











# COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

15 October 2021

### RESTRICTED

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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 This Week Week Agency Comment				Agency Comment
vaccination of border workforce workforce	МоН		•	Saliva testing at boundary  As of 13 October, 17,929 individuals and 1,180 businesses had registered with Asia Pacific Healthcare Group (APHG), the saliva testing provider engaged by the Ministry. A total of 29,394 saliva tests for permitted workers crossing the boundary have been completed by APHG.  Boundary testing compliance  Land Border: As at 11.59pm 12 October, a total of 602,968 vehicles had been stopped at the checkpoints on Auckland's northern and southern boundaries, with a total of 8,320 vehicles turned around (1.4% of total vehicles).  Air Border: As at 11.59pm 12 October, of 103 passengers, 16 were refused travel out of Auckland: 4 did not have a permitted reason for travel, 11 had no test results, and 1 had no exemption letter.  Border Worker Saliva Testing National Rollout  As of 12 October 2021:  2,074 border workers have opted into saliva testing. This number will fluctuate due to the dynamic nature of our border workforce.  Of the 1,238 active workers who are undertaking saliva testing, approximately 92.5 percent are compliant in meeting their testing requirements.  On 8 October, I approved changes to the Required Testing Order (RTO) which introduces the choice of daily testing modality for workers in quarantine facilities, as well as twice weekly testing (with a choice of modality between nasopharyngeal or saliva swab) for those in managed isolation facilities for the RTO. MBIE will lead on further communications and engagement.
	MBIE		•	Staff Testing  Compliance reporting is at 98%, (up 1% from last week), for staff who worked in the week of 4-10 October 2021.  2% of staff on site in the week of 4-10 October 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue (82 workers). The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers.  In response to the breach by the hotel worker identified last week, "Who's on Location" (WOL) has confirmed they can add a date to the confirmation sign-in page so a screenshot cannot be used to get past security. They are aiming to have this available by 25 October. In the meantime, all workers must sign-in to WOL in front of security guards.  Vaccinations  The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 4-10 October 2021, 97.6% have had two doses of the vaccine, 1.1% had one dose and 1.3% have vaccination status 'unknown'.  Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week have not identified any breaches of the Vaccination Order.  There were no vaccine exemptions granted last week.
Testing and vaccir	MBIE	•	•	Saliva Testing  As at 11 October, 630 MIQ workers opted-in to saliva testing.  Saliva testing is currently operational across all active MIQF sites.  We are working closely with the Ministry of Health on the proposed changes to the Required Testing Order in line with your expectations, and how these can be successfully rolled out.  We are using all available communications channels to strongly encourage our workers to opt-in to saliva testing and for those workers at quarantine facilities to provide daily saliva samples while at work during this current outbreak.

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### **Border (Continued)**

Ag	gency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Two-way QFT Niue	MFAT	•	•	<ul> <li>New Zealand and Niuean officials will meet to discuss steps towards commencement of two-way QFT, including necessary readiness work and any Niuean concerns about New Zealand's outbreak, likelys7(b)(i), s7(b)(iii)</li> <li>Niue's Cabinet has approved, in principle, to commence limited returns for Niueans stranded in Auckland from 19 October (NZT). Passengers will be limited to 25 people per flight.</li> </ul>
pathways Reopening new travel	ИFAT	•	•	<ul> <li>The second QFT flight from Vanuatu arrived in Auckland on 11 October carrying 137 RSE workers. \$6(b)(i)</li> <li>Officials continue to work with Tonga, the RSE Industry and Air New Zealand to schedule the first QFT flight. \$6(a)</li> <li>MFAT and MBIE officials continue to work with industry and the Government of Tonga to ensure a significant number of workers currently in New Zealand are repatriated on the scheduled 27 October flight (ex Christchurch).</li> <li>The first QFT flight from Samoa is due to arrive on 16 October carrying 150 fully-vaccinated workers. 157 workers are due to return to Samoa on 14 October.</li> </ul>

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

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
WBIE	•	•	<ul> <li>Ventilation Systems</li> <li>Ventilation remediation work has been completed for eight facilities (31% of rooms across the entire portfolio). Five facilities are nearing completion and 12 more are underway.</li> <li>50 air filtration units for quarantine rooms have been installed at the new Hamilton quarantine facility (Amohia – Community Isolation Quarantine facility).</li> <li>The in-parallel deployment of air filtration units for common spaces for the remaining facility (Rydges Auckland) is near completion.</li> <li>Further information about ventilation systems is outlined in the body of the report.</li> </ul>
MBIE ABIE	•	•	Renewing Contracts  We now have the legal contracts for 29 facilities, with three further contracts currently out for signing.  We have signed a Heads of Agreement with the Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch.  We are working to finalise a contract variation with the Ramada Auckland to extend their contract past December 2021 to provide coverage for the 501s in the absence of QFT with Australia resuming. This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotel.
MBIE	•	•	<ul> <li>Self-Isolation Pilot</li> <li>The online Expressions of Interest (EOI) closed on 9 October. We received 603 applications covering 749 participants (633 for travel to Auckland and 116 for travel to Christchurch).</li> <li>We balloted applicants on 12 October and have provided the lists of both successful and unsuccessful applicants to your office for review.</li> </ul>

