






COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

29 July 2021







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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

1. Status Summary

Border

		Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Border measures		BEB			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
		MoH			<p><i>Border Worker Testing Register</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Border Worker Testing Register (BWTR) is mandatory for all border facing Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBUs). The number of PCBUs has increased by 171 per cent since the announcement to make use of the BWTR mandatory was made in April 2021. As at 28 July 2021, there were 244 PCBUs, of which MBIE is one, covering 351 active PCBU's. There are 13,164 active workers in the BWTR. Of this number of active workers, 6,011 are listed as working in MIQ facilities and 7,153 at the Air or Maritime borders. Of those border workers currently active in the BWTR on 28 July: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 84 percent have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine. 3 percent have had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. The remaining 13 percent represent workers in the BWTR that have not been vaccinated yet or have not been matched to their vaccination record due to the absence of NHI-matching in the CIR. <p><i>Saliva testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues on preparing for the roll out of saliva testing to border workers. Saliva testing will complement the existing tests (nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal anterior nares swab), to provide the assurances we need at the border while reducing the level of discomfort among frontline staff. Over the last fortnight, there has been engagement with partner agencies and sector leads to ensure workers, PCBUs and sites across the country are ready for the national rollout of saliva testing in mid-August. The necessary changes that enable saliva testing through the Required Testing Order are on track to come into force on 11 August 2021.
Testing and vaccination of border workforce		MBIE			<p><i>Staff testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance reporting is at 97%, up 1% from last week, for staff who worked in the week of 19-25 July 2021. 3% (133) of workers on site in the week of 19-25 July 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue. The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers. We are continuing with our specific project to ensure those listed as 11+ days overdue are either tested or referred to the appropriate agency for management. Further information about this is outlined in the report. <p><i>Vaccinations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 19-25 July 2021, 95.1% have had two doses of the vaccine, 2.7% had one dose and 2.2% have vaccination status 'unknown'. Vaccination follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not identify any instances of unvaccinated people going on site. There was one exception granted last week at the Distinction Hamilton for urgent roof repairs. This indicator will remain amber while work is underway to learn from the saliva testing prototype and improve the limitations of BWTR information. <p><i>Saliva Testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MIQ workers on a seven-day testing cycle at Jet Park will be invited to opt-in to the saliva testing regime from mid-August. Saliva testing will be progressively rolled out to other MIQ facilities from mid-August. The phased roll out schedule is being developed to take into account the additional demand facilities are under with NSW returnees, while being able to apply the lessons from the initial roll outs.

Border (continued)

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Two-way QFT with Australia	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The baseline number, established as at 14 July 2021, of active border workers at maritime ports and airports, who are in scope of the amended Order and on the BWTR, showed 1462 were unvaccinated. BWTR data extracted as at 8.00am, 28 July 2021, show this number is 1342 (ref. 21 July: 1372); while fully vaccinated has increased to 3210 from 3076 at 21 July (ref. 14 July: 2785). The indicator remains at amber due to implementation issues and risks.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine-free travel from all Australian states and territories was suspended from 2359hrs Friday 23 July 2021. The suspension will be for at least 8 weeks, and will be reviewed in September.
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials continue to work with Australia to operationalise arrangements on passengers who must layover and complete MIQ in Australia to reach New Zealand (or vice versa), with both parties set to commence by 1 Aug 2021. While the quarantine-free travel suspension is likely to affect New Zealand travellers, the full implications are being identified.
	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Significant work is underway to implement a suspension of QFT with Australia. Reporting and advice has been provided separately. This includes a proposed process for the prioritisation of travellers returning from New South Wales. As at 28 July, there is capacity on flights (except for New South Wales) for the remainder of the week. The indicator will remain at amber until there is greater clarity around the number of people from New Zealand in New South Wales that wish to return.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work for two-way QFT with Niue is underway, with commencement dates to be confirmed.
Two-way QFT Niue	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s6(a) _____ These discussions confirmed Niue is committed to a staged opening of its borders, s6(b)(i) _____ Niue has also signalled its intention to require all in-bound passengers to be vaccinated. A Ministry of Health led technical mission has arrived in Niue and will remain in-country from 27 July – 24 August, including two weeks' managed isolation in Niue on arrival.
	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is providing a briefing updating on New Zealand and Cook Islands response work. The Ministry of Health has developed possible scenarios for the managed return of travellers (symptomatic and non-symptomatic). Cross-agency consultation continues to review and a workshop on 9 July 2021 enabled testing of these scenarios.
Reopening new travel pathways - Pacific Islands	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials continue to move at pace to progress discussions on one-way quarantine free travel from Tonga and Vanuatu to New Zealand. Texts of the relevant Arrangements and technical checklists have been provided to both countries for their review and action. NZ officials are meeting with officials from these countries at both plenary and agency / technical level: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - s6(b)(i) _____ _____ _____ s6(a) _____ Officials will report back on progress to the Minister for COVID-19 for the Oral item to Cabinet on 2 August and to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on 11 August.

Border (continued)

Country Risk Assessments	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine-free travel from all Australian states and territories was suspended from 23 59hrs Friday 23 July 2021 due to the worsening situation in Australia. The suspension will be for at least 8 weeks, and will be reviewed in September.

Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community

Place and conditions of stay	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Transmission prevention	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update.
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Ventilation systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total number of remediation proposals received to date is 19 (last week it was 16). A number of facilities have already commenced remediation work in advance of submitting their formal remediation proposal. We have delayed remediation work at the Four Points (Auckland) to accommodate the returnees from NSW. Remediation will be rescheduled to ensure this work recommences at the earliest opportunity. We have also delayed remediation work at the Grand Mercure (Wellington) to accommodate the mariners from Viking Bay. Remediation is expected to commence around 2 August 2021. Our independent HVAC engineer has reviewed and provided feedback on 11 of the remediation proposals received to date. A further three remediation proposals were reviewed by MIQs Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group (VRAG) last week bringing the total number reviewed to date to 11. Regarding ventilation systems the status remains amber as we assess implications on the MIQ system of delivering the remediation works across the portfolio. Next steps, leading to green, will be looking across the whole portfolio to schedule the remedial work whilst balancing room capacity.
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Renewing contracts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extended terms and conditions have been agreed with 22 facilities (same as last week). We now have signed the legal contract for 13 facilities (previously 7). We are continuing to work through getting the remainder of the execution copies issued. This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotels.
Post-managed isolation processes	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Fees collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to make progress with post 25 March 2021 invoices. As at 27 July 2021 automated invoices have been issued up to returnees leaving MIF on 19 July 2021 (i.e. within 7 working days) (please note invoices do not go out until returnees leave a MIF), while those invoices we have to manually produce have been issued up to 29 June 2021 (excluding exceptions and aircrew). The new invoicing platform has generated over 10,000 invoices, with a value of more than \$41m, in its first eight weeks of operation. We are currently investigating the impact of recent changes to the Australian travel bubble to ensure we invoice these returnees appropriately. We have developed a methodology for addressing the pre-25 March 2021 invoice backlog and work continues on building the solution. Testing of part of the solution has begun. An estimate of the liability of \$36.2m for the invoice backlog has been made for inclusion in the 2020/21 financial results. This estimate is subject to audit and may change prior to the financial statements being finalised. <p><i>Debt Recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the 100 invoices worth \$332k sent to a debt collection agency, 28 responses have been received, \$48,875 has been paid (or will be paid through instalment), \$3,575 has been credited due to an error and a further \$42,425 is currently being disputed by customers. We plan to send the next group of invoices through to the debt collection agency at the end of this week (circa 30 July). The plan is to continue sending small batches weekly going forward. Recruitment is underway to fully resource this function. We are progressing a solution which allows returnees to settle their invoices by credit card to make it easier for them to pay. This indicator will remain amber while we are working through the backlog of invoices and while we make progress on debt recovery.

