairs of the MIQ Assurance Group, Border Executive Board and COVID-19 Chief Executives Board. The assessment team have indicated that they would be very keen to meet with you as part of this review. We have been working with your office to find a suitable time.

## 4.2 Operational Update

### 4.2.1 Incidents to Note

There were two absconder incidents over the weekend (30 October) both involving community cases; one was an individual at Novotel Ellerslie and the other involved a couple from Jet Park (male and female). The individual from Novotel Ellerslie was apprehended by NZ Police within 30 minutes of absconding and they were in NZ Police's sight the entire time. The absconder did not come into contact with any member of the public. We are yet to hear from NZ Police if they will be charged.

The second incident involved a couple from Jet Park who scaled the perimeter fence and were seen by a member of the public getting into a waiting car. NZ Police actively investigated this incident over the weekend and on 1 November (approx. 11:50) the male absconder was apprehended and returned to Jet Park to await court proceedings. The female was found at 15:04 on 1 November and we were advised she would not return to Jet Park as she met the required low risk indicators. Note, the female was told she could leave on 30 October prior to absconding with the male. The male absconder will be charged with Failing to Comply with Order (COVID-19) and will appear in Manakau District Court on Friday 5 November. We are yet to hear if the woman would be charged.

### 4.2.2 Capacity and Room Release Update – As at 3 November

As at 3 November, a total of 50,673 rooms since early March have been released for the period of June through to the end of February 2022.

From early March to present, 144,942 returnees have secured a date to return home during the period of March through to the end of February 2022.

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

The next Lobby room release is planned for 9 November.

### 4.2.3 MIAS Lobby Release

This week's lobby format room release went smoothly. It included a significant change to how groups enter the lobby, and levelled the playing field further. Now each group enters the lobby once rather than each person entering once. There were no technical issues with the change in process and the changes were generally welcomed by users.

17,665 people entered the lobby, representing 26,580 passengers seeking rooms. 4,278 were granted access to MIAS, and 3,601 users booked 3,747 rooms for 5,483 passengers.

The 28th of February and the 1st of December were the most popular dates. The first two weeks of December sold out first, followed by the last two days of February.

February was the slowest month to be booked, however it also had the most amount of rooms available on each date.

We also launched the updates for the change to the vaccination requirements for non-New Zealanders. Now all non-New Zealanders must declare their vaccination status in order to book a room.

### 4.2.4 Ventilation

Remediation work has been completed for 27 of our 33 facilities. The final re-test results for 5 of the 27 completed facilities are being analysed by our HVAC engineer to determine if MIQ preferred conditions have been met.

- Six remaining facilities are awaiting ventilation remediation.
- Eight of the 11 facilities (5 awaiting re-test + 6 awaiting remediation) are expected to be fully complete and signed off this year. The balance (3) are expected to be finished by the end of January 2022.

Access to rooms to undertake ventilation remediation work has been impacted by the current high demand. Remediation work will continue around room availability.

Ventilation remediation work continues for Elms Christchurch with completion scheduled prior to returnee arrivals.

#### 4.2.5 Air Filtration Units

In the last week the installation of air filtration units in common spaces at the Ramada Auckland was completed with the installation of the last remaining unit in the lift.

Of the 1,500 units that have been ordered and are coming via air freight, the first batch of 300 units is due to arrive on 2 November - these units will be shared between MoH and MIQ. MBIE intends to secure 46 units from the batch of 300, with 20 to be used for quarantine rooms at the Holiday Inn and 26 units to be used for common spaces at the new Elms facility.

#### 4.2.6 Vaccination of Frontline Staff

For workers on site for the week 25-31 October 2021, BWTR shows that 98.2% had two doses of the vaccine, 0.4% had one dose and the remaining 1.4% (70 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 70 workers with an 'unknown' vaccination status, 16 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing Team is investigating the remaining 54 workers, to confirm vaccination status.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR did not identify any breaches of the Vaccination Order. However, on the ground checks found one worker, a bus driver uplifting guests from the Distinction Christchurch, came on site to use the bathroom and bypassed security without signing in to Who's on Location or showing vaccination evidence and ID. He was later assessed as having one dose of the vaccine. Security staff have been reminded that everyone must be stopped at entry for sign-in and checks to be carried out. The driver has been spoken to by employer about processes at MIQFs.