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

Agency	Last	This	Agency Comment
Fees Collection:  Ongoing invoicing has almost caught up with automatic invoicing, and is now up to returnees leavi  We are currently investigating the treatment of Afghanistan returnees, aircrew and border averter due to be sent this week.  We are beginning work to invoice returnees in the self-isolation trial, which will be manual until a least of the new backlog solution has been completed and is in production. The process to email returnees addresses where no email has been found. Once we have processed up to March 2021, we will need to be the new 667 invoices worth \$2.59m, sent to a debt collection agency:  Specifically a sent to a d		•	<ul> <li>Ongoing invoicing has almost caught up with automatic invoicing, and is now up to returnees leaving MIQ on 20 September.</li> <li>We are currently investigating the treatment of Afghanistan returnees, aircrew and border averters. Aircrew invoicing is mostly up to date with the majority of airlines invoiced on Friday. The remaining airline invoices are due to be sent this week.</li> <li>We are beginning work to invoice returnees in the self-isolation trial, which will be manual until a longer-term process can be built.</li> <li>A solution that will allow credit card payments to be received is awaiting IT security approval. If approved, it is due to go live on Friday 15 October.</li> <li>The new backlog solution has been completed and is in production. The process to email returnees from August 2020 has begun with emails sent to returnees up to 7 September 2020. We are sending letters to physical addresses where no email has been found. Once we have processed up to March 2021, we will need to review the remaining invoices that were not able to be sent.</li> <li>Debt Recovery:</li> <li>Of the now 667 invoices worth \$2 59m, sent to a debt collection agency:</li> </ul>
МВІЕ	•	•	<ul> <li>P2/N95 Mask Implementation</li> <li>Following consultation with employers, unions and workers, MBIE has communicated the consultation decision to all relevant stakeholders. Feedback from stakeholders has generally been positive of the position on P2/N95 use.</li> <li>It will become mandatory for MIQ workers to wear a fit checked P2/N95 mask in defined areas of MIQFs from 13 October and mandatory to be fit tested when practicable.</li> <li>implementation of fit testing had been planned for late October. However, for the following reasons this is now expected to commence mid November.</li> <li>Delays have occurred in the process to procure a vendor(s) to complete the initial surge of fit testing. The Request For Quote (RFQ) is on track to be released this week and the successful vendor(s) will be in place by 10 November.</li> <li>MOH is sourcing a new P2/N95 as the primary model for workers at MIQFs. The change in model has been well received by stakeholders as there has been negative feedback on the current primary mask. The new model is expected to be available in New Zealand in 3-4 weeks and fit testing will commence thereafter. It makes operational sense to delay the start of fit testing until the new primary P2/N95 mask model is available to MIQ workers.</li> <li>Fit testing of workers in quarantine facilities continues independently of this project and is being undertaken as new quarantine sites are commissioned.</li> </ul>

### **Community Protection**

Agency	Last Week	All Call Control	
surveillance and testing  W  T	•		As at 9 00am 13 October:  There have been 1,719 community cases associated with the Delta Community Outbreak. Of these, 529 are active cases, 1,188 are recovered and two deaths.  There are 32 cases linked to the Auckland Community outbreak who are currently in hospital.  There are 2,336 open contacts. Of these 63 are Close Plus contacts and 1380 are Close contacts.  As at 9 00am 13 October the testing sites in operation are as below:  In Waikato there are 4 testing sites for the public, 1 usual CTC and 3 pop-ups.  In Auckland there are 91 testing sites for public, 6 usual CTCs and 15 pop-up sites (new one at Kaiwaka).  In Northland there are 9 testing sites for the public, 9 usual CTC.  In Bay of Plenty there are 2 pop-up sites.

### Vaccination

Agen	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Мон	•	•	As at 12 October 2021:  - 5,975,273 vaccinations have been delivered, and 2,494,557 people are fully vaccinated.  - 14,488 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training. 9,530 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.  - Book My Vaccine holds 733,745 future bookings at 739 sites. 84 percent of people aged 12+ are booked or have been vaccinated with at least one dose. This figure is over 93 percent for the 65+ age group.  • The expected Pfizer delivery of 700,830 doses arrived as scheduled.  • The My Covid Record web application's first phase, allowing people to view their vaccination records, went live on 12 October.  • The preparations for the Super Saturday event are well underway, with DHBs also working to increase vaccination numbers in the days leading up to the event.  • The mandated vaccination of the majority of the health and education sector workforces was announced on 11 October 2021  • The use of drive-through clinics continues to be a successful method of increasing vaccine uptake, particularly among Māori, Pasifika, and disabled people.