Community Protection

Case investigation, surveillance and testing	Agency	Last Week	This Week	
	MoH	●	●	<p><i>Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A revision of COVID-19 Testing Guidance for the health sector is due by early next week. The revised Testing Guidance is will state that at Alert Level 1 it is not necessary to routinely test children aged 11 or under who are symptomatic, unless any of the following apply: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> They meet Higher Index of Suspicion (HIS) criteria; They are a contact of a confirmed (or probable) COVID-19 case; There is clinical concern; Parental request; The Medical Officer of Health recommends this due to a local emerging outbreak.







Vaccination

Implementation and operation	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to remain above our vaccination targets, with the most recent data showing that we are delivering at 103% against DHB plans up to 25 July 2021. 9,904 vaccinators have completed vaccine training and 4,413 vaccinators have been active in the programme as of 26 July 2021. We are on track to have 10,000 trained vaccinators this month. 350,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine were delivered to New Zealand on 27 July 2021 as scheduled. This ensured there was sufficient stock on hand for the commencement of Group 4 rollout to begin on 28 July 2021. The South Island distribution hub has gone live with the first direct flight containing vaccine arriving 27 July 2021. Group 3 invitations based on DHB estimated enrolled populations have been completed. A major communication campaign promoting the 0800 number to the remainder of Group 3 will conclude this week. The first mass vaccination event is set to take place from 30 July-1 August 2021 at Vodafone Events Centre in Manukau (South Auckland). Invitations to the first Group 4 cohort of those aged 60-64 (approx. 186,000 people) started to be sent on 28 July 2021.

Resurgence Planning and Response

Resurgence planning including review of the response	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Debriefing recent responses and NSW response observations to inform continuous improvement in the system. National response planning is underway for Q4 to incorporate the impact of new variants and Reconnecting NZ Strategy. Clarifying terminology around leading and supporting activities required to meet the National Response Objectives and expectations for agency and regional plans. Aligning National Response Plan and the MOH Manatū Haura plans.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update.
Readiness planning	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cook Islands QFT: The NZ system workshop to refine managed return SOPs of large cohorts of NZ travellers, was postponed due to the TT QFT response. s6(a) Niue QFT: MFAT, MOH and DPMC have commenced readiness discussions, including building on lessons learnt from Cook Islands QFT. A Doctor from MOH Global is in Niue currently, and will be working with their Health ministry to support their readiness efforts, s6(a) The next focus for domestic readiness is to review the progress of the Hazard Review Board's work on a Christchurch earthquake occurring in the current COVID-19 environment.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No update.

Resurgence Planning and Response (continued)

NSW Outbreak Response	QFT response	MFAT			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• s6(a)
		DPMC			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• The number of ongoing system responses and large volumes of tasking for COVID-19 and concurrent events in the wider system are impacting system resilience.• Managing returning New Zealanders and those stranded in Australia is a key priority and coordination across the system for the various operational activities and advice requests around TTQFT returns and review is in place.• Maritime outbreaks are still requiring system coordination and support with a system review of maritime border settings required.
		MBIE			<ul style="list-style-type: none">• An MIQ Incident Management Team continues to oversee the response regarding NSW.• MBIE MIQ is chairing a sub-group of BEB that is operationalising the pause and understanding residual demand for red flights from across Australia once the pause ends.• Tranche 3 has been recommended for NSW and the first flight can commence on 9 August.• The response continues to place the whole MIQ system under significant pressure.

Proactively Released

2. COVID-19 Insights

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

2.1.1 COVID-19 False Information Reports to CERT NZ

Introduction

Since early 2021, CERT NZ has established a platform for receiving reports of false information related to COVID-19 from members of the public. CERT NZ is an agency that receives reports of cyber security problems. There have been over 800 reports of COVID-19 false information to CERT NZ, including material such as flyers, websites, magazines, behaviour, Facebook pages, and emails. False information can contribute to vaccine hesitancy and erode public willingness to get vaccinated. Reports to CERT NZ are only part of the wider disinformation and misinformation landscape.

Themes of Material Reported

There were 13 different themes¹ identified in the material reported to CERT NZ including:

- suspicion of COVID-19 vaccines;
- conspiracy theories about COVID-19 being part of plan to create a global police state;
- suspicion of mainstream media;
- mistrust of government and political parties; and
- promotion of alternative medicines to cure COVID-19.

Suspicion of COVID-19 vaccines was a consistent and dominant theme.

Sources of Material Reported

Three sources; Voices for Freedom, The Real News, and Advance New Zealand, were responsible for material that generated over 70% of the reports to CERT NZ. These sources are interlinked via the individuals associated with them.² This relatively small number of individuals responsible for spreading a large amount of misinformation and disinformation is similar to patterns identified overseas, for example, a recent report by the Center for Countering Digital Hate (CCDH) identified twelve individuals in the United States which were responsible for 65% of all anti-vaccine content identified online.³

Format of Material Reported

The Majority of material reported to CERT NZ (74%) were pamphlets or flyers. Most pamphlets and flyers were associated with the anti-COVID-19 group, Voices for Freedom, with material titled 'Covid Vaccine Facts Reference List', 'Are You Fed Up With Covid Yet?', and 'What's All The Fuss About Masks?'.⁴

Online content comprised 12.5% of reports to CERT NZ, and the majority of these were websites. The most frequently reported website was New Zealand Doctors Speaking Out on Science⁵ which has material raising concerns about COVID-19 vaccines. Online content that was reported included topics such as conspiracy theories, alternative health and medicines, and groups opposed to the government's COVID-19 response.⁶

Responses to Material

An inter-agency response⁷ has been developed which seeks to raise public awareness and reporting of COVID-19 related false information to CERT NZ. CERT NZ triages all reports received before passing them onto the relevant agencies. For example, material which appears criminal in nature is reported to the New Zealand Police, whereas items which breach advertising or reporting standards are reported to the Advertising Standards Authority, Broadcasting Standards Authority, Classifications Office, or the New Zealand Media Council. Work is ongoing in this space.