Of the 17 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 18-24 October 2021 weekly report:

- 14 have been confirmed as being compliant with the vaccine order (all fully vaccinated);
- 1 is fully vaccinated with Pfizer but was vaccinated overseas, waiting for BWTR to be updated; and
- 2 have a Ministerial exemption (vaccinated overseas).

#### 4.2.7 Staff Testing

Reporting from BWTR shows that 4,880 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 decreased by 1% to 97%.

Workers on site 25-31 Oct 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	5,017	97%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	142	3%
Need NHI-match	16	
Workers on site	5,175	

Of the 142 overdue, 87 of those are less than 4 days overdue, 49 are 4-10 days overdue and 6 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 16 that still need an NHI-match, 15 were created in BWTR in the last 7 days.

4 workers were previously reported as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 18-24 October 2021. They are all now showing compliant in the BWTR.

The Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order has recently been updated and from Tuesday 9 November most workers will be required to undertake more tests on a regular basis such as:

- Workers at Quarantine Facilities will need to be tested daily when on site.
- Workers at Isolation Facilities will need to have two tests within seven days – each test being two days apart.

At present, the majority of workers at MIQFs are still on the nasal swabbing regime (a test once every 7 or 14 days). For the week of 25-31 October 4472 workers were using the nasal swab testing modality, out of the total 5,175 on site during that period, only 703 had opted-in to saliva testing. That means that most workers, majority of whom are working at Isolation Facilities and only required to have one nasal test every 14 days, will now need to have four tests in a 14-day period rather than 1.

The more tests that are required, means more opportunity for tests to be missed and a worker to become non-compliant. We will continue to follow up with workers to make sure they understand the new requirements but there is a high chance that compliance will drop initially in the coming weeks as workers learn and adjust to the new testing requirements.

#### 4.2.8 Saliva Testing

As at 31 October, 935 MIQ workers are opted-in to saliva testing across all active MIQF sites.

Engagement is underway with our PCBUs and workers regarding the updated Required Testing Order to support them in shifting to daily testing at quarantine facilities and twice weekly testing at isolation facilities from 11.59pm 8 November.

### 4.3 Current Judicial Review, Ombudsman and OPCAT cases

A number of judicial review cases have been filed against MIQ recently. We anticipate there will be further applications for emergency allocations by pregnant women based on new evidence about the impact of stress on unborn children and/or further judicial reviews. MIQ is working to update its emergency allocation operational guidance to further support decision makers when considering applications from pregnant women. We are also seeing an increase in applicants engaging lawyers to advocate about their decisions. We expect more as a result of the *Bolton* decision, although requests based on the *Bolton* criteria will mostly need to be decided by our colleagues at Health.

Judicial review cases being managed by MIQ currently include:

Case	Update
Grounded Kiwis	This is a complex case challenging the legitimacy of the MIQ system and has been set down for hearing on 25/26 January 2022. MIQ's statement of defence was filed 26 October.
Espedido/Ghosh	Mr Ghosh (in Canada, left NZ knowing wife was pregnant with existing child and no family support) was initially declined an emergency allocation to return to New Zealand. As new evidence was presented with the judicial review, we invited him to submit a further application for an emergency allocation. He did so and this was granted. As a result the proceeding was discontinued. MBIE agreed to reimburse the amount of the filing fee.
Bolton	Mr Bolton applied for special circumstances and health exemptions to allow him to fly into NZ on a private jet and self-isolate at home. These were declined and he sought a judicial review. He argued that he should be allowed to self-isolate because of the risks of in MIF transmission s9(2)(a) [redacted] Mr Bolton had also applied unsuccessfully to obtain a place on the self-isolation pilot. The Court decided that MBIE had interpreted clause 12 (3) of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Isolation and Quarantine) Order 2020 (relating to the assessment of whether a person has physical or other needs that cannot be met in a MIQF) too narrowly. As a result it has directed that the matter be reconsidered. A reconsideration of the application is underway but as the reconsideration is related to health matters outside of our expertise we have needed to pass this to the Ministry of Health to consider.