### Resurgence Planning and Response

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area	
sponse	DPMC	•	•	<ul> <li>National Response plan Q4 has been released to agencies on 1 October and was tabled at CCB on 12 October.</li> <li>The ministerial process around redactions is underway for proactive release, and a media plan developed.</li> <li>National Response Transitional Planning is underway for the summer and a more vaccinated population.</li> </ul>	
resp	МоН	•	•	Cabinet reviewed the public health risk for Auckland, Northland and Waikato on Monday 11 October and announced that Auckland will stay at Alert Level 3 as it stands for another week, with a review on Sunday 17 October. Both Northland and Waikato will remain at Alert Level 3 until 11.59pm Monday 18 October.	
planning	DPMC	The first in a series of Readiness Webinars will be taking place on 18 October. The Waikato Regional Leadership Group, DHB and CE's will be presenting to the wider system on what went well in their response, and what they would have done differently to prepare better. Invitations have been sent to attendees via the Regional Leadership Group network.  A workstream of regional readiness initiatives is underway which will enable wide-reaching regional communication, as well as targeted readiness interactions. These activities are scheduled to be initiated over the network.			
onse	DPMC	•	•	<ul> <li>Key activities have included expansion of the AL 3 area to Northland with Waikato and King Country remaining at AL 3, with Waikato using soft boundaries rather than checkpoints. Auckland remains on Step 1, with concern around the R number and modelling of spread causing concerns for quarantine capacity and the likely requirement surge for contact tracing within next few weeks. Planning for maritime domain responses is ongoing.</li> <li>A Regional Leadership Group Signal group for response communication and lessons sharing has been stood up.</li> <li>There is concern around mitigations to prevent spread in schools in Auckland following re-opening.</li> </ul>	
QFT respo	MBIE	•	•	<ul> <li>MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak: Community cases</li> <li>There is significant pressure on Quarantine rooms in Auckland currently due to the increasing number of community cases. Current forecasting predicts that quarantine rooms in Auckland will be exhausted later this week.</li> <li>Amohia, a community Isolation and Quarantine facility in Hamilton, commenced accepting local community cases on Monday 11 October.</li> <li>We are formulating options for management of quarantine capacity in Auckland which are possible within our current system, but the options are very limited.</li> <li>We are preparing information for you on short term and longer-term options for management of quarantine capacity to support community cases in the future.</li> <li>Serious incidences involving community cases and community close contacts are increasing which is placing further pressure on staff in these facilities</li> </ul>	

# 2 COVID-19 Insights

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

2.1.1 International Scan of Approaches to Managing Health Shortages Due to COVID-19

### Introduction

- This insight gives a brief overview of some countries approaches to managing health-related shortages
  during the COVID-19 pandemic including their approach to isolation and ICU capacity, use of transport,
  staffing, facilities, and PPE supplies. The countries analysed include the United Kingdom, Italy, Australia,
  Canada, Singapore, and Denmark. This insight is intended to be brief, and a long form report, which
  includes details by country is available if required.
- 2. It should also be noted that for each of these examples the most significant impacts on healthcare were observed before broad vaccine coverage had been achieved. In the UK for example, daily case numbers since 1 June 2021 have remained above 20,000, whilst the number of ICU patients has not exceeded 1100 over that time. During the UK's second wave of the virus the number of ICU patients exceeded 4,000.

# Approaches that countries used to cope with COVID-19 related health-shortages that appeared successful or may be possible to implement in New Zealand

3. Most countries have used some combination of boosting ICU capacity, increasing health care staff and resourcing, streamlining PPE procurement, and building in tailored triaging systems. The successful approaches to COVID-19 related health-shortages in the countries analysed are briefly summarised below.

### **ICU Capacity:**

- A key response to increased pressure on healthcare systems by all the countries analysed was the
  expansion of ICU capacity. This was achieved through various methods including deferral of nonessential services and reallocating capacity used for other purposes such as surgery.
- ICU capacity was also boosted by building temporary COVID-19 specific hospitals, such as in Italy and the UK, where temporary hospitals with ICU capacity were set up in indoor conference spaces. ICU capacity in Italy's military hospitals was also freed up for COVID-19 patients. 1 2 3 4 5
- Cooperation between hospitals also occurred. In the UK for instance transferals of ICU patients between hospitals were used to smooth out demand across regions. In the Lombardy region of Italy, an initial association of specialist hospitals was used to manage COVID-19 patients. 6 7
- To reduce demand on ICU services many countries implemented procedures for patients to isolate away from hospitals or ICUs. For example, those with mild forms of COVID-19, and those with no co-morbidities, were asked to isolate and recover at home, in countries such as Denmark, Singapore and Australia. 8 9 10
- Data was used as an effective tool to maximise healthcare capacity. Denmark's use of data and
  machine learning techniques, also extended to forecasting ICU usage. In Lombardy, Italy, during the
  initial stages of the pandemic all critical patients were reported to a central agency to track demand
  for ICU beds. 11 12

### Healthcare Staff and Resourcing:

- To meet demand for staff, some countries such as Italy, the UK, Singapore, and Denmark utilised varying combinations of medical students and recently retired medical professionals to boost staffing numbers. <sup>13</sup> <sup>14</sup> <sup>15</sup> <sup>16</sup> <sup>17</sup>
- Some changes to requirements to practice for junior doctors were implemented, such as exemption
  from exams in Italy, fast track training in Denmark and offers of temporary positions to student
  doctors in the UK. Italy also added incentives such as providing money for childcare for children of
  health care professionals. In some instances, medical staff were also redirected from other
  departments to support ICU services, such as in Alberta Canada, and in the UK. <sup>18</sup> <sup>19</sup> <sup>20</sup> <sup>21</sup> <sup>22</sup>

Patient and supply transportation capacity was supplemented in some countries using the military.
 For example, in Scotland and Wales in the UK soldiers were brought in to drive ambulances. In Singapore, the government requisitioned civil defence force vehicles for use as COVID-19 ambulances, whilst in Italy, military planes and vehicles, some equipped with ventilators, were used to move both patients and supplies. <sup>23</sup> <sup>24</sup> <sup>25</sup> <sup>26</sup>

### PPE Supply:

- Issues around PPE procurement were alleviated in some instances by the adoption of more coordinated and centralised procurement and distribution systems, such as in the UK where a "Parallel Supply Chain" was set up to send PPE directly to Health Trusts. In Italy, the Prime Minister appointed a commissioner in charge of coordinating centralised procurement. In Denmark, health authorities used Real Time Location and Tracking Solutions (RTLS) to predict demand for PPE. Singapore, had a prepared stockpile of PPE, which prevented the kind of shortages seen elsewhere, having learned from the SARS epidemic. <sup>27</sup> <sup>28</sup> <sup>29</sup> <sup>30</sup>
- In the UK, modelling was used to forecast PPE usage 90 days in advance by using data from each health trust. 31