Recent examples of responses to the distribution of COVID-19 false information include:

- The Advertising Standards Authority ruling against Voices for Freedom;
- Facebook taking down the Voices for Freedom Facebook page;⁸ and
- The Pharmacy Council issuing a warning to its members not to stock literature that promotes false COVID-19 information.⁹

However, Voices for Freedom has since urged its followers to move to another online social network popular with far-right groups and conspiracy theory believers.¹⁰

2.2 Insights of Note Written by the Ministry of Health

2.2.1 COVID-19 International Perspectives: 26 July 2021

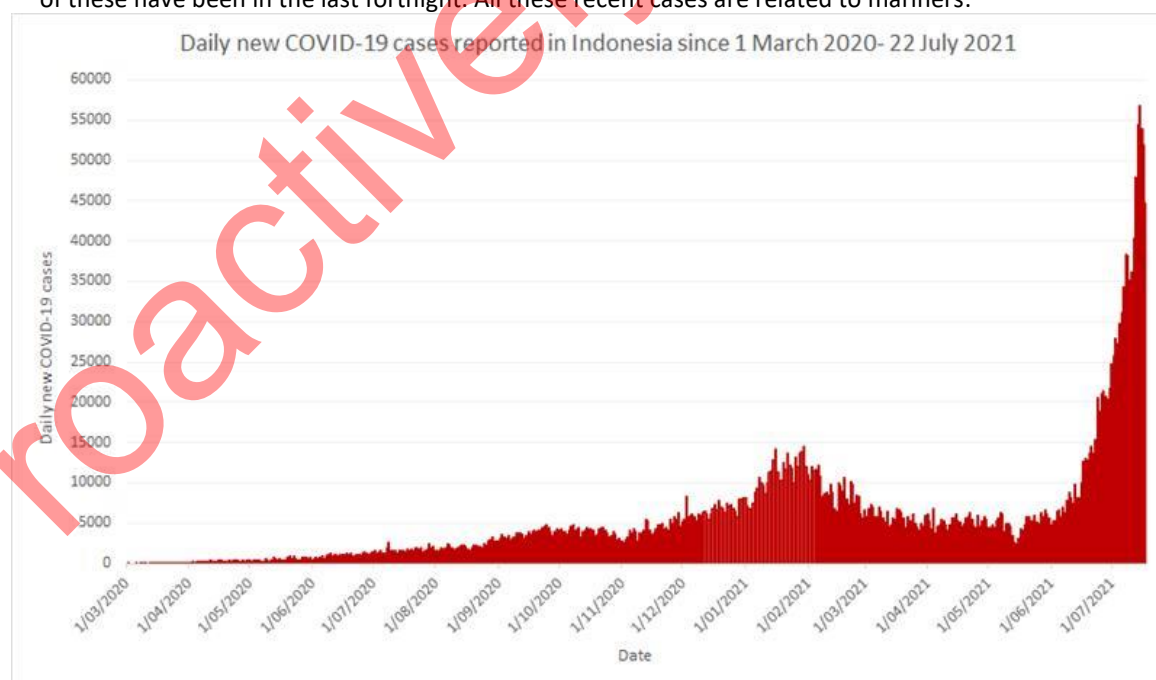
Global daily new cases of COVID-19 have increased by more than 25 percent in the past fortnight to 22 July 2021, following the beginning of the latest surge in cases in late June 2021.¹¹ The WHO International Health Regulations Emergency Committee has expressed concern that the pandemic is being mischaracterised as coming to an end.¹² It also warned about the strong likelihood for the emergence of new and potentially dangerous variants that may be more challenging to control than those circulating currently.¹³

In the past fortnight, Fiji and Indonesia were the points of departure from where the highest number of acute cases were imported into New Zealand (9 and 6, respectively).¹⁴ ¹⁵ Based on preliminary arrivals card data, Indonesia has the highest number of acute cases per 1,000 arrivals (231), while the UK had a large volume of arrivals but contributed relatively few cases.¹⁶ ¹⁷ Given the large number of arrivals, the COVID-19 response in the UK is contextually relevant to New Zealand and has also been included in the summary.

Indonesia

As at 22 July 2021:

- Daily cases have begun to decline in Indonesia, the seven-day rolling average of daily new cases was 43,791, which has declined slightly from 44,145 one week prior.¹⁸
- Deaths continue to increase. The seven-day rolling average of daily deaths was 1,263, up from 900 one week prior.¹⁹
- Capacity for whole genome sequencing is limited in Indonesia, but data that has been analysed indicates the Delta variant is widespread.²⁰
- The seven-day rolling average of tests was 0.57 per 1,000 population. The seven-day rolling average test positivity is 28 percent and has begun to decline.²¹ However, this is well above the WHO limit of five percent that indicates comprehensive surveillance of COVID-19.²² This means cases are likely to be significantly under-reported.
- Approximately 9.7 percent of the population have received one vaccine and an additional 6.2 percent are fully vaccinated.²³
- At the New Zealand border, 19 cases have been detected among travellers from Indonesia this year. Nine of these have been in the last fortnight. All these recent cases are related to mariners.²⁴



The Indonesian government has taken active measures to improve the health system's capacity and responsiveness mobilising medical students and increasing domestic supply of oxygen.²⁵

From 12 July 2021, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates suspended transit for all travellers from Indonesia, removing the primary route for returning New Zealanders. Transit appears to remain possible through Qatar and Tokyo, but this route may be prohibitively expensive and difficult for many travellers.²⁶

Fiji

- As at 22 July 2021, the seven-day rolling average of daily new cases has increased to 1,191 from 833 one week prior.²⁷ As of 23 July 2021, there are 16,061 active cases.²⁸
- There have been 170 confirmed deaths due to COVID-19 in country since the start of the April outbreak.²⁹
- As at 23 July 2021 the seven-day rolling average of tests was 4.2 tests per 1,000 population. However, test positivity is continuing to rise, the seven-day rolling average test positivity is 29.7 percent.³⁰ Cases are likely to be significantly under-reported.
- 73 percent of the eligible population have received one vaccine and 15.4 percent are fully vaccinated as of 23 July 2021.³¹ s6(a) 32

Prime Minister Bainimarama has praised the help provided by Australia and New Zealand, which has included vaccines, technical advice, equipment, and financial support.³³ The Fijian government announced a US \$1.78 billion response budget on 16 July 2021, which includes benefits to those who are vaccinated as well as obligations to those who receive government allowances and scholarships.³⁴

In a statement on 21 July 2021, Permanent Secretary for the Ministry of Health & Medical Services Fong noted they will be reprioritising and focussing testing to those at the greatest risk of severe COVID-19.³⁵

United Kingdom (UK)

As at 22 July 2021:

- The seven-day rolling average of daily new cases is 46,493, an increase of more than 50 percent in a fortnight.³⁶
- The number of COVID-19 patients in hospital has increased to 4,658 on 20 July 2021, increasing by almost 90 percent in a fortnight.³⁷
- As at 22 July 2021, the seven-day rolling average of daily deaths is 57.4 and steadily increasing, however far lower than a peak of over 1,200 in January 2021 when daily reported cases were similar.³⁸
- Over the last 30 days, 99 percent of sequenced cases have been the Delta variant.
- As at 20 July 2021, the seven-day rolling average of tests (including both rapid lateral flow tests and PCR) is 15.9 per 1,000 population. Test positivity is climbing, the seven-day rolling average is 4.4 percent, up from 2.4 percent a fortnight prior.³⁹
- Scientists are calling for the narrow list of COVID-19 symptoms qualifying individuals for PCR testing to be expanded to reduce unreported cases.
- Approximately 54 percent of the population are fully vaccinated and an additional 14 percent of the population have received one vaccination. Daily vaccinations administered in the UK are continuing to decline.⁴⁰

Despite the escalating number of COVID-19 cases, the British government is lifting all remaining restrictions in England, including social distancing guidelines, capacity limits at venues and mask requirements indoors.⁴¹ An emergency international summit was held with government advisors from New Zealand, Israel, Taiwan and Italy, among others, where they expressed concerns about the plans.⁴² They warned that the combination of high levels of infection and vaccination will drive conditions where immune escape of the virus is likely to occur. Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland are taking more cautious steps out of lockdown.⁴³

3. Ministry of Health



3.1 Policy/Programme Updates

3.1.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11.59 pm on 27 July 2021, 1,759,154 vaccinations have been delivered, including 699,469 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 16 percent are Asian.

98,276 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents nine percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 27 July 2021.

233 sites were active as at 27 July 2021.

The production plan for the next seven days is for 264,550 doses across New Zealand.

Communication campaigns for Group 3

As at 23 July 2021, all Group 3 invitations based on district health board (DHB) estimated enrolled populations have been completed. A major communication push to people in Group 3 promoting the 0800-number has been undertaken to ensure that people in this group have a chance to book their appointment prior to the rollout to Group 4.

Group 4 rollout

The national Group 4 campaign for those in the 60+ age band began on 28 July 2021 and included the opening of Book My Vaccine for those eligible.

Vaccination on Rakiura Stewart Island began on 28 July 2021.

Book My Vaccine

As of 27 July 2021, Book My Vaccine holds 873,979 active future bookings at 201 vaccination sites. Additional vaccination sites will continue to be onboarded to the system in the coming weeks to support the increased demand of vaccinations in August and September 2021.

Booking codes have been used to invite people and allow them to book. During the Group 4 rollout the programme will move away from the use of booking codes towards a simpler consumer journey using questions on the website to access eligibility. However, booking codes will be used for reserved capacity to support timely access to those that require priority booking such as managed isolation and quarantine workers.

Supply

The expected Pfizer delivery of 350,000 doses arrived on 27 July 2021 as planned. Future weekly deliveries are expected to continue at that capacity, which will provide sufficient supply for the rollout to Group 4.

Workforce

As at 27 July 2021, 9,979 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 4,495 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

The Ministry of Health is working with the Crown Law Office and the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) to review the current vaccinator authorisation process in response to recent legal advice. This resulted in a temporary pause of new vaccinators as we sought to transfer the authorisation process from IMAC to the Ministry of Health. The new process and issuing of authorisations to applicants has recommenced this week. Appropriate communications will be sent to vaccinators awaiting authorisation from this week.

Equity

DHB production planning for Māori doses is significantly lower than planned and was 58 percent for the two-week period ending on 18 July 2021. There have been issues identifying people with underlying health conditions in Group 3 and this Group has a higher population proportion of Māori. It is expected that whānau vaccinations for Māori and Pacific and targeted equity festival events will contribute to a positive increase in numbers. Weekly DHB meetings to discuss equity production plan performance will look at what is working so it can be replicated by other DHBs and look at other areas for improvement where changes can be implemented.

Logistics and distribution

As at the end of the day on 27 July 2021, we have made 1,472 deliveries to sites across the country. This equates to delivery of 312,904 vials or 1,877,424 doses.

South Island (Christchurch) distribution hub

The South Island distribution hub has gone live with the first direct flight containing vaccine supply arriving 27 July 2021.

Requests for confirmation of vaccination status

The COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme is receiving an increasing volume of requests from individuals seeking written confirmation of their vaccination status; many indicate confirmation is needed so that they can travel internationally. It is likely that these requests for personal information fall under the Privacy Act 1993. As the number of people fully vaccinated increases, so too will the volume of requests. Work is underway to develop a digital vaccination record. This will include digital consumer self-service, which will ensure consumers have a consistent, efficient, and effective digital experience from invitation to booking. A plan is in place to manage the volume of requests in the meantime.

Mass vaccination event

The first mass vaccination event at Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) is set to begin on 30 July 2021 and conclude on 1 August 2021.

The initial take-up of bookings for the first mass vaccination event is lower than expected. Northern Region Health Co-ordination Centre and MIT are ramping up their invitation campaign this week to encourage bookings. A contingency plan is in place to extend the invitation to other organisations or cohorts in South Auckland, should bookings remain low.

General practice rollout

The primary care on-boarding document was shared with Primary Health Organisation Clinical Leads. The document will continue to evolve. Presently, streamlining the training process for vaccinators and administrators is a key focus.

Technology

The invitation engine is undergoing final preparations leading into invitations to the first Group 4 cohort of those aged 60 to 64 (approximately 186,000 people).

Preparations for the pilot of the Digital Consumer Channel with MIQ leads is in progress, with the pilot planned for early August 2021. The Digital Consumer Channel will allow consumers to view their vaccination record digitally.

Development is on track for 3 August 2021 release of improvements for the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR), Logistics, Post-Event, Payments, and Health Sector call centres.

Adverse events following immunisation

Medsafe has published a monitoring communication that indicated a safety signal of myocarditis in connection to the Pfizer vaccine. It has subsequently been concluded by Medsafe and other international regulators that myocarditis is rare and that New Zealand data sheets should be updated to reflect this.

Rollout of the vaccine to Polynesia

The landscape has shifted considerably over the last week and a large amount of vaccines is now being donated to the Pacific by a range of donors. s6(b)(i)

s9(2)(ba)(i)

Decisions on the donation pathway for the remaining doses are currently with Vaccine Ministers for approval.

Tokelau

Tokelau has advised that the administering of dose one across all three atolls is now complete. We are expecting the Tokelau COVID-19 vaccine rollout to conclude in August 2021.

Cook Islands

The rollout of dose one has been completed in the Northern and Southern regions (excluding Palmerston Island). Dose two for the southern group began last week and will be followed by the northern group. On 23 July 2021, the HMNZS Wellington delivered sufficient vaccines to Palmerston Island to cover the eligible population for both doses. We are expecting the Cook Islands COVID-19 vaccine rollout to conclude in August 2021.