#### Ombudsman

We received one new notification regarding a border averter managed isolation exemption application decline. We are currently preparing responses regarding a fee waiver, two emergency allocations and an isolation exemption.

## OPCAT

This week we received one provisional OPCAT report, one final report and two follow up requests for information. We have responded to the Naumi final report and provided the updated cohorting plan to assist with OPCAT planning.

### 4.4 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 2 November 2021 (to December 2021):

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
RSE Workers	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 Sector Accord	Oct 2021	60	57 (75 pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month.
	Nov 2021	60	14 (21 pax)	Cohort 1 for travel 1-15 November. Arrivals for second half November confirmed early November.
	Dec 2021	60	tbc	
Refugee Intakes	6 Nov	1 pax	1 (1 pax)	Planning underway with Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre for future arrivals. Working through the implications of short stay MIQ on this complex group.
	8-14 Nov	14 pax	10 (14 pax) tbc	
	19 Nov	20 pax	12 (20 pax) tbc	
	Nov (date tbc)	25 pax	20 tbc	
	Early Jan 2022	60	44 (60 pax) tbc	
	Feb-Jun 2022	145 per intake	105 (145 pax) per intake tbc	
Afghanistan Evacuees	3 Nov		1 (1 pax)	Planning continues with MFAT to confirm batching of arrivals to align with MIQ room availability. Working through the implications of short stay MIQ on this complex group.
	4 Nov		5 (15 pax)	
	9 Nov		23 (43 pax)	
	15-21 Nov		17 (37 pax) tbc	
	22-28 Nov		37 (63 pax) tbc	
	29 Nov – 5 Dec		25+ (50+) tbc	
Mariners	26 Oct 2021	100	97 (97 pax)	In the current cohort of 97 pax, four mariners have tested positive with 69 close contacts. Overall, positive cases are still less than 2% of arrivals. Working through the implications of short stay MIQ for this complex group.
	9 Nov 2021	67	67 tbc	
	21 Nov 2021	1	1	
	Late Nov 2021	Up to 15 (pers deferred from earlier flights)	Up to 15	
NZTE	Nov	25	7 (7 pax)	Vouchers have been issued for the first half of November. Arrivals for second half November confirmed early November.
	Dec	25	tbc	
EXPO	25 Oct	72	20 (21 pax)	25 October, 1 pax (1 room) delayed due to positive COVID-19 test.
	22 Nov	80	tbc	
	27 Jan	16	tbc	
	29 Jan	44	tbc	
	3 Feb	45	tbc	
	5 Feb	75	tbc	
	26 Feb	44	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	24 Nov	20	20	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Cricket: BlackCaps	9 Dec 2021	33	tbc	This cohort of BlackCaps are seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC and MoH has begun to plan for their arrival and training. Some of this allocation will be used for inbound media critical to the delivery of the Summer Series of Cricket, and a player's wife and child (who will share the player's room). These individuals will not have any exemptions or special arrangements. Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train. Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train.

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
NZDF	20 Oct	16	15 (16 pax)	
	21 Oct	50	17 (17 pax)	
	3 Dec	76	76 tbc	
	20 Jan	60	tbc	
	25 Feb	80	tbc	
Cricket: Bangladesh	10 Dec	35	tbc	<p>Bangladesh will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC and MoH has begun to plan for their arrival and training. Given changes in the current MIQ environment, the MIF is still being finalised.</p> <p>Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train. Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train..</p>
Antarctic Programme	25 Oct	20	20	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German, and Korean programme.
	3 Nov	22	22	
	12 Nov	7	tbc	
	15 Nov	138	tbc	
	19 Nov	42	tbc	
	20 Nov	19	tbc	
	20 Dec	65	tbc	
	10 Jan	170	tbc	
	19 Jan	36	tbc	
	Feb (date tbc)	25	tbc	
7 Feb	25	tbc		
Cricket: South Africa	Feb	35	tbc	Engagement with NZC has begun. Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train.
Ministerial Travel	Oct	20	2 (2 pax)	In November, Ministerial travel will be split between this group allocation, Time Sensitive Travel (approx. 10 pax) and self-isolation (approx. 4 pax).
	Nov	20	20 tbc	
	Dec	20	tbc	
	Jan	20	tbc	
	Feb	20	tbc	
Critical health workers	22-30 Nov	80	tbc	
	Dec	300	tbc	
	Jan	300	tbc	
	Feb	300	tbc	
<b>Women's Cricket World Cup</b>				
Officials	Jan/Feb	26	tbc	<p>All teams will be seeking a training exemption. Planning has commenced and arrival dates are to be confirmed. The qualifying tournament on 5 December 2021 will determine the origin of 3 of the teams.</p> <p>Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train.</p>
India	25 Jan	31	tbc	
South Africa	Feb	31	tbc	
Qualifier team 1	Feb	31	tbc	
Qualifier team 2	Feb	31	tbc	
Qualifier team 3	Feb	31	tbc	

