



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,  
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**  
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



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



**MINISTRY OF  
HEALTH**

MANATŪ HAUORA



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



**BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD**



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



# COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

10 June 2022

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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
Reconnecting New Zealanders	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health is currently updating the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Air Border) Order 2021 (ABO). The changes will reflect recent decisions to remove vaccine and traveller declaration requirements for transit passengers, and to allow unvaccinated residence class visa holders to enter New Zealand. The changes will also address decisions made in relation to removing pre-departure testing. Cabinet is expected to consider amendments to the ABO on 13 June 2022, including the timeframe for removing pre-departure testing.</li> <li>The gradual re-opening of the international border provides for the entry of cruise ships from 31 July 2022. Based on recent decisions made by Ministers, post arrival testing and vaccination requirements are being clarified for maritime crew and travellers. The next round of amendments to the Maritime Border Order is currently being discussed. The amended Order is expected to be provided to the Minister in early July 2022 so changes can be gazetted ahead of 31 July 2022.</li> <li>The Border Executive Board (BEB) assumed accountability for the Reconnecting New Zealand (RNZ) portfolio from 7 June 2022 (the COVID-19 Chief Executives Board agreed to this transfer on 31 May 2022). RNZ portfolio coordination functions have also transferred to the BEB.</li> </ul>
	●	●	<p><i>Air border implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Airport processing is in BAU mode, managing the new requirements as part of normal business.</li> <li>Aviation sector partners continue to raise pre-departure testing (PDT) as a friction point for travellers, with the view that it is pushing travellers to choose Australia over New Zealand.</li> <li>Agencies are preparing for Step 4 of the Reconnecting plan where people can start applying for work visas from 4 July 2022. Step 5 will open visa applications to visitors from 31 July 2022 and will have greater impact on visa processing and border flows.</li> </ul>
	●	●	<p><i>Maritime border programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Advice on the legal mechanism for implementing vaccination requirements at the maritime border and the compliance approach was signed by Minister Verrall on 2 June 2022.</li> <li>Amendments to the Maritime Border Order are underway and will ensure regulation is in place for reopening. Draft amendments will be provided in time for signing and gazetting by 5 July 2022.</li> <li>Operational readiness for the maritime passenger reopening on 31 July 2022 is underway and we will report to Ministers at the end of June 2022. As part of operational readiness work, regional tourism organisations are organising sessions with local communities and iwi to prepare for the return of cruise ships. A communications plan covering traveller and industry information is being developed, with implementation starting within the next fortnight.</li> <li>s9(2)(f)(iv)</li> </ul>
Pacific Travel	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Tonga has announced MIQ for incoming travellers will reduce to three days from 30 June 2022, until a full re-opening of the border for quarantine-free travel in August or September. Air New Zealand is planning to schedule weekly repatriation flights into Tonga from the beginning of July s6(a)</li> <li>Vanuatu will drop all quarantine requirements for those currently eligible to enter from 14 June 2022 (largely limited to Vanuatu citizens and residents). This is ahead of the scheduled full border reopening on 1 July 2022.</li> </ul>

### Isolation and Quarantine

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Self - Isolation	Managed Isolation			<p><i>Decommissioning of Facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To date a total of 26 facilities have been decommissioned and handed back. The 'make good' work on these facilities continues.</li> <li>The Commodore Hotel Christchurch has now been de-designated and will also be decommissioned by the end of June.</li> <li>Decommissioning for the final three currently in-use facilities is on track with the proposed date of 31 July for de-designation and 31 August for decommissioning.</li> <li>Of the remaining six, two community facilities are set to be decommissioned on 30 June.</li> <li>Planning is also underway for the decommissioning of our three regional offices. We will provide your office with further information once the project plan is confirmed.</li> </ul> <p><i>MIQ Readiness Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Version 1 of the Readiness Plan was sent to your office on 30 May 2022 and we are on track to deliver version 2 of the plan by 29 July 2022.</li> </ul>
	MOH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The COVID-19 Assessment Committee will meet on 15 June 2022 to review the isolation periods for cases and household contacts.</li> </ul>