Fiji

Fiji's COVID-19 situation continues to deteriorate with rapidly escalating case numbers. s6(b)(i)

New Zealand has worked hard to secure a resale agreement between Spain and Fiji for 100,000 doses of AstraZeneca. Once the tripartite and bilateral agreements are finalised, and provided that the doses can be delivered to Fiji by early August 2021, Fiji will accept 100,000 doses from Spain s6(b)(i)

3.2 Technical Advisory Group: Update

The Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on 23 July 2021. Members were updated on key scientific developments including those developed to support the reconnecting Aotearoa New Zealand workstream. Members were also given an update on the Surveillance Strategy.

TAG's next meeting is scheduled for 20 August 2021.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 20 July 2021 and discussed:

- the vaccine rollout;
- advice and recommendations about the risk of myocarditis with the Pfizer vaccine;
- decision to use Pfizer for 12 to 15-year olds; and
- children priority groups.

CVTAG also met on 27 July 2021, and an update will be provided in the next report.

3.3 Upcoming communications issues and activities

As at 26 July 2021

Date	Activity		Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
Week commencing 26 July 2021	Quarantine free travel is suspended – health requirements are in place for returning New Zealanders. Managed return flights from all Australian states continue for returnees until 30 July 2021. There are flights for those returning from New South Wales this week, with limited spaces in managed isolation and quarantine.		Ministry of Health / DPMC	Press release, media interviews, web content	Yes
26 July 2021	Crew from the Playa Zahara, Viking Bay and Mattina vessels continue to be monitored.		Customs / Ministry of Health	Press release, health advice	Optional
28 July 2021	NZ COVID Tracer Release 8 – new features include reminder notifications, ability to save locations, enabling NFC trial in August 2021. To be released on 29/30 July 2021.		Ministry of Health	Talking points for stand up on 28 July 2021, messaging for media release, web content	Yes
26 July 2021 ongoing	Health advice and locations of interest (S70s) updates for New Zealand travellers in NSW, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.		Ministry of Health	Web content	No

3.4 Upcoming publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
Publication: COVID-19 Outbreak Response Toolkit for Aged Residential Care (ARC)	End of August 2021	This Toolkit supports ARC providers to prepare, respond to, and review an outbreak of COVID-19 in their facility.	Clare Perry, Deputy Director-General, Health System Improvement and Innovation, s9(2)(a)

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Top Items to Note

4.1.1 NSW managed return flights

We are continuing to focus on the NSW response at the same time as trying to understand the residual demand for red flights from other Australian states once the pause ends.

Following the announcement of the QFT suspension, MBIE stood up an AOG Contact Centre to manage queries. Call centre volumes were high on Friday and over the weekend, but we have seen a downward trend over the last few days. A total of 3501 calls were answered by the MBIE contact centre (including calls to the NZ Consular Emergency Assistance line) with the average talk time being around 5 minutes. The themes from the calls include a number from NSW who are anxious about getting back to New Zealand, as well as Australians in New Zealand asking about how to get back to Australia.

We have provided Minister Verrall with advice recommending Tranche 3 for those in NSW which can commence on 9 August. Planning is underway for this tranche and we are working with MFAT and other agencies to set up a registration process to enable us to understand demand to return to New Zealand as well as indicators for prioritisation of travellers.

4.1.2 Iwi Engagement

The second National Level Iwi Partners Hui is due to occur on 2 August 2021. This follows the first such Hui, which took place in June. The second hui will focus on informing partners of the latest developments in MIQ, significant items on our immediate work programme, and strengthening MIQ's mechanisms for stronger iwi engagement and inclusion in the development of policy.

Representatives from the following Iwi have indicated they will be participating: Te Waipounamu; Te Upoko Ō Te Ika; Te Arawa; Waikato; and Tāmaki Makaurau.

4.2 Operational Update

4.2.1 Capacity update

As at 7am 27 July 2021, there is currently no availability on MIAS.

- As at 27 July, a total of 30,351 rooms since early March have been released for the period of June through to the end of Nov 2021.
- From early March to present, 103,859 returnees have secured a date to return home during the period of March through to the end of November 2021.
- Returnees from over 180 countries have successfully secured a voucher to travel during this period.
- December release planning is occurring this week. Expected release will be in first week of August, as airlines are still finalising schedules.
- Work occurring on final top-up plan for August subject to Australian QFT tranche allocations. September and October room top-up work is underway this week.

4.2.2 Vaccination of frontline staff update

For workers on site for the week 19-25 July, BWTR shows 95.1% had two doses of the vaccine, 2.7% had one dose and the remaining 2.2% (98 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 98 with an 'unknown' status, 46 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing team is investigating the remaining 52 workers to confirm vaccination status.

Vaccination follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not identify any instances of workers in MIQFs who did not meet the vaccination requirements.

Of the 18 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 12-18 July 2021 Weekly report:

- 6 have been confirmed as compliant with the vaccine order;
- 9 are compliant but have been passed to MOH for investigation as potential NHI issues;
- One worker has been contacted and we are awaiting a response;
- One worker was incorrectly signed-in; and
- One worker had an exception to carry out urgent work (noted in last week's report).

4.2.3 Staff testing update – compliance statistics for 19-25 July 2021

To avoid duplication, please see MOH's BEB dashboard for the latest compliance figures for the MBIE total 'active' workers.

We are reporting on a subset of that full data separately [here](#), which focuses on the compliance of workers on site for the previous work-week. This way we ensure we have data for a full 7 day cycle, drawn from the Who's-on-Location system.

While we look at the total 'active' workforce measure as part of our follow up work, we also want to understand the compliance of our workers on site in the last week.

Workers on site 19 – 25 July 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,330	97%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	133	3%
Need NHI-match	46	
Workers on site	4,509	

Of the 133 overdue, 111 of those are less than 4 days overdue, three are 4-10 days overdue and 19 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 46 that still need an NHI-match, 38 were created in BWTR in the last 7 days and the remaining 8 may be NHI issues which we are working through with MoH.

34 workers were recorded as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 11-18 July 2021. We have confirmed 26 of them have been swabbed, three are compliant but have been referred to MOH due to a possible NHI-matching issue, four have been instructed they need to be swabbed and one was identified as an incorrect sign-in.

For those recorded 11+ days and who do not have recent attendance in a MIQF, we are continuing to follow-up with employers and in some cases employees. They will all be contacted again this week and if no further action is taken to get compliant, we will refer these cases to MOH.

The number recorded as 11+ days has come down from 517 last week to 469. This is down from 832 at the beginning of the month. This will continue to be an area of focus for us until we can close this group off.

4.2.4 Ombudsman update

We met with the Chief Ombudsman this week to discuss a number of matters including MIAS, the recent management of mariners and the suitability of the Grand Mercure MIF in Wellington. Chief Executive Carolyn Tremain, and MIQ Associate Deputy Chief Executive, Andrew Milne, attended this meeting.