#### Time Sensitive Travel (TST)

The Time Sensitive Travel window for arrivals in Jan/Feb 2022 closes on 14 November 2021. To date, 44 applications have been received for the same number of rooms. Note that the majority of applicants to date are critical health workers and have been referred to the Ministry of Health to apply under the group allocation.

## 4.5 Communications Issues and Activities

### 4.5.1 As at 2 November 2021:

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
Tuesday 2 November	Voucher lobby 12-1pm	MIQ	Proactive	N
2 & 3 November	Ramada to reopen as MIF for deportees	MIQ/Police	Reactive comms	N
17 November 11AM	Health Select Committee	MoH/MIQ		Y
Late November tbc	Release of the Rapid Review of Border Testing by the Border Executive Board	Customs	Reactive	N
26 November	New MIF in Christchurch opens - Elms	MIQ	Proactive communications	TBC

## 4.6 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to the 31<sup>st</sup> of October.

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 20<sup>th</sup> 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	5,513	2,622	1711	1,180	\$54,624,218	\$35,691,910	\$12,164,662	\$6,767,646	2	\$60,598
Maritime	513	340	118	55	\$2,646,267	\$1,740,603	\$637,824	\$267,840	19	\$60,550
Aircrew	230	210	11	9	\$2,184,285	\$1,672,528	\$403,234	\$108,522	9	\$108,522
Other	26,728	15464	4420	6844	\$91,188,948	\$55,693,520	\$13,420,977	\$22,074,451	2522	\$8,053,624
<b>Total</b>	<b>32,984</b>	<b>18,636</b>	<b>6,260</b>	<b>8,088</b>	<b>\$150,643,718</b>	<b>\$94,798,562</b>	<b>\$26,626,696</b>	<b>\$29,218,460</b>	<b>2,552</b>	<b>\$8,283,295</b>

\*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.

### 4.6.1 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	3,666,551
2-4 weeks	4,889,219
5-8 weeks	3,482,316
9+ weeks	1,931,612

### 4.6.2 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 31 October 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	In Progress	Total Completed	Completed Financial Hardship Applications	Completed Special Circumstances Applications	Approved Waiver Applications		Declined Waiver Applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
10946	4437	6509	834	5675	88	4864	746	811

#### 4.7 Emergency Allocation Applications

7016 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020. 279 applications were received in the week ending 31 October 2021 and 196 applications were processed. Of the 196 applications processed in the week ending 31 October 2021, 73% were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 18 October to 31 October	Year to Date Totals 30 October 2020 – 31 October 2021
Approved	144	3942
Declined	52	3074
Applications processed	196	7016

\*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 18 October to 31 October	148
Rooms allocated in MIAS	136
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	12

#### 4.8 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 26 October to 1 November.

Week 26 October – 1 November	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	172	64	170
Improvements	0	0	0
Compliments	5	0	5
Queries	8	2	6
Ombudsman/OPCAT	8	12	3
Parliamentary/OIA	0	0	1
Other	1	0	1
<b>Total</b>	<b>194</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>186</b>

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 145. For the last 4 weeks the case average is 244 per week.

This week we received 194 new cases and have resolved 186. This is a decrease from the 241 cases received last week.

MIAS cases represented 29% of all cases received, similar to 31% last week.



## 5. Border Executive Board Report

### 5.1 Items to Note/Updates

#### 5.1.1 Border Executive Board

The Border Executive Board met on 3 November 2021.