### Community Protection

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Surveillance and Testing	MOH	●	●	<p><i>Border Surveillance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Digital enhancements from 13 June 2022 will link overseas travellers' positive rapid antigen tests (RAT) results with PCR tests. These are expected to enhance the tracking of positive RATs to PCRs and Whole Genome Sequencing sample identification.</li> </ul> <p><i>PCR Procurement</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health has modelled baseline and surge capacity requirements in line with the Testing Plan and will formally commission PCR testing capacity from 1 July 2022. This will replace the current price-per-test arrangement in place with laboratories.</li> <li>Work is progressing well to have contracts in place in July 2022, with the Request for Quotes expected to be published on 10 June 2022. The Ministry of Health is ensuring that Health New Zealand approves the Request for Quotes approach.</li> </ul> <p><i>Variant of concern detected by whole genome sequencing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If a variant of concern is detected, Environmental Science and Research will immediately notify the Ministry of Health's Incident Management Team, who will then notify and meet with all the appropriate managers to discuss - including Public Health, Contact Tracing, Testing &amp; Supply, and relevant Public Health Units to discuss an appropriate response.</li> </ul>
	MOH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No Update</li> </ul>
Technology Updates	MOH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update.</li> </ul>
Care in the Community	MOH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>On 3 June 2022, a dedicated group of Ministry of Health pharmacy and sector leads met with the Care in the Community team to workshop opportunities for lowering barriers to access of COVID-19 therapeutics and increase prescribing. There were two key actions arising from this meeting. The first action is a review of the Health Hub website to be completed by this group, to improve the quality of information available and accessible to the public on COVID-19 therapeutics. The second is to investigate opportunities to expand access to the COVID-19 Clinical Care Module (CCCM) to community pharmacies, which will be led by the Ministry of Health's pharmacy manager</li> </ul>

### Vaccination

Agency	Last Week	This Week	
Implementation and operation			<p><i>Outreach and achieving equity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health is working with Māori and Pacific communities across the motu to plan local winter campaigns that drive influenza and COVID-19 booster vaccinations.</li> <li>Regional strategies continue to be progressed, focusing on population groups with lower uptake rates and those at greater risk of serious infection.</li> <li>Regional strategies to increase uptake are tailored for the needs of the community. For example, Taranaki DHB has secured an agreement with Taranaki Rugby League Association to run clinics at upcoming youth tournaments, and Hawke's Bay DHB is offering Flu and COVID-19 vaccinations via seven mobile vans operating in major centres and Central Hawke's Bay.</li> </ul> <p><i>5-to-11-year-olds</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health has developed an engagement plan to deliver the Mā Te Kōrero Ka Eke (Kaupapa Māori Education Strategy) in Waikato this week. Key iwi stakeholders such as hapū, Puna Ako and Māori Health Providers will partner with the Ministry of Health to engage and deliver this strategy.</li> <li>Northland DHB's June 2022 sprint series is aiming to deliver more than 1,500 booster doses to local Māori and increase its Tamariki first dose rate to 35 percent from 26.6 percent.</li> </ul> <p><i>Fourth Dose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Focus continues on implementing the fourth dose for those most at risk of serious illness from COVID-19.</li> <li>The legislation was considered by the House on 7 June 2022 and is now progressing to the Select Committee stage.</li> </ul>

### System Readiness & Planning

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Health Supply Chain			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Overall supply and distribution of RATs is very steady, with good volumes of RATs in stock and being distributed. Existing stock volumes are ready for surges in demand.</li> <li>In the week ending 2 June 2022, the Ministry of Health had 45.1 million RATs in stock on hand (35-weeks supply) and 48.1 million RATs on order to 30 September 2022.</li> <li>Approximately 1.5 million RATs have been dispatched from the warehouse in the last seven days.</li> <li>There were 29,000 orders placed in the RAT Requestor system (representing 105,000 people). There were 49 delivery orders for those unable to collect RATs (covering 117 people), including Targeted Rural Service, immunocompromised, aged population group, and disability sector.</li> <li>Healthpoint shows 923 sites offering RATs collection and/or testing (including 354 community collection sites, 94 Community Testing Centres, 102 providers supporting priority population groups, and 525 providers offering supervised RATs for travel and courts).</li> <li>We are likely to see an increase in demand as the winter months approach.</li> <li>Currently, 18 RAT devices are authorised by the Ministry of Health, plus five rapid molecular Point-of-Care tests are authorised for use in the public health response.</li> <li>In total, on 3 June 2022, 28 Point-of-Care test applications are open (15 are undergoing Stage 2 technical evaluation, ten are pending Stage 1 review of the minimum selection criteria, and three are awaiting approval letters sign-off).</li> </ul>
System Readiness			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>s9(2)(f)(iv)</li> <li>Fortnightly NRG meetings are in place to maintain oversight and integration across the AoG system.</li> </ul>
Planning for Next Phase			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>No update.</li> </ul>
System Readiness			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The National Management Approach is being finalised for release and the next version is being planned in alignment with upcoming Cabinet decisions.</li> <li>s9(2)(f)(iv)</li> </ul>
Planning for Next Phase			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Ministry of Health continues to monitor the current Omicron outbreak to ensure the CPF settings remain appropriate. The COVID-19 Assessment Committee meeting on 15 June 2022 will also review the traffic light settings of the CPF and advice on mandatory mask use in education settings (specifically schools).</li> <li>Following the Ministry of Health's assessment on 15 June 2022, Ministers with Power to Act will review the advice, and Minister Hipkins will announce any changes to the CPF settings in late June 2022.</li> </ul>