We intend to hold a follow up meeting with the Ombudsman to further discuss these matters. We will provide you with further advice in relation to the Ombudsman's request for a meeting with you following this meeting.

MIQ have responded to the Ombudsman's investigation into other special circumstances fee waivers; and we are working on a response related to support to mariners.

With regard to the Ombudsman's OPCAT function, we received provisional reports for the Distinction Hamilton and Jet Park Hamilton and are working to formulate MBIE's response to the draft recommendations.

The Ombudsman has written to you regarding his concerns around the suitability of the Grand Mercure. A follow-up interview of MIF staff by the Ombudsman's Office occurred for the Grand Mercure on Friday 23 July.

4.2.5 Pause on NZDF uplift

A planned uplift of 45 NZDF personnel has been put on hold for two weeks. NZDF has raised concerns about this uplift and the impact it will have on NZDF operations. We have agreed to a two week hold on this uplift to allow officials and Ministers to discuss this situation. We will discuss this further with you next week.

In the interim, we have needed to contract with our private security provider (First Security) to meet the additional security requirements in the short term.

4.2.6 Worksafe Investigation

WorkSafe have been investigating First Security to ensure they are meeting their PCBU obligations against the Air Border Order following two of their workers testing positive at the Grand Mercure Auckland.

The Chief Executive of First Security has recently informed MBIE that WorkSafe have advised him that First Security have answered all queries and that the file is now closed.

4.2.7 Treatmefairly Update

On 9 July the new mechanism for all MIQ workers to report instances of discrimination or being treated differently because they work at MIQ started which is treatmefairly@miq.govt.nz. In the two weeks from 09 to 16 July a total of 26 reports were received, though not all were related to the scope of this project, that is, related to discrimination from being an MIQ worker.

Everyone who submitted a report to *treatmefairly* has received a high-level response with generalised next steps; followed by a personalised reply suggesting next steps for the specific situation each individual has experienced. We are continuing to assist a number of individuals as they work through the complaints process for recent events and support them through next steps.

4.3 Schedule of Reviews

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
Regulations Review Committee and Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges	May 2021	August 2021	In progress	MBIE has received a letter from the Regulations Review Committee, requesting information about MIQ fee increases for temporary entry class visa holders. At their meeting on 19 May 2021, the Committee considered the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2021, which increased managed isolation costs for many temporary entry class visa holders. They write that the fee increase for this class of persons was "substantial, with MIQ fees now around three times higher than they were". The Committee has requested from MBIE more information about this fee increase, in particular: why the new level of the

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
				fee was chosen; why it was targeted at temporary entry class visa holders; and what the Ministry considers to be the actual costs of MIQ in this context. Our response is due by Wednesday 18 August 2021.
Update on MIAS - BOTs Review	July 2021	August 2021	In progress	<p>MIQ is confident that it has taken reasonable steps to ensure that people cannot gain an advantage by deploying BOTs when accessing the MIAS system.</p> <p>However, in response to the recent public and media interest in the possibility that BOTs can be deployed to increase a person's chances of securing a voucher for a place in a MIF, MIQ has commissioned independent reviews of the system, processes, and controls that relate to the specific stage in MIAS that allows a voucher to be obtained.</p> <p>Recognising that MIQ is continually implementing improvements to the MIAS system, the aim of the reviews is to: identify aspects of the system, processes and controls that could be exploited by the use of BOTs or similar technologies; and to test the system using BOTs and any other relevant 'hacking' techniques.</p> <p>MIQ has also requested that any risks identified be quantified, tested, and recommendations made to address them as appropriate. This work is expected to be completed in the next 1-2 weeks.</p>
Update on cohorting	July 2021	August 2021	In progress	<p>KPMG has been commissioned to conduct an independent review of the cohorting model which has been implemented by the National Planning team.</p> <p>Further updates on the scope and timing of the review will be provided next week.</p>
MIQ Emergency Allocations Applications Decision-Making Process Review	July 2021	July 2021	In progress	The objective of this review is to assess whether a decision made concerning two emergency allocation applications ("the applications") followed the correct process by complying with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Guidelines for Assessing Emergency Allocation Applications (Guidelines), and if the decision was consistent with other similar applications.
Financial Management Review	May 2021	July 2021	In progress	Identify opportunities for improvement in process and procedures for supplier invoicing, review of financial reporting that is currently in place, and review of financial delegations framework.
MIQ PCBU Health and Safety Obligations Review	April 2021	July 2021	In progress	This review is to identify MBIE's responsibilities as a lead PCBU and assess how well these responsibilities are fulfilled to support other PCBUs meet their health and safety obligations.
MIQ Exemptions Review	June 2021	July 2021	In progress	To assess consistency, transparency and fairness of the exemptions from managed isolation process for people entering New Zealand.
Onsite Ventilation Assessments	February 2021	Testing: May 2021 Programme of work: August 2021	In progress	A comprehensive understanding of MIQF ventilation systems, remediation work completed (if required) to optimise the performance of the systems and additional operational practices implemented to complement the ventilation system operations.
Rapid review of Border Worker Testing (BEB led)	April 2021	Two-part review. Part one (focused on MIQ) due to be presented to BEB on 29 July 2021. Part two (focused on wider border) still TBC when it will be completed.	BEB-led report. Phase 1 Final report going to the Border Executive Board on 29 July 2021. This will be provided to your Office once considered by the BEB. Phase 2 in progress	<p>To assess the arrangements in place to support compliance with the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020.</p> <p>We are working with the Ministry of Health on our formal response to this report for the BEB. We have four recommended actions and all will likely be completed in the next couple of weeks. They all relate to work we have already underway.</p>

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
Regular, ongoing reviews				
MoH Infection Prevention Control Audits of MIQ facilities	July 2020	-	Ongoing	The Ministry of Health conducts regular audits into infection prevention and control (IPC) at the managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) facilities around New Zealand. MIQ facilities are an important part of our border measures to keep COVID-19 out of the community. It is critical to the health of the country that MIQ facilities are well-maintained and any infection brought in by people entering New Zealand cannot spread into the community.
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) Systems Assurance Framework	March 2021	-	Ongoing	DPMC are working on a COVID-19 systems assurance framework that will give visibility of the end-to-end COVID-19 response system.
Ombudsman OPCAT Reviews	February 2021	-	Ongoing	Aotearoa New Zealand has international human rights obligations under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). The purpose is to monitor and carry out such inspections of managed isolation and quarantine facilities to ensure that people are being treated humanely and their human rights are being respected and protected.