The Board considered the Traveller Health Declaration System name and logo. It supported the option that it considered most recognisable internationally and to travellers. This was 'New Zealand Traveller Declaration: Whakapuakanga Tangata Haere ki Aotearoa'.

Border worker vaccination: Compliance rates are high for the privately employed workers under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Amendment Order 2021 required to have their second COVID-19 vaccination by 4 November 2021. As at 1 November 2021, 98.1% of private workers covered by the Order had received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccination. The border worker approach has experience to share with other sectors who are moving to mandated vaccination.

The Board agreed to a coordinated and phased approach to vaccinations across the BEB agencies. As a first step, agencies will conduct a risk assessment and determine the status of vaccination within our workforce. The intention is to communicate with staff across the BEB agencies at the same time, with consistent messages. This work is being done in conjunction with the Public Service Commission.

The Board considered the Q1 2021/22 report from MIQ. Of interest was the new risk relating to the system complexity and future MIQ model, recognising the shift in MIQ from border control to being part of the wider community health response. The pressure on Police resources to support MIQ and internal borders was also acknowledged. The Board agreed that these risks be shared with the COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board, via the Chair.

The Board discussed top of mind risks to inform the COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board including the dynamic nature of border settings and the pressure on agencies, workforce wellbeing, social license and cohesion, and the supply chain.

The next meeting is 10 November 2021.

#### 5.1.2 Reconnecting New Zealanders

The Future Borders work enabled agencies to leverage Auckland International Airport Limited (AIAL) traveller projections to support policy and modelling work for the next stages of Reconnecting New Zealanders.

AIAL provided their projections, along with underpinning assumptions and the analytical base on which they were formed, in a format that could be verified or adjusted by government agency modellers. These traveller numbers are now being used to model the risk of importing cases into the community, and to feed into agency scenario planning. The traveller projections will be further refined once reconnecting decisions have been taken.

Agencies have workshopped the end-to-end traveller journey to identify dependencies and challenges (including gaps) between reconnecting work streams and projects. Further workshops are planned to follow up on these.

## 6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



### 6.1 Items to Note/Updates

#### 6.1.1 Maritime

At 9.40am on 2 November 2021 the shipping agent for the Panama flagged bulk carrier *Poavosa Wisdom VII*, anchored off Gisborne, advised Customs that a crew member had absconded from the vessel at some stage during the previous night.

The crew member, a Myanmar national, had not turned up for duty in the morning and the crew on board subsequently found a rope over the side of the vessel, and a life jacket and survival suit were also missing.

Searches by the Rescue Coordination Centre and Maritime NZ were initiated with Maritime NZ also referring the case to the NZ Police as a missing person. At the same time, Immigration NZ and the relevant Public Health Unit were advised.

The missing crew member was found floating in the survival suit at around 4.40pm the same day off the coast of Young Nicks Head near Poverty Bay by the crew of the *Eastland Port* (Gisborne) pilot vessel. He was taken ashore, put in police custody and then transported to Gisborne Hospital where he was assessed in the emergency department for a couple of hours before spending the night in custody at Gisborne police station.

#### Small Craft Arrivals

As at 3 November 2021, there are six small craft in port at Ōpua. Crew from two of the small craft are isolating on board while the crews from the four remaining small craft have been transferred to an Auckland Managed Isolation Facility.

10 small craft containing 28 crew are inbound to Ōpua. Estimated times of arrival are between 6 November 2021 and 27 November 2021.

#### 6.1.2 Vaccination Requirements for Non-New Zealand Citizens Arriving by Air

The amendment to the Air Border Order requiring non-citizen arrivals to New Zealand to be vaccinated came into effect on 1 November 2021. Customs has been checking for proof of vaccination when passengers arrive. Weekly compliance data will be provided in next week's report.

The Ministry of Transport has prepared guidance for airlines on the requirements to confirm vaccination status at check-in and it has also responded to any queries from airlines as they have come in.

#### 6.1.3 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 25 October 2021 to 31 October 2021, there were no infringements or warnings issued.