## 2. Insight of Note by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

### 2.1 False Information Landscape Update – May 2022

#### Key points

- The false and misleading claims related to COVID-19 and prevalent during May in New Zealand's information environment include: a fake letter claiming that unvaccinated individuals would face a \$15,000 fine or prison time;<sup>1</sup> false claims that Pfizer's vaccine is only 12 percent effective<sup>2</sup>; and backlash against an independent report published by the Disinformation Project.<sup>3 4</sup>
- Last month also saw a steady focus on long-standing themes of vaccines as unsafe and ineffective. The likelihood of major activism and protest sparked by COVID-19 is lower than during February 2022, as there are now fewer population-wide COVID-19 restrictions in place.<sup>5</sup>

#### Details on false information narratives

##### *False information narrative 1: Unvaccinated citizens to be fined or face jail time.*

1. A fabricated letter claiming to originate from the Ministry of Health has circulated on social media after it was physically posted to addresses in Christchurch. The letter states that people not fully vaccinated against COVID-19 by 1 August will face a \$15,000 fine or six months in prison. The letter used the Ministry of Health letterhead, was supplemented with text from an earlier authentic letter, and appeared to be signed by Ashley Bloomfield. The source is not known.
2. In response the Ministry of Health issued a statement stating the information is false and that correct information can be found on their website.
3. The letter has been circulating among the false information landscape on social media (Twitter, Facebook, Reddit, YouTube, Telegram) since the beginning of May. Notably, the letter was not heavily promoted by major New Zealand disinformation sites such as the Daily Telegraph. US-based QAnon and pro-Trump social media users have promoted the letter (including a Republican Party governor candidate in Nevada), increasing its viewership in New Zealand and around the world. As of 10 May, the letter was shared more than 7,000 times on Twitter, which likely translates into hundreds of thousands of views.
4. Voices for Freedom (VFF), a group known for spreading false information, identified the letter as fake and warned their readers not to spread it or take it seriously.<sup>6</sup> Little is known about the motivation behind VFF's decision, but it's possible it is intended to bolster VFF's credentials among its followers as a fact-based group.

##### *False information narrative 2: Pfizer documents showing low efficacy*

5. Public Twitter and Facebook posts incorrectly claim that documents released by Pfizer prove that the company's COVID-19 vaccine has a 12 percent efficacy rate (its actual efficacy is 95 percent).<sup>1</sup> The false claim has spread widely across Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram. Given its prominence on social media, New Zealanders have almost certainly encountered the claim.
6. Contrary to the claims of those promoting this narrative, the 12 percent efficacy rate is not based on anything contained within documents recently released by the US Food and Drug Administration (known as 'Pfizer docs' among anti-vaccine campaigners). Rather, it probably reflects a misinterpretation by anti-vaccine campaigners of data contained in an earlier FDA briefing document, first published in 2020.<sup>7</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Documents using the actual data showed that the vaccine demonstrated 95% efficacy in preventing COVID-19 in those without prior infection, at least seven days after the second dose.

*False information narrative 3: The conclusions of a Disinformation Project report contested*

7. New Zealand social media users with a record of creating and spreading COVID-19 disinformation criticised a recent report by Te Pūnaha Matatini's Disinformation Project. The report used publicly available data (including social media and academic research) to analyse the scope, scale and spread of mis- and disinformation in New Zealand with reference to the Parliament occupation.<sup>8</sup> Critics, including those whose content the report analysed, argued that the report applied the label 'disinformation' to content that they considered true. Some social media users also claimed that fact-checking by the Disinformation Project and similar groups is being used as justification for censorship and the erosion of free speech.

**Shifts and trends in the false information narratives**

8. English-language social media communities in New Zealand that tend to engage with COVID-19 disinformation remain focused on government mandates, the perceived lack of efficacy of COVID-19 vaccines, and the risks of myocarditis and other health complications as a result of vaccination.  
s6(a)  
international experience suggests that minority groups tend to be more exposed to false information. And, due to a range of socio-economic factors (see Insight Note 27 May), more vulnerable to the harms false information can cause.<sup>9 10</sup>
9. The recent appearance of monkeypox, while not directly related to COVID-19, has quickly become a popular topic of discussion in the false information landscape. Some New Zealand-based social media users claim, for example, that monkeypox will be used by the government to restrict freedoms – reflecting similar narratives observed with COVID-19.<sup>11</sup> New Zealand false information outlets typically repackage and amplify false information about issues in more mainstream media outlets. As a result, the greater the mainstream media's emphasis on monkeypox, the more likely it is to appear in the false information space.
10. A small number of New Zealanders were responsible for creating and disseminating large quantities of disinformation related to the Parliament protests.<sup>12</sup> This is consistent with what is being seen internationally.<sup>13</sup> Other international experience indicates that individuals and online platforms that previously engaged with false information related to COVID-19 are increasingly engaging with disinformation on other topics (e.g. Russia's war in Ukraine).<sup>14</sup> While these international-focused narratives are hosted and promoted by disinformation platforms in New Zealand, domestic issues (e.g. the closure of Marsden Point) seem to take priority.<sup>15</sup>