### Tailored Approaches and Triaging System:

- Adopting a tailored approach which targets healthcare to vulnerable populations has also helped suppress COVID-19 cases in Australia amongst indigenous communities who would be more likely to have worse health outcomes from COVID-19 infection. This included targeted messaging, restricting access to communities from outsiders, data collection, and providing food. 32
- Some countries are using, or plan to use, a triaging system to reduce the burden on critical care services. The UK has utilised an existing telephone and online triaging system for decisions on the most adequate care for COVID-19 patients. During the height of the first wave of COVID-19 in Italy, separate triaging areas were set up with ventilator access for patients who were yet to have been confirmed as COVID-19 positive. In Albert Canada, the regional health service has in place a triage plan with guidelines on how to decide who gets critical care at varying stages of a health crisis, although it is yet to be implemented. In most countries, elective surgeries were cancelled. 33 34 35
- Singapore enacted a system to allow mild COVID-19 cases to self-isolate at home. In order to triage
  patients, Singapore activated more than 800 Public Health Preparedness Clinics (PHPCs). These
  supported the early detection and management of potential cases by screening patients, conducing
  diagnostic testing, and directing mild cases to self-isolate and severe cases toward necessary care.<sup>36</sup>
- During the recent outbreak in Singapore public hospitals have begun setting up temporary structures to house patients turning up at emergency departments. These areas are used to treat patients while they wait to be either transferred to a community care or treatment facility. Some of the tents were set up last year for screening patients. <sup>37</sup>

### 2.1.2 COVID-19 Tracer App usage – Active Devices and Bluetooth Active Devices

### Introduction

After use of the COVID tracer app became mandatory on 22August 2021,<sup>38</sup> both the active devices and devices with Bluetooth on, rose.<sup>39</sup> The active device count, counts each device that is used that day, once, and is a proxy for the number of users.

The number of active devices increased from 455,810 on 23 August 2021,<sup>40</sup> the day after scanning became mandatory, to 1,173,421 on 10 September 2021 which was shortly after the majority of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 2.<sup>41</sup> Since then, the number of active devices reached a maximum of 1,226,315 users on 24 September 2021,<sup>42</sup> shortly after Auckland moved to Alert Level 3. This is approximately 24% percent of the total population.<sup>43</sup> Since then the number of active devices has plateaued, with dips observed at weekends.

The number of Bluetooth active devices rose from 1,525,306 on 17 August 2021,<sup>44</sup> to above 2,000,000 by 4September 2021.<sup>45</sup> The number of devices with Bluetooth on have stabilised since then, to approximately 2,199,507 on 12October 2021.<sup>46</sup> This is approximately 43% percent of the total population.<sup>47</sup>

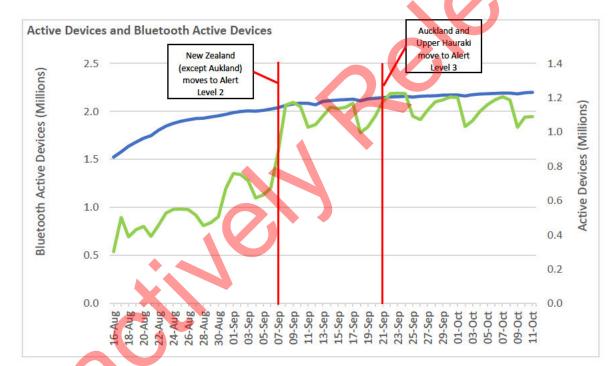


Figure 1: Active Devices and Bluetooth Devices Using the COVID-19 Tracer App

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

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

### 2.2.1 COVID-19 International Perspectives: 29 September 2021

Global daily new COVID-19 cases have been declining since late August, although almost half a million COVID-19 cases and 8,100 deaths are still being reported daily. New cases in North and South America, Asia and Africa are declining, those in Europe and Oceania are plateauing. Over 3.3 million cases and 50,000 deaths have been reported in the last week. 231 million cases (~3% of the global population) and 4.74 million deaths have been reported in the pandemic to date. In many parts of the world, official death tolls undercount the total number of fatalities due to limited testing in many regions. Approximately 33% of the global population

is fully vaccinated and a further 12% have received one dose. <sup>51</sup> The Delta variant and its sub-strains continue to increase in prevalence worldwide and are dominating in most countries with sufficient sequencing rates. <sup>52</sup>

In the past three months, approximately 39 arrivals and 12 cases\* travelled from Serbia into New Zealand (NZ). The number of cases in Serbia is steeply rising, and this is contextually relevant given that approximately 30% of positive cases for international arrivals in the past three months have been from Serbia. There has also been 684 arrivals and 13 cases from the Philippines in the past three months. Furthermore, the number of MIQ bookings in NZ from the Philippines in the next 30 days is 192 (See Figure 1 below). As such, this country situation has also been included in the following analysis. The number of MIQ bookings from Canada in the next 30 days is 218 (See Figure 1 below). Given the large number of projected arrivals, rising cases, and insights gained from analysis of COVID-19 strategies, Canada has also been included in the summary.