4.4 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 27 July 2021

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
NZDF Operation WHIO	28 Jul 2021	35	35	Both groups arriving on military flights.
	29 Jul 2021	16	16	
RSE	21 Jul 2021	150	116 (149 pax)	The second cohort of 149 RSE workers arrived on 21 July 2021. Industry have indicated cohort three, arriving 7 August 2021, will consist of another 150 RSE workers.
	7 Aug 2021	150	116 (TBC)	
Construction Accord	Aug 2021	60	15 (19 pax)	Construction Accord did not take up the allocation in June or July.
	Sep 2021	60	TBC	
Netball – English Roses	27 Aug 2021	30	TBC	This will be the first sports team under the new full cost recovery model. Planning has begun. An off-site SMIF (Sports managed isolation facility) for off-site training has been sourced and IPC assessment is underway. Challenges have arisen now that QFT with Australia has been paused as half the team were expected to arrive from Australia. These complexities are being explored to further understand the group requirements and the impact of the QFT pause.
Refugees – Intake 2	30 Jul 2021	21	11 (21 pax)	A total of 123 pax will arrive as a part of Intake 2. s9(2)(a)
	3 Aug 2021	9	5 (9 pax)	
	5 Aug 2021	36	20 (36 pax)	
	6 Aug 2021	19	12 (19 pax)	
	7 Aug 2021	16	9 (16 pax)	
	TBC	22	14 (TBC)	
Returning Olympic Athletes (3 cohorts)	2 Aug 2021	~184	172 (TBC)	Extensive planning is underway for the arrival and management of athletes, staff and media returning to NZ on three charter flights. SportNZ and NZOC will facilitate some Pacific Island Olympic athletes to return as part of the group. Discussions regarding the management of the group due to the nature of the competition are underway to maximise room usage for each charter flight.
	8 Aug 2021	~170	137 (TBC)	
	10 Aug 2021	~170	165 (TBC)	
Paralympic athletes	Sep 2021	100	5	Athletes and management returning from the Paralympics in Tokyo as multiple smaller groups, with the majority of MIQ secured via MIAS. Detailed planning is underway to ensure those with increased needs are well cared for in MIQ, this includes those who have booked MIAS vouchers in the public system. Discussion regarding the inbound travellers and their additional luggage requirements is underway.
Antarctic	17 Sep	200	200	

Programme	18 Sep	39	39	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German and Korean programme.
	21 Sep	1	1	
	27 Sep	145	145	
	28 Sep	145	145	
	4 Oct	46	46	
	6 Oct	17	17	
	9 Oct	10	10	
	10 Oct	10	10	
	11 Oct	202	202	
	18 Oct	42	42	
	25 Oct	20	20	
	29 Oct	3	3	

Time Sensitive Travel

Time Sensitive Travel applications for September and October 2021 arrivals closed 14 July 2021. Seventy-five applications requesting allocations for 181 people (of these 29 are family members) were received. Applications are currently being assessed and those that meet the criteria will be considered by decision makers on 4 August.

4.5 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 21 July 2021

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
11, 15, 29 July 2021	Decision on three Managed Isolation Walks implemented	MIQ	Reactive communications	N
22 July 2021	Mariners in Christchurch from Mattina	MoH/MIQ	Reactive communications	N
Late-July (TBC) 2021	OPCAT report on MIQ by the Ombudsman	MIQ	Reactive communications	N
July – August 2021	N95 Masks into MIQ	MIQ/MoH	Internal communications and engagement	N
July – October 2021	800 Antarctica workforce	MIQ	Reactive communications	N
2 August 2021	Start of 485 Olympians returning via MIQ	MIQ	Reactive communications	N
4 August 2021	Select Committee hearing	MoH/MIQ	Reactive communications	Y
Mid-August 2021	Saliva testing available to border workers	MoH/MIQ/Customs	Reactive communications	
August (TBC) 2021	Rapid Review of Border Worker Testing – Phase One (report for BEB)	BEB	Proactive communications	N

4.6 Fees

4.6.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to 25 July 2021.

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). \$5m in payments received for the week is due to receipting being delayed due to the financial year end the previous week.

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued overdue	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days overdue	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups ¹	505	74	426	5	\$18,218,554	14,697,698	3,245,050	275,806	0	\$0
Maritime	371	254	94	23	\$1,760,542	\$1,174,520	\$534,329	\$51,693	14	\$31,764
Aircrew	204	143	3	58	\$1,088,205	\$817,153	\$15,057	\$255,995	4	\$53,197
Other	23,184	11439	8924	2821	\$84,978,119	\$42,764,780	\$33,181,771	\$9,031,568	1134	\$3,748,720
Total	24,264	11,910	9,447	2,907	\$106,045,419	\$59,454,151	\$36,976,207	\$9,615,062	1,152	\$3,833,682

¹Please note that this previously only included large groups. However, going forward, this now includes critical workers and critical health workers.

Note: The '90+ days Overdue' column represents the number of invoices from the 'Issued overdue' column that have been outstanding for 90+ day.

4.6.2 Weekly Average Invoicing and Debt Recovery %

The table below reflects the weekly average of invoicing from 11 August 2020.

Recent Weeks	Average invoicing per week (\$)
Past week	3,630,941
2-4 weeks	5,269,670
5-8 weeks	5,455,702
9+ weeks	1,370,026

4.6.3 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 18 July 2021.

Waiver applications received	In progress	Total completed	Total financial hardship applications	Total special circumstances applications	Approved waiver applications		Declined waiver applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
8642	2197	6445	831	5614	87	4806	744	808

4.7 Emergency Allocation Applications

3850 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020.

354 applications were received in the week ending 25 July 2021 and 127 applications were processed.

From the applications processed in the week ending 25 July 2021, 39% of the applications were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 19 July-2021 to 25 July 2021	Year to Date Totals 30 Oct 2020 to 25 Jul 2021
Approved	50	2111
Declined	77	1739
Applications processed	127	3850

* 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	52
Rooms Allocated in MIAS	47
Cancelled by the applicant	0
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	5

4.8 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 20 July to 26 July 2021 is as follows:

Week 20 Jul 2021 – 26 Jul 2021	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	231	36	230
Improvements	5	0	5
Compliments	9	0	2
Queries	13	1	12
Ombudsman	3	3	3
Parliamentary/OIA	2	0	2
Other	0	0	0
Total	263	40	252

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 117. For the last four weeks the average is 264 per week.

This week we have received 263 new cases and have resolved 252 cases.

We continue to respond to a high number of complaints which required more than one response to support them with their current situation. These complaints are difficult to manage as we are unable to provide the resolution that they are seeking – a voucher for their planned travel to New Zealand.

Proactively Released

5. Border Executive Board Report



5.1 Items to Note/Updates

5.1.1 Border Executive Board meeting

Last week the Border Executive Board considered advice on the criteria and process to support the supply chain exemption provided under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021.

The Border Executive Board convened, out of session, on Friday 23 July 2021, to consider the implementation of suspension of QFT travel with Australia.

5.1.2 Suspension of QFT travel with Australia

The pause / suspension of quarantine free travel from Australia has been a major focus for border agencies and airlines this week. This has ranged from updating public information and messages to ensure these reflect public concerns; contributing to advice on whether the current managed green flight window should be extended; and considering MIQ options and developing a process for managing demand for return travel to New Zealand after trans-Tasman travel is suspended.