**COVID-19 related activism going forward**

11. Protest attendance associated with COVID-19 related issues has reduced significantly since the conclusion of the Parliament occupation and easing of COVID-19 mitigation measures. While it is possible the protest environment is returning to pre-Parliament occupation levels, reduced protest activity and turnout may also be due to a sense among potential protestors that they've achieved their goals, be the result of poor weather in the winter months, or reflect negative receptions that protestors may have received when returning to their home locations.
12. Some protestors who dispersed from Parliament in February now occupy Māhanga Bay in Wellington. New Zealand Police issued a trespass notice taking effect 25 May. Credible media reporting suggests that sanitation at the site is poor and that those occupying the site have set up a temporary school. The Department of Conservation is investigating after reports that a seal was skinned and eaten.<sup>16</sup>
13. While internet traffic to major false information sites appears to have decreased since February 2022, the same is true for more mainstream sites. Internet traffic to all news sources has reduced since the parliament protests. Nevertheless, the volume and focus of false information related to COVID-19 is likely to increase if restrictions on movement (e.g. lockdowns) are used in future, or more rights-limiting restrictions are continued or broadened (vaccine mandates). In the meantime, false information will continue to sow distrust and confusion.

*Thank you to the organisations that provided input to this insight.*

## 3. Ministry of Health

### 3.1 Health System Preparedness Programme: update

This item provides an update about the Health System Preparedness Programme (HSPP).

#### COVID-19 Care in the Community

##### Programme updates

The Ministry of Health is updating the Care in the Community Framework (the framework) to include COVID-19 and other illnesses expected in the community in the coming winter months. The framework will provide guidance to Health Care Providers, DHBs, iwi, and welfare groups on how to manage COVID-19 as one disease among many illnesses.

Updates to the framework will include recent changes to alternative isolation accommodation, therapeutics, and support projects for disabled people. Contact details for Care Coordination Hubs are to be updated, with further information added to the assisted channels section. The framework will continue to provide clear pathways for vulnerable populations. The updated framework will be available online from 1 July 2022.

##### Operational updates

Version two of the risk stratification for call prioritisation tool (the tool) is scheduled for release in late June 2022. It remains a non-clinical tool used only for call prioritisation of high-risk COVID-19 positive patients. Tool refinements are through more data inputs such as hospitalisation data from the last two years, medications taken, whether the individual is enrolled with a GP, and their biological sex.

The Care in the Community team continues to visit Care Coordination Centres and Hubs (Hubs) to observe operations and receive feedback from staff. As a result of the visits the team is undertaking a Care in the Community review incorporating the feedback received, and reviewing and assessing the effectiveness of our procedures and systems within the existing Hub model of care. The review will be completed by 16 June 2022.

##### Winter Wellness

On 1 June 2022 the Health System Preparedness Programme clinical lead, Doctor Joe Bourne, visited Taita Pharmacy in Lower Hutt, Wellington, for the media event 'What's in your winter wellness kit' attended by New Zealand Herald and Newstalk ZB.

The event included a question-and-answer session and covered advice on what people can do to stay well this winter, and what advice and guidance pharmacies can give to people.

This event marks the soft launch of the Care in the Community's 'winter wellness' public awareness work developed by the programme's clinical team. The two main communication objectives are:

- Keep New Zealanders well and productive, and to reduce pressure on the health system over winter by:
  - raising awareness of the heightened risk to people's health, particularly vulnerable groups;
  - promoting continued use of basic health hygiene, infection prevention and control measures and the importance of good nutrition and exercise;
  - promoting vaccination as a key, first-line defence against illness including influenza, COVID-19, Measles Mumps and Rubella (MMR) and others; and
  - providing information on how to care for themselves and others.



- Maintain public confidence in the health system by communicating how any surge in demand for healthcare is being managed and delivered. The approach of this public awareness work is to be locally-led, nationally-supported and will involve:
  - a communications framework is being circulated to DHBs and AoG agency communication leads;
  - enlisting all of government support, including but not limited to the Ministry of Education, the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, Sport NZ, WorkSafe, the Ministry of Social Development and Te Puni Kōkiri;
  - a winter wellness message bank to help inform the sector, the Ministry of Health, and all of government on content;
  - Ministry of Health public-facing activities: national immunisation campaigns – influenza, MMR, boosters, infection, prevention and control campaigns in both public and private sector and general winter messaging across social media, public relations, and web content; and
  - Unite Against COVID-19 campaign messaging with health hygiene messages, such as ‘stay home if you’re sick’, ‘get a test’, and ‘wear a mask’.