New Zealand's MIQ bookings in the next 30 days for the top ten points of Number of MIQ departure bookings Point of departure UK USA 709 Australia India 544 China 218 Canada 192 Philippines 191 Russia 168 Source: Ministry of Health.

Figure 1: New Zealand's MIQ bookings in the next 30 days for the top ten points of departure

### Serbia

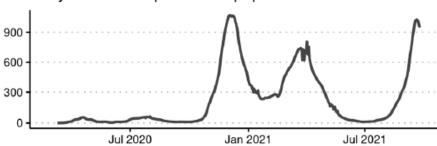
- New COVID-19 cases in the Republic of Serbia have risen steeply in the past three months but have begun
  to decline in the past week.<sup>53</sup> Daily new cases were just over 70 in late June, however, after Serbia reported
  their first Delta cases on 1 July, case numbers surged, and the country is now reporting a daily average of
  6,543 cases.<sup>54</sup>
- Over 900,000 cases have been reported in Serbia since the start of the pandemic, of these, 5,927 are currently in hospital and 8,097 have died. The vaccine rollout has slowed despite the rise in daily new cases.<sup>55</sup>
- Daily average new COVID-19 tests are relatively high at 3.3 tests per 1,000, however, test positivity has been steadily increasing to a very high level of 29.9%. 56 As genomic sequencing in Serbia is low, the extent of Delta infection is not well understood. 57
- Serbia currently administers the Sinopharm, Sputnik V, Pfizer, and AstraZeneca vaccines.<sup>58</sup> Construction is underway in Serbia for the first Chinese COVID-19 vaccine factory in Europe.<sup>59</sup> The factory is expected to produce 30 million COVID-19 vaccine doses annually from April 2022 and will supply Serbia and several other countries in the region with Sinopharm vaccines.<sup>60</sup>

As of 10 September, Serbia's updated entry conditions for citizens and temporary residents require people to provide either evidence of a negative RT-PCR test, a certificate of complete vaccination or proof of recovery from COVID-19.<sup>61</sup> Others must quarantine at home for 10 days and are reminded of the obligation to report to the nearest clinic to be tested within 24 hours of crossing the state border.<sup>62</sup> Minors may enter Serbia without a negative RT-PCR test, vaccination certificate, or a certificate of overcome disease, if they submit either a RT-PCR test or an antigen test within 48 hours from the time crossing the state border.<sup>63</sup>

Current domestic restrictions require all operating businesses to provide sufficient social distancing space.<sup>64</sup> Social distancing is practised in schools, with half of municipalities in Serbia switching to online or combined learning.<sup>65</sup> The government has also allowed gatherings of up to 500 people, either indoors or outdoors; and events expecting over 500 people will need permission from the Ministry of Health.<sup>66</sup> Sports events are also set to continue with the government allowing outdoor stadiums to have spectators of up to 50% capacity.<sup>67</sup>

### COVID-19 cases in Serbia

Daily new cases per million population



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

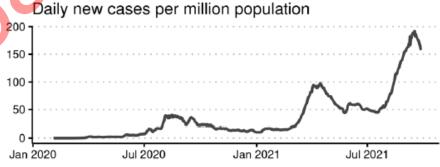
### **Philippines**

Please note, some content below was received in confidence through a formal message, this content should not be shared further.

- New COVID-19 cases in the Philippines have declined over the past fortnight from the record high of over 20,000 cases reported per day, although the 7-day rolling average remains at 17,518.<sup>68</sup>
- Of the population of 108 million, 2.47 million cases have been reported to date. 69 117 deaths are being reported daily on average; s6(a)
- Daily average new COVID-19 tests are 0.64 tests per 1,000 and test positivity has been steadily increasing to a very high level of 27.2%. Of recently sequenced cases, over 80% are the Delta variant.<sup>71</sup>
- Many hospitals are operating beyond capacity, with some no longer accepting COVID-19 patients, while others will not accept non-COVID patients.<sup>72</sup>
- Only 15% of the total population of the Philippines has been fully vaccinated, with an additional 8.2% partially vaccinated.<sup>73</sup> The rollout has mostly included Sinovac, Sputnik V, Moderna, AstraZeneca and Pfizer doses.<sup>74</sup>
- The speed of the vaccine rollout is stagnating, which has been attributed in part to nurses in vaccination centres being redeployed to treat patients, as well as, to supply constraints and mistrust.<sup>75</sup>

Metro Manilla is trialling a new lockdown model to assess whether loosening regional restrictions and putting hotspots into lockdown for 14 days is as effective as regional lockdowns for controlling outbreaks. <sup>76</sup> This system consists of five alert levels and allows areas from cities to households to lock down, preventing movement out of the area. <sup>77</sup> This approach has drawn criticism from the World Health Organisation, warning it is likely to increase transmission and further overwhelm hospitals. <sup>78</sup> Schools in the Philippines have been closed since March 2020; and children are largely confined to their homes, except now in Metro Manila where the new lockdown settings allow children outside for exercise. <sup>79</sup>