100% of pre-departure test checks of eligible travellers for all flights is occurring at the port of departure (this check is shared between Immigration NZ's Airline Liaison Officers (approx. 80%) and airlines (approx. 20%). The New Zealand Customs Service is checking 100% of PDT for eligible travellers on arrival.

5.1.3 'Very high-risk' countries

Agencies have continued to convene weekly to consider the implementation of risk mitigation measures for travellers from 'very high-risk' countries.

5.1.4 Mandatory Vaccination for Border Workers – Phase 2

Further vaccination delivery planning across all DHB regions is underway regarding: managing the initial demand of unvaccinated border workers; implementing a longer term, sustainable process for priority access to vaccination for border workers (and household contacts); ongoing use of the Covid Immunisation Register (CIR) cohort report that identifies unvaccinated border workers from the BWTR, and increasing use of Book My Vaccine (the national booking system) across DHBs.

A briefing paper outlining the Supply Chain Exemption criteria and process is to be submitted to you by 31 July 2021 for approval. Documentation supporting the process is being prepared and will be available to sector from 12 August 2021.

Agencies continue to support PCBUs to assess their workforce against scope of amended order. We expect to see overall number of individual workers in the BWTR increase over coming weeks.

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Maritime

Container Vessel Mattina (South Port, Bluff)

- 16 crew are isolating on board the vessel
- 4 crew are in a MIQF in Christchurch
- 1 crew is in a MIQF in Southland Hospital (the Captain)

Fishing Vessel Playa Zahara (Lyttelton Port)

- All crew are on board the vessel
- It is no longer subject to quarantine, but is a 'Red' vessel for the purposes of the Maritime Border Order.
- The vessel is due to sail at 0800 hrs on 28 July 2021

Viking Bay (Queens Wharf, Wellington)

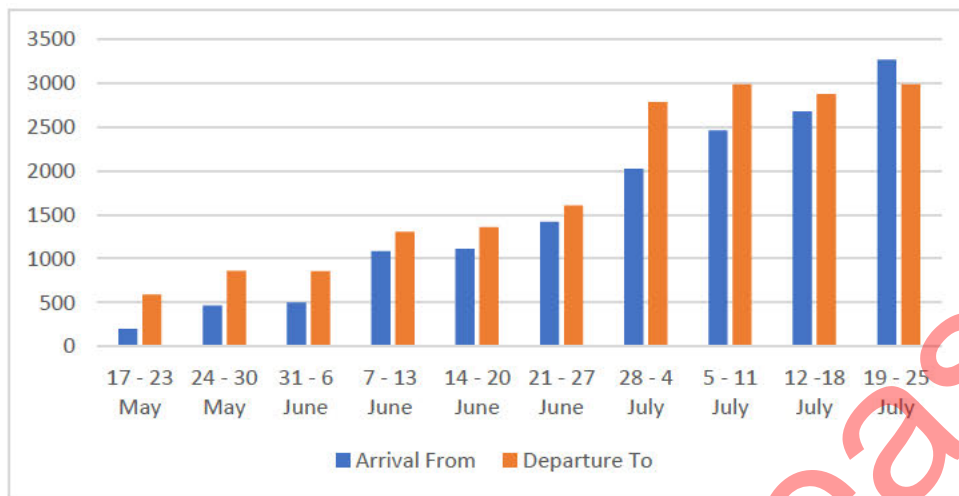
- 14 crew are isolating on board
- 6 crew are in a MIQF in Wellington
- There is a planned staggering of crew return to the vessel through until 2 August 2021

6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

s6(c)



6.1.3 Passenger Numbers – Cook Islands



Proactively Released

7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

7.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board did not meet this week. The meeting scheduled for 20 July was cancelled, and the next meeting for the Board will take place on 3 August.

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 27 July 2021. Tania Ott, Deputy Commissioner, COVID-19 Response and Recovery, Te Kawa Mataaho Public Service Commission attended the first part of the meeting to provide an overview of her role and to explore opportunities for engaging with the Group. Griere Cox, Chief of Staff, DPMC also attended part of the meeting to provide an update on the Reconnecting New Zealanders portfolio programme and discuss the Group's ongoing input into the programme.

Sir Brian Roche (Chair) and Rob Fyfe are meeting with Megan Main, Deputy Chief Executive, Managed Isolation and Quarantine, Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on 3 August. You are scheduled to meet with Sir Brian Roche on Wednesday 4 August.

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group met on 28 July to continue their discussion on the content of their next report to the COVID-19 Response Minister. The Group also discussed logistics around the Reconnecting New Zealanders Public Forum and the forward work programme for their interactions with the modelling steering committee. Ian Town, from the Ministry of Health, will be invited to the next meeting to discuss ongoing interaction for the group and modelling.

10. Business Leaders Forum

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum is confirming the date for the next meeting with the Prime Minister's office. It is likely to occur in the first week of August. The purpose will be to discuss the Reconnecting New Zealanders work before the Public Forum later in August.

11. Community Panel

11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The first meeting for the Community Panel will take place on 3 August at Parliament. The agenda will include introducing the Panel to the COVID-19 response system. The Panel will discuss their ways of working and will be introduced to the Reconnecting New Zealanders work. The Chair for the Panel will also be confirmed. We will provide an update on outcomes of the first meeting next week.

12. Government Modelling Group

12.1 Items to Note/Updates

Te Punaha Matatini's draft report on impacts of risk mitigations at the border, and the likelihood of seeding new outbreaks under different hypothetical scenarios is due to the Modelling Steering Group next week. This report looks at the relative benefits of different packages of isolation and testing requirements as well as modalities.

We are expecting a report from ESR which seeks to validate their model against observed outcomes in Israel. The Modelling Steering Group will discuss this with ESR on Monday, and seek to understand their forward work programme. A summary will be provided in the next weekly report.

Proactively Released

- 1 Themes included anti-mask; mistrust of tests; suspicion of COVID-19 vaccines; and alternative medicines; mistrust of government; political party promotional material; suppression of truth; suspicion of mainstream media; suspicion of pharmaceutical companies; focus on specific people as leading the conspiracy or leading opposition to it; and general conspiracy theories.
- 2 New Zealand Herald, The Real news Who is really behind the COVID-19 conspiracy magazine being dropped into 60,000 letterboxes, <https://www.nzherald.co.nz/nz/the-real-news-who-is-really-behind-the-covid-19-conspiracy-magazine-being-dropped-into-60000-letterboxes/V3CS0AQNUD4RCEUXB7YPHZDNQ/>, accessed 22 July 2021.
- 3 Center for Countering Digital Hate, Disinformation Dozen Why platforms must act on 12 leading online anti-vaxxers, <https://www.counterhate.com/disinformationdozen>, accessed 19 July 2021.
- 4 Voices for Freedom, <https://voicesforfreedom.co.nz/>, accessed 16 July 2021.
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