### Therapeutics

The COVID-19 Care in the Community New Therapeutics Implementation Advisory Group (NTIG) is in the final stages of confirming the rollout for Tixagevimab with Cilgavimab (marketed commercially as Evusheld™), which will be primarily used as prophylactic intra-muscular injections for our most at-risk and immunocompromised populations.

Pharmac is yet to determine the access criteria for Evusheld™. Stock for this is expected to arrive at the end of June to early July 2022.

Pharmac continues negotiations with GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) for securing access to Sotrovimab, an intravenous treatment for COVID-19 infection. There is no delivery date or access criteria being considered for this therapeutic yet.

The clinical team continues to monitor stock utilisation trends for Paxlovid™ and Molnupiravir. The monitoring tool has a new functionality that describes the percentage of active positive COVID-19 cases who are receiving treatment with either Paxlovid™ or Molnupiravir. This will provide a more comprehensive understanding rather than a simple description on the number dispensed. A briefing is being prepared for Minister Verrall which will provide more detail around this data. This is due 14 June 2022.

The clinical team is engaging with Māori and Pacific providers to understand any inequities in the prescribing or supply of COVID-19 therapeutics. The Ministry of Health is developing a pamphlet for Māori and Pacific providers to use to raise public awareness of COVID-19 therapeutics.

On 30 May 2022, all publicly available COVID-19 therapeutics were officially added to the list of medicines that pharmacist prescribers can prescribe. This opens another pathway to increase access and reduce prescribing burden on other health professionals. On 25 May 2022, the Ministry’s definition of ‘fully vaccinated’ changed from ‘fully vaccinated’ to ‘up to date with vaccinations’. A person is up to date with their vaccines if they have received all recommended COVID-19 vaccinations, including booster dose(s) for their age group / eligibility.

As a person’s vaccination status links with COVID-19 therapeutics eligibility, Pharmac is currently reviewing the impact of this change in definition on the proportion of the population who are eligible for COVID-19 therapeutics before making any changes to the access criteria. For now, any references to ‘fully vaccinated’ in the access criteria or guidance information remains that a person has completed a primary vaccination course against COVID-19.

On 10 June 2022, the Health System Preparedness Programme and Care in the Community workstream will move to Health New Zealand.

### 3.2 Technical Advisory Group: update

#### COVID-19 TAG

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (COVID-19 TAG) did not meet in the week commencing 30 May 2022. The next COVID-19 TAG meeting is scheduled for 17 June 2022.

#### CV TAG

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) did not meet in the week commencing 30 May 2022. The next CV TAG meeting is on 21 June 2022.

#### Therapeutics TAG

The COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group (Therapeutics TAG) met on 3 June 2022 and discussed the following items:

- Future of Therapeutics TAG
- Hospitalisation risk data
- Memo on Antivirals.

The next Therapeutics TAG meeting is on 17 June 2022.

#### CT TAG

The COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (CT TAG) met on 31 May 2022 and discussed the following items:

- Reinfection Update for Clinical Guidance
- Update on Device Applications and Approvals (non-RAT)
- Infection and Seroprevalence Survey Overview
- Health Report Serology Antibody Testing – Immunity.

The next CT TAG meeting is on 13 June 2022.

### 3.3 Upcoming communications issues and activities

As at 10 June 2022:

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
13 June 2022 TBC	Variants of Concern announcement by Minister Verrall. A full communications plan is being drafted.	MoH	Full communications plan	Minister Verrall
14 June 2022 morning	Dovetail report into Delta outbreak – release of report / findings / recommendations - communications plan being drafted, which will include press release / media statement.	MoH	Key messages and media statement, reactive statements	No
14 June 2022 1.00 pm	Allen & Clarke report into PCR testing backlog – release of report / findings / recommendations - communications plan is being drafted – to include press release.	MoH	Press release, key messages, reactive statements	No
16 June 2022	Border worker testing and removal of border workers from the Vaccinations Order, and removal of PDT requirements. NB stakeholder communications to go the day before	MoH	TBC	TBC

	to PCBU's, public sector agencies – MBIE, WorkSafe, Customs, Aviation Security Service, MPI, Police. Media statement and reactive statements / Ministerial announcement.			
Ongoing	Lollisponge PCR test trial – Testing team is trialling the Lollisponge PCR test with two Māori disability community providers for usability. The Lollisponge collects a saliva sample with a sponge and is less invasive than nasal and nasopharyngeal sample methods. A small communications trial will be undertaken with one provider, who will make a video for their stakeholders based on MoH guidance. Easy to read instructions and a video on how to take the test are being created.	MoH	Social media video	No
Ongoing	Testing – who to test / where to test / record results on My COVID Record / Traveller requirements messaging.	MoH DPMC MBIE	Key messages, website, stakeholder communications.	No

Proactively Released

## 4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

### 4.1 Transition and Readiness

#### 4.1.1 Workforce

The formal change process for the remaining facilities, as well as regional and national offices is ongoing. The decision for the new operating model will be announced on June 15 and implemented mid-July.