### COVID-19 cases in Philippines



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

### Canada

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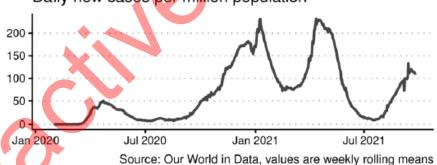
- Nationally, growth in new COVID-19 cases in Canada's fourth wave is slowing following recent tightening of COVID-19 restrictions in areas of surging cases, with a 7-day average of just over 4,000 new cases reported per day. Over 95% of sequenced cases are the Delta variant.<sup>80</sup>
- There is significant variation in prevalence between provinces, with several still experiencing growth in new
  cases. Alberta is currently experiencing the highest case rates, reporting over one third of national cases,
  followed by Saskatchewan, the Northwest territories, and First Nations reserves.<sup>81</sup>
- Despite slowing of new cases, hospital admissions are continuing to rise. An average of 2,267 people were treated daily for COVID-19 in Canadian hospitals in the week to 23 September, 729 of which were in CU.<sup>82</sup>
- Just over 70% of Canada's total population has been fully vaccinated, with an additional 6.1% having received one dose.<sup>83</sup>
- Over the month to 4 September, the rate of new COVID-19 cases was 11 times higher in unvaccinated than fully vaccinated individuals, and hospitalisations were 38 times higher in the unvaccinated.<sup>84</sup>

Public health strategies are determined by provincial governments and vary widely. In early July, Alberta lifted public health restrictions earlier than other parts of Canada, at the point where around 40% of the population was fully vaccinated.<sup>85</sup> Restrictions were almost entirely lifted when cases were around 50 per day, which included ending asymptomatic testing and no longer notifying close contacts of cases.<sup>86</sup> New cases soared and now over 1,500 are being reported daily, with more than 20,000 active cases being handled by the province, almost half of all active cases nationally.<sup>87</sup> Provincial government officials have expressed regret on opening too early.<sup>88</sup> Restrictions were reintroduced on 16 September to curb effects on the healthcare system.<sup>89</sup> Restrictions include limits on public and private gatherings, masking and requirements for vaccine certificates to enter certain public spaces.<sup>90</sup>

From early August, fully vaccinated travellers with a negative pre-departure test from the US were permitted to enter Canada without 14-day quarantine. <sup>91</sup> This has been expanded from 7 September to travellers from any country who are fully vaccinated with approved vaccines. <sup>92</sup> The regulations allow the government to add and remove vaccines from the approved list.

### COVID-19 cases in Canada

Daily new cases per million population



### 3 Ministry of Health



### 3.1 Items to Note/Updates

### 3.1.1 Proposals and business cases addressing ICU capacity and COVID-19 preparedness/ response

As part of the wider work to establish how New Zealand will reconnect with the rest of the world and begin to live with COVID-19, work to grow ICU physical capacity is underway. The Health Infrastructure Unit has identified a small number of opportunities to quickly grow intensive care unit physical capacity in the Bay of Plenty, Canterbury and Waitemata. The Health Infrastructure Unit is managing the receipt and assessment of intensive care unit-related proposals and business cases. Currently, business cases have been received from Waitematā and Canterbury district health boards (DHBs), with Bay of Plenty DHB intending to submit a business case in the near future.

### **Next steps**

A briefing is being prepared for Joint Ministers (Minister of Health and Minister of Finance), which will be provided by 15 October 2021.

### 3.1.2 Health System Readiness Programme: update

This item updates you on the Health System Readiness Programme (HRSP) as of 8 October 2021.

The HSRP Steering Group met for the second time in the week beginning 4 October 2021. At the meeting, the Northern Region Health Co-ordination Centre (NRHCC) presented the Northern Region Resilience Plan, which includes northern region priorities, suggested Ministry of Health priorities, indicative funding, and other requirements to operationalise the plan.

Key priority areas identified by northern region resilience planning include:

- Increasing Māori and Pacific non-government organisation providers' capacity and capability to offer end to end COVID-19 support services to their communities sustainably
- Offering a standardised welfare package to enable families to self-isolate when testing positive for COVID-19
- Using new COVID-19 vaccination infrastructure capacity to enable catch up campaigns for non-COVID-19 diseases such as providing winter flu jabs and childhood immunisations
- Rapid clinical review of decision making and treatment of COVID-19 patients
- Upgrading the facilities and infrastructure within DHBs to expand isolation rooms/intensive care unit capacity and primary care centres
- Sustainable Auckland Regional Public Health Service model that includes building the case investigation capacity within Auckland
- Building practical health system capability and resilience outside Auckland
- Expanding national case investigation skills to speed up case and contact follow up
- Implementing revised and sustainable primary care funding models for COVID-19 services
- Developing a national COVID-19 Welfare Support service to provide/co-ordinate wrap-around services.

The approach and priorities were determined to be comprehensive and nationally applicable. The NRHCC will work with the regions to capture all regional readiness priorities and requirements.

Concurrently, the HSRP has commenced mapping known whole-of-sector readiness activities. The purpose is to identify urgent sector focus areas requiring additional resourcing or funding.

Implementation of a new, whole-of-sector workforce strategy has been identified as a key opportunity necessary to ensure health sector capability readiness. The HSRP team is currently defining the scope and initial requirements of a whole-of-system workforce strategy.

### **Next steps**

The HSRP team hosted a workshop on 11 October 2021 to further define the scope and requirements of a whole-of-sector workforce strategy.

The Steering Group will receive a whole-of-system view of known activities for the next six months on 14 October 2021. This will include urgent focus area opportunities.

The Steering Group will consider all the regions' priorities as national priorities with their accompanying business case/funding requirements on 21 October 2021.

### 3.2 Policy/Programme Updates

### 3.2.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11.59 pm on 12 October 2021, 5,975,273 vaccinations have been delivered, including 2,494,557 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 17 percent are Asian.

353,840 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents ten percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 12 October 2021.

768 sites were active on 12 October 2021.