#### Red flights

	Date	25 Oct	26 Oct	27 Oct	28 Oct	29 Oct	30 Oct	31 Oct	Week Total	%
	Passengers subject to PDT	353	312	333	320	210	343	556	2,427	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	340	296	321	299	203	318	512	2,289	94.3%
	Exemption verified	10	15	10	13	6	20	39	113	4.7%
	Referred to Secondary Area	3	1	2	8	1	5	5	25	1.0%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	3	1	2	8	4	5	5	25	100%
	Warned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Infringement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

## 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 9 November, 2021. However, the CCB actively shared key strategic insights from Chief Executives and emerging risks raised by agencies throughout the week, which will inform forthcoming discussions.

## 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 met on 2 November. The Group continued discussions on their observations from the Delta outbreak. The Group's recent advice to you titled 'Observations on the recent Delta outbreak and their impact on Reconnecting New Zealanders' is going to the Social Wellbeing Committee on November 10 and Cabinet the following week.

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

### 9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group held its most recent meeting on 3 November, 2021. Discussions centred on the theme of contact tracing, with the Group discussing approaches of other countries to contact tracing. Dr Andrew Chen presented to the Group and provided an update on the domestic landscape for contact tracing. The Group then briefly considered its latest commissioning and role over the coming months.

## 10. Business Leaders Forum

### 10.1 Items to Note/Updates

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

## 11. Community Panel

### 11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Community Panel met on 3 November, 2021. The discussion centred on uptake of the vaccination programme in their communities, with members sharing their insights on the gaps, and resilience and well-being initiatives that are happening within communities. They also raised questions in relation to COVID-19 vaccination certificates and borders reopening. The Programme Director for Reconnecting New Zealanders presented to the Panel and gave a broad overview of their work programme and ongoing engagement with the Panel will be facilitated. One of the Panel members, Habib Ullah Marwat, has resigned and Hafsa Ahmed has replaced him as a member. The next Panel meeting will take place on 1 December, 2021.

## 12. Government Modelling Group

### 12.1 Items to Note/Updates

Officials are continuing to work with Te Punaha Matatini researchers on scenario projections for COVID-19 transmission, and collating a variety of sources for the effective reproduction number over time. These scenarios will be presented for Ministers in the weekly review meeting for the COVID-19 response.

We are also supporting Reconnecting New Zealanders strategy development with application of jurisdictional risk estimation and models for the risk reduction achieved through different entry regimes. Further briefing on this topic will be provided for Ministers next week alongside the Reconnecting New Zealanders Cabinet Paper. Te Punaha Matatini plan to publish the paper regarding risk reductions from different entry regimes from next week.

We are also continuing to iterate work on future strategy modelling, including application of the CPF, scenarios for 2022 and the transitional path to getting there. On this final point, we will be seeking modelling over the course of the next week which can inform decision-making regarding permitted travel in and out of Auckland.

13. Upcoming Cabinet Papers  
s9(2)(f)(iv)



Proactively Released

## 14. Appendix

	Audit summary	IPC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), operations frameworks and guidance documents
<b>Managed isolation and quarantine facilities (MIQFs)</b>	<p>Three managed isolation facilities (MIFs) and three managed quarantine facilities had IPC Audits completed this week. A total of 39 low risk findings were identified. Findings around transition zones for returnee and staff areas continue to be noted in relation to required PPE.</p> <p>Two Auckland MIFs remain to be audited; Ramada once 501 flights commence and Novotel Airport, which was scheduled to close for maintenance but remains open.</p> <p>Although not an IPC risk as such, each quarantine facility communicated the ongoing challenges with management of aggressive and abusive behaviours by community cases and the impact this is having on staff.</p> <p>All facilities have reported an increase in staff turnover across all disciplines. This is placing an increased demand on IPC induction and training resources at a time of increased workload.</p> <p>The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment project on extended P2/N95 mask usage and roll out of fit testing for non-health staff remains a work in progress. During the audit, facilities have expressed concern around the IPC risk for staff required to wear N95 masks in returnee zones who have not been fit tested.</p>	
<b>Airports</b>	<p>With the announcement of recommencement of quarantine-free travel (QFT) zones, an IPC review of QFT airports – green zones will be scheduled for November 2021.</p>	<p>As part of the scheduled review cycle of the IPC guidance for the air border, request for feedback on current version 1.3. was sent to aviation stakeholders. Feedback was due on 27 October 2021.</p> <p>Feedback received is currently being compiled and will be submitted to the Ministry of Health's IPC team for consideration.</p> <p>Current version 1.3 was published on the Ministry of Health's website on 16 September 2021 (<a href="#">COVID-19: Aviation sector   Ministry of Health NZ</a>).</p>
<b>Maritime/Ports</b>	<p>No new updates.</p>	<p>Maritime NZ has advised the Ministry of Health's Border Operations team that they will be making changes to the guidance document for pilots, as the regulators in the industry, to address safety concerns while using PPE. There will be no changes to Ministry of Health IPC's PPE guidance. They will keep the Ministry of Health's Border Operations team informed of when changes are in effect.</p> <p>The current PPE guidance for pilots and workers undertaking a necessary task on an affected ship is published on the Maritime NZ's website.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health's Border Operations team is also engaging with the New Zealand Customs Service and Maritime NZ in establishing ownership of action points in response to the findings in the latest IPC assurance visits at the ports. This work is ongoing at this stage.</p>