#### 4.1.2 Decommissioning of Facilities

A total of 26 facilities have been decommissioned and handed back. The final two community facilities remain on track to be decommissioned on 30 June.

The Commodore Hotel Christchurch has now been de-designated and will also be decommissioned by the end of June.

Decommissioning for the final three operational facilities remains on track with the proposed date of 31 July for de-designation and 31 August for decommissioning.

#### Facility decommissioning status

Facility (by region)	Tranche	Current occupancy	Current phase	Staff on site within last 7 days	Hand-back date	Facility RAG status
<b>Auckland</b>						
Jet Park	Core facility	Occupied (9 pax)	N/A core facility	77	N/A	N/A
Holiday Inn	Core facility	Occupied (22 pax)	N/A core facility	60	N/A	N/A
Waipuna Auckland	Core facility	Occupied (8 pax)	N/A core facility	68	N/A	N/A
<b>Hamilton</b>						
Amohia (Jet Park)	Three	Empty	De-designated		30/6/22	
<b>Rotorua</b>						
Sudima	Three	Empty	De-designated		30/6/22	
<b>Christchurch</b>						
Commodore	Three	Empty	De-designated	33	30/6/22	
<b>Totals:</b>		<b>39</b>		<b>238 Staff</b>		

### 4.2 Operational Update

#### 4.2.1 Current Occupancy

MIQ has three facilities in Auckland that are designated as Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities. These facilities provide support to community cases (including close contacts) who are unable to safely isolate at home, as well as refugees, evacuees, and some mariners.

As of 8 June 2022, there were 39 people in Managed Isolation and Quarantine.

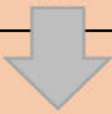
Facility	Total People in Facility	People in Quarantine	Community Cases	Mariners/Air Crew:	Evacuees/Refugees:
Holiday Inn	22	21	10	1	0
JetPark	9	8	8	0	1
Waipuna	8	0	0	0	8
<b>Total</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>9</b>

#### 4.2.2 Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as of 7 June 2022 (to end June 2022)

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
Refugee Quota	6 – 12 June	9	5 (9 pax)	The Refugee Centre is forecasting arrivals of 45 pax (30 rooms) per fortnight until end of June 2022. They are confident they will meet their target of 800 refugees for the fiscal year 21/22. The refugee centre has agreed that the last date for MIQ arrivals is 17 June.
	May and June TBC	98	40 (98 pax)	
Afghanistan Arrivals	6 – 12 June	11	5 (11 pax)	There are approximately 100 Afghanistan Evacuees to arrive before the end of June. They will arrive sporadically in small groups and not all of them will enter MIQ. MFAT have agreed that the last date for MIQ arrivals is 17 June.

#### 4.2.3 Invoicing

INVOICES ISSUED	INVOICES PAID	INVOICES ISSUED - NOT YET DUE	INVOICES OVERDUE
57,743	40,419 (69% of invoices issued)	2,718 (7% of invoices issued)	14,606 (24% of invoices issued)
TOTAL VALUE OF INVOICES ISSUED \$218.7m	PAID (BY VALUE) \$171M 78.5%	ISSUED - NOT YET DUE (BY VALUE) \$5.6M 2.6%	INVOICES OVERDUE (BY VALUE) \$41.3M 18.9%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Automated and manual invoice batches are up to date, and the Ministry is working through the ad hoc invoices.</li> <li>With invoicing up to date, the Ministry is investigating the 'unmatched data' for the period 25 March 2021 to 28 February 2022 to determine their liability.</li> <li>There are 11,659 of these unmatched records in the database that need to have their liability determined before invoicing.</li> </ul>			 <b>90+ days overdue</b> 7,331 invoices \$25.7M (by value) 11.7% (by value of all invoices issued)