### **Group 4 rollout**

Uptake among the 12-to-15-year-old cohort has been particularly strong, with more than 70 percent of this group having received or booked at least one dose. Uptake in this group has been faster than in any other age group.

Over 87 percent of the eligible population of Auckland has now received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 84 percent of the eligible population have received their first dose nationwide.

### **Super Saturday**

Preparations for the National Day of Action (Super Saturday) event are well underway. We are working closely with DHBs to ensure that vaccination centres across the country will be able to vaccinate as many people as possible. This includes centres being open for longer hours, transport options to get people to and from vaccination centres, and pop-up, mobile, or in-home vaccinations to support a variety of different needs.

We are encouraging DHBs to work towards increased uptake of vaccines throughout the week leading up to Super Saturday through events and communications tailored to their communities.

The Vaxathon event being designed for Super Saturday will have a strong equity approach, with the COVID-19 Vaccination and Immunisation Programme working alongside the creators of Hahana to develop this event.

### Equity

The Programme is focussed on improving uptake of the vaccine. This includes supporting innovative approaches to vaccine uptake, providing contract flexibility where it is needed, ensuring mobile options are in place where they are needed to reach whānau, and to target vaccination communications and access for particular cohorts of people.

We have been working with Whakarongorau Aotearoa to design and implement a service for disabled people who identify transport as a barrier to access vaccination services. From 4 October 2021 all public

transport services (buses and trains) throughout Aotearoa New Zealand are available free of charge for those travelling to and from their vaccination appointments.

As there are no national-scale transport options to support consumers access to attend COVID-19 vaccination appointments, discussions are ongoing with other agencies, including Waka Kotahi, to continue to identify barriers and provide other transport solutions for consumer access to vaccination appointments.

### The Prepare Pacific Community Vaccination Fund

\$1.1 million has been made available through the Prepare Pacific Community Vaccination Fund (the Fund) to directly support Pacific community-led initiatives towards increasing vaccinations.

The Fund, which is being administered through The Cause Collective, is available mainly for Pacific community groups in the Auckland region, where most of our Pacific population live. However, applications from outside the region may also be considered.

Pacific ethnic community groups, Pacific churches, Pacific youth groups and other groups that work with marginalised Pacific communities will be eligible to apply for grants of between \$500 up to \$40,000 from the Fund. Successful initiatives will be expected to demonstrate the ability to increase vaccinations for Pacific peoples.

Applications are now open and will run until 30 June 2022, or when funds have been fully distributed.

### Mandatory vaccination of healthcare and education workers

The requirement for the majority of health and education workers to be vaccinated was announced on 11 October 2021.

Health workers included in the Order must have received their first dose of vaccine by 30 October 2021, and their second dose by 1 December 2021.

While vaccination uptake is high in some parts of the sector, we need vaccination rates to be higher across this workforce to protect healthcare workers and the wider community better from COVID-19.

Teachers and support staff, including early childhood centre staff and home-based educators, are required to have received their first vaccine dose by 15 November 2021, and their second dose by 1 January 2022.

### Workforce

As at 12 October 2021, 14,488 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 9,530 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

The pool of trained vaccinators is expected to continue to increase over the coming months. The Immunisation Advisory Centre has advised that there has been a surge in the registrations and completion of vaccinator training.

The Hands Up database has more than 16,500 registrations as at 12 October 2021. The workforce team is developing guidance to support DHBs with a quick process for recruitment that reflects the need to recruit staff quickly and under various alert levels.

### **Book My Vaccine**

As of 12 October 2021, Book My Vaccine holds 733,745 future bookings at 739 sites.

### **Technology**

The My Covid Record web application was announced on 5 October 2021. The first phase of this, which allows people to view their vaccination records, went live on 12 October 2021. The digital COVID-19 vaccination and test result certificates will be available in late November 2021.

Work is ongoing to enable registration of overseas vaccinations into the COVID-19 Immunisation Register, which will allow these records to be visible in the My Covid Record app.

### Supply

The expected Pfizer delivery of 700,830 doses arrived as scheduled.

Overall wastage is tracking at around 0.22 percent, well below our own target of less than two percent. An effective immunisation programme recognises that some wastage is inevitable.

### New Zealand support for vaccine roll-out in the Pacific

The first dose of the Pfizer vaccine for the 12-to-15-year-old cohorts in the Cook Islands and Niue has been delivered. Both countries commenced their rollout on 8 October 2021. Niue is expected to complete their rollout by late November 2021, while the Cook Islands is expected to complete their vaccine rollout in January 2022.

Planning is progressing with Samoa and Tonga on plans to vaccinate their 12 to 17-year-old cohorts using the Pfizer vaccine. We expect to deliver their vaccines from the week of 18 October 2021 (depending on flight availability), with a school-based rollout commencing the week of 25 October 2021. **56(b)(i)** 

Planning with Fiji is ongoing for plans to deliver vaccines for its 15 to17-year-old cohort in late October 2021, with their rollout commencing potentially in mid-November 2021. \$6(b)(i)

they are currently rolling out the AstraZeneca vaccine to the 18+ cohort and Moderna to 15–17-year-olds, as well as responding to the ongoing Delta outbreak.

3.2.2 Technical Advisory Group: update

### **CVTAG**

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 5 October 2021 and discussed the following items.

- vaccines recognised for managed isolation and quarantine entry and recognised seasonal employer workers
- supporting evidence for Health Care Worker vaccination order
- Vaccine Alliance Aotearoa New Zealand Ohu Kaupare Huaketo vaccine candidates development update and research project
- body mass index needle length study update.