- <sup>1</sup> FORMAL MESSAGE. RE: REPORTING REQUEST: How other countries frame their COVID-19 case reporting, and why – 21 October 4.18 PM – RESTRICTED
- <sup>2</sup> Gov.UK. Slides, datasets and transcripts to accompany coronavirus press conferences. <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/slides-and-datasets-to-accompany-coronavirus-press-conferences> - Accessed 5 November 2021
- <sup>3</sup> ABC News. As Australia enters the 'living with COVID' phase, experts say the population needs to focus on hospitalisations, not case numbers. <https://www.abc.net.au/news/2021-10-17/living-with-covid-infection-in-australia/100540772> - Accessed 2 November 2021
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- <sup>5</sup> Channel News Asia. Singapore. <https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore> - Accessed 4 November 2021
- <sup>6</sup> CNBC. Florida, Alabama discontinue daily Covid data reporting in shift to 'next phase' of pandemic. <https://www.cnbc.com/2021/06/08/florida-alabama-no-longer-reporting-daily-covid-case-and-death-data.html> - Accessed 2 November 2021
- <sup>7</sup> Florida Division of Emergency Management. Florida Department of Health Provides Week 24 Updates on Florida's Vaccination Efforts Under Governor DeSantis' Leadership, <https://www.floridadisaster.org/news-media/news/20210528-florida-department-of-health-provides-week-24-updates-on-floridas-vaccination-efforts-under-governor-desantis-leadership/> - Accessed 2 November 2021
- <sup>8</sup> FORMAL MESSAGE. RE: REPORTING REQUEST: How other countries frame their COVID-19 case reporting, and why – 21 October 4.18 PM – RESTRICTED
- <sup>9</sup> Ourworldindata. Coronavirus (COVID-19) Vaccinations. <https://ourworldindata.org/covid-vaccinations> - Accessed 3 November 2021
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- <sup>11</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>12</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>13</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>14</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>15</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>16</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>17</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>18</sup> Airfinity. COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Intel Report; 29 October 2021.
- <sup>19</sup> Airfinity. COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Intel Report; 29 October 2021.
- <sup>20</sup> Airfinity. COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Intel Report; 29 October 2021.
- <sup>21</sup> Airfinity. COVID-19 Vaccine Weekly Intel Report; 29 October 2021.
- <sup>22</sup> Please note, some content below was received in confidence through formal messages, this content should not be shared further.
- <sup>23</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>24</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>25</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
- <sup>26</sup> Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>.
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- <sup>28</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>29</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>30</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>31</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>32</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>33</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>34</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>35</sup> COVID: Are cases about to plummet without Plan B [Internet]: BBC; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-59039739>.
- <sup>36</sup> COVID: Are cases about to plummet without Plan B [Internet]: BBC; 2021 [cited 3 Nov 2021]. Available from: <https://www.bbc.com/news/health-59039739>.
- <sup>37</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
- <sup>38</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. London Formal Message, 3 November.
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<sup>56</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Singapore Formal Message, 26 October.

<sup>57</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Singapore Formal Message, 26 October.

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