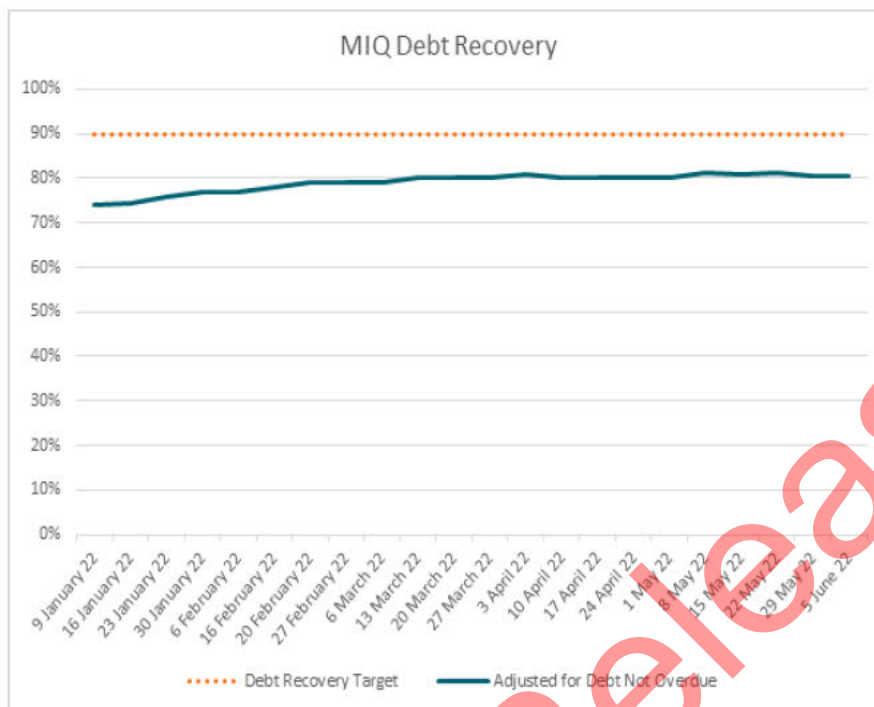
#### 4.2.4 Debt Recovery

The debt recovery percentage remains at 81 percent, which is against our nominal target recovery of 90 percent.

As of 5 June 2022, 10,671 invoices worth \$35.6m have been passed to our debt partner. In addition:

- \$13m has now been paid (an increase of \$538k).
- A further \$550k of debt is under instalment and is expected to be converted to payments over coming weeks.
- Of the invoices sent, 266 customers worth \$728k have now submitted waiver applications. While applications are processed, they are recorded as outstanding debt.

Percentage of MIQ Debt Recovery



4.2.5 Fee Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 5 June 2022. The numbers below relate to all waiver applications. These waivers can be applied for before, during and after an individual has stayed in managed isolation.

All Waiver Applications Received	Received and not progressed	Total Completed	Approved Waiver Applications			Declined Waiver Applications		
			Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	BOTH	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	BOTH
18,660	3,278	14,880	100	9,507	100	1,948	2,729	496
			Overall Approved 66.5% (of completed applications)			Overall Declined 33.5% (of completed applications)		

4.2.6 Reducing the Fee Waiver backlog

	Last week (at 29 May)
<b>TOTAL BACKLOG AT 5 June 2022:</b>	452
Made up of:	
i) Processing or to be processed	223
ii) Waiting for Customer	229

4.3 Ombudsman Complaints

MBIE are currently managing 105 cases, including 77 preliminary enquiries.

There are 13 active investigations:

- one is on MIAS;

- three are on emergency allocations;
- two are on exemptions from managed isolation;
- four relate to declined fee waiver decisions;
- two are about facilities; and
- one is the Chief Ombudsman’s self-initiated investigation.

#### 4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As of 8 June 2022:

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
June (TBC)	Ombudsman Self-Initiated Investigation findings	MIQ	Reactive comms	Y
June (TBC)	Grounded Kiwis judicial review - final declaratory statement	MIQ/Crown Law	TBC	TBC

Proactively Released



## 5. Border Executive Board Report

### 5.1 Border Executive Board Meeting 8 June 2022

s9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted content]

#### **Systems Improvement Programme Quarterly Update**

The Board received the quarterly update on the Systems Improvements Programme that covers:

- Ahumoni Hoahoa (finance)
- data sharing and privacy
- integrated targeting and border operations
- health presence at the border
- infrastructure at airports
- the digital border.

The Board noted overall progress had been slowed due to supporting the New Zealand Traveller Declaration, and also as every agency had experienced staff absences as a result of the Omicron outbreak. The Board supported the Programme being reinvigorated given the go-live of Tranche 1 of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration and COVID-19 becoming less impactful on staff numbers. The Programme was invited to come back in a month with an update on momentum.

#### **Maritime Pathway – Operational Readiness**

The Board received the assurance report showing operational readiness was on-track for 11.59pm, 31 July 2022. There were no issues for the Board to address.

#### **Reconnecting New Zealanders Programme**

The Board received the paper from the COVID-19 Chief Executives Board that confirmed the transfer of governance and coordination of the Reconnecting New Zealanders Programme from DPMC to BEB. The transfer took effect 7 June 2022.

The next Board meeting is 15 June 2022. Ray Smith is Acting Chair for 9 June to 3 July 2022 inclusive while Christine Stevenson is travelling overseas for work.



## 5.2 Border Executive Board meeting 8 June 2022

Updates will be provided via these weekly reports from next week (week ending 17 June 2022).

Proactively Released



## 6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report

### 6.1 Compliance Checking at the Air Border

As part of Reconnecting New Zealanders, the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Air Border) Order 2021 came into force on 28 February 2022. Customs staff undertake compliance checks for all passengers on arrival for evidence of pre-departure testing or exemption, vaccination verification or exemption or a travel pass.

Travellers who do not provide the required evidence may incur an infringement offence fee between \$500 and \$4,000 depending on the nature of the offence. Non- New Zealand citizens who do not provide the required evidence of vaccination status will be referred to the Ministry of Health officials for further intervention.

For the period 31 May to 06 June 2022 (both dates inclusive), a total of 41,434 passengers travelled to New Zealand. Of this number, 70 were considered to not meet the requirements for air travel into New Zealand.

- Eight travellers were issued warning letters, and 62 travellers have been issued with an infringement offence fee for not meeting pre-departure testing requirements.
- No travellers have been issued with an infringement offence fee for not meeting vaccination verification requirements, and no travellers have been referred to the Ministry of Health for further intervention.

### 6.2 s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted content]

Proactively Released

## 7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

The COVID-19 Chief Executives Board (CCB) will meet on 14 June 2022. The agenda includes a general update on the COVID-19 Response, updates on planning around the transition of centrally-held response functions to a more business-as-usual approach, an update on variant plan post cabinet, and the work underway on the future legal framework.

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

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group did not meet this week and are next scheduled to meet on 15 June 2022. The meeting will focus on the current response, and in particular, measures around reducing mortality and will include officials from DPMC and the Ministry of Health. We are continuing to work with Minister Verrall's office to progress the appointments of a new Chair and members to replace Sir David Skegg and Professor Philip Hill after 30 June 2022. The remaining letter to be proactively released from the Group to Minister Verrall has been released on the Unite Against COVID-19 website on 10 June 2022.

## 9. Business Leaders Forum

The Business Leaders Forum does not currently have a date for its next meeting.

## 10. Community Panel

Arrangements for the final Community Panel meeting are continuing and this will likely be held on 30 June 2022 in Wellington and will include an opportunity for you to meet with the Panel.

## 11. Government Modelling Group

There are no updates from the Government Modelling Group this week. Future updates will be provided where significant.

12. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

s9(2)(f)(iv)



Proactively Released

## COVID-19 Insights References

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- 2 Full Fact. Post claiming the Pfizer vaccine has only a 12% efficacy rate is inaccurate. <https://fullfact.org/health/pfizer-vaccine-efficacy/>. Date Accessed 31 May 2022
- 3 Te Pūnaha Matatini. The Disinformation Project. <https://thedisinforproject.org/resources/>. Date Accessed 31 May 2022
- 4 Ministry of Health. correspondence request. Date received 31 May.
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- 6 Voices for Freedom. <https://www.voicesforfreedom.co.nz/blog/post/beware-fake-news>. Date Accessed 30th May 2022
- 7 Full Fact. <https://fullfact.org/health/pfizer-vaccine-efficacy>. Post claiming the Pfizer vaccine has only a 12% efficacy rate is inaccurate - Full Fact. Date Accessed 8 June 2022
- 8 Te Pūnaha Matatini. The Disinformation Project. The murmuration of information disorders. <https://thedisinforproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/The-murmuration-of-information-disorders-May-2022-Report-FULL-VERSION.pdf>. Date Accessed 31 May 2022
- 9 The Washington Post, U.S. white supremacists blamed in Australia for covid vaccine misinformation among Aboriginals, <https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/2021/12/03/australia-aboriginal-coronavirus-vaccine-misinformation/>. Date Accessed 7 June 2022
- 10 The Washington Post. Misinformation online is bad in English. But it's far worse in Spanish. <https://www.washingtonpost.com/outlook/2021/10/28/misinformation-spanish-facebook-social-media/>. Date Accessed 7 June 2022
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- 14 EU Disinfo Lab. From Infodemic to Information War. <https://www.disinfo.eu/publications/from-infodemic-to-information-war/>. Date Accessed 7 June 2022
- 15 Daily Telegraph. Home page. <https://dailytelegraph.co.nz/>. Date Accessed 7 June 2022
- 16 NZ Herald. Police issue trespass notice to those occupying Mahanga Bay in Wellington. <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/police-issue-trespass-notice-to-those-occupying-mahanga-bay-in-wellington/AYCCHH2MP77VGS6IV2EOOM4WRE/>. Date Accessed 31 May 2022