The next CVTAG meeting is scheduled for 19 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

### **TAG**

The next COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting is scheduled for 22 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

### CTTAG

The next COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (CTTAG) meeting is scheduled for 14 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

### **Therapeutics TAG**

The next COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group (Therapeutics TAG) meeting is scheduled for 15 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

### 3.2.3 Communications Issues and Activities

### As at 12 October 2021

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial involvement
12 Oct 21 ongoing	Auckland outbreak: daily communications and support for the health sector and public, including cases in North West Waikato and Northland.  Locations of interest and updated health advice.	Ministry of Health	Communications, key messages, website, stakeholder engagement	Optional
13 Oct 21	Announcement of My COVID Record an individual's vaccination record. First phase of digital vaccine certification.	Ministry of Health	PR, talking points	Yes
13 Oct 2021	Possible announcement of further quarantine facilities being set up – Novotel Ellerslie being converted from MIF.	MBIE/ Ministry of Health	Web content, PR, talking points, operational communications	Yes - announcing
14 Oct 2021	Announcement of further decisions on alert levels for Waikato and Northland.	DPMC/ Ministry of Health	Web content, talking points, operational communications	Yes - announcing
15 Oct 2021	Announcement of further details of self-isolation pilot.	MBIE/ Ministry of Health	Web content, talking points, operational communications	Yes
12 Oct 21	The Middlemore Hospital rapid antigen testing pilot is underway and working on use in other high-risk settings - Auckland DHB NICU and Waitemata Delivery Suite. Rapid antigen testing for the private sector.	Ministry of Health /MBIE	Talking points, operational communications, policy guidelines, web content	Optional
12 Oct 21	Announcement of new surveillance testing requirements for school employees in Auckland and other Alert Level 3 regions.	Ministry of Health	Operational communications, web content	Optional

# 3.3 Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
Publication: Getting through	December	The National Ethics Advisory	Clare Perry, Deputy Director-
Together	2021	Committee's publication Getting Through Together considers the ethical issues that may arise during any pandemic. The emphasis is on using shared ethical principles so people can care for themselves, their whānau and their neighbours, and make decisions. This is updated from the 2007 version.	General, Health System Improvement and Innovation, <sup>59(2)(a)</sup>

# 4 Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report



### 4.1 Top Items to Note

### 4.1.1 MIQ's response to the Delta outbreak

We continue to see an increase in community cases and close contacts coming into Auckland MIQ over the past week. The trend is expected to continue, and we are expecting to run out of quarantine capacity later this week. While we are working on practical solutions to get more quarantine capacity urgently, our options within the current system are very limited. We need wider systemic changes to enable us to continue to support the large majority of community cases.

More work has been done to configure our services to better meet the needs presented by some of the more difficult cases coming into MIQ from the community in Auckland. At Jet Park, augmented services are being provided within one of the wings, with heightened availability of police, security, health and cultural services. More information on this is provided below.

Contingency planning continues nationwide, in areas where MIQ has facilities, to ensure that we can fully support quarantine for community cases nationwide if required. However, options for additional quarantine outside of Auckland/Waikato are extremely limited under current settings. We are exploring options to decant border returnees early, converting more isolation facilities to quarantine facilities (which cannot be done within current settings) as well as working through your direction received regarding self-isolation for low risk community cases and close contacts.

MIQ is also supporting Customs with a cabinet paper to be presented on Monday 18 October exploring new border settings as directed by you.

### 4.1.2 Support relating to high-needs community cases

In response to the current community outbreak, we have adjusted our delivery model to be responsive to the needs of the people coming into our care.

Complexities such as those with a propensity for physical, verbal and domestic violence, those with current drug and alcohol addictions, mental health difficulties and criminal conviction histories along with gang affiliations, are a few examples of the risks currently being managed.

A risk appreciation process has been established where we are working with NZ Police and ARPHS to support information sharing pertaining to risk which enables us to have a "whole of person" view so we can plan and mitigate, as far as is practicable. This is also to provide assurance that appropriate measures are in place for the safety, security and welfare of all those entering and staying at the MIQ facilities.

A wider, inter-agency approach is also in the process of being developed (JIG - Joint Intelligence Group) to further support and mitigate risk.

Additional police and health staff have been allocated to these facilities to ensure staff safety and compliance of guests in the facility. They are operating in collaboration with staff to ensure management plans are appropriately responsive to those presenting as persons of interest and their associated risks. They are also escorting nurses and staff on their duties within the facility. To further this, we are in the process of establishing a Pacific Liaison Officer and a Maori Liaison Officer who will further connect with community cases in our facilities and their whanau in the best possible way.

### 4.1.3 Amohia – Community Isolation Quarantine Facility

As of 11 October 2021 the Distinction (Hamilton) was designated as a Community Isolation Quarantine facility. The change will enable positive cases from the community outbreak to go into a local Community Isolation Quarantine facility.

The change to the Distinction's designation means the greater Waikato region has 110 quarantine rooms available for community cases and dedicated to the local community.

To reflect the unique characteristics of the facility and at the suggestion of Tainui waka iwi, Distinction Hamilton will now be known as an Amohia - Community Isolation Quarantine facility.

### 4.1.4 Self-Isolation Pilot

The online Expressions of Interest (EOI) process closed on until 9 October. We received 603 applications covering 749 participants (633 for travel to Auckland and 116 for travel to Christchurch).

We balloted applicants on 12 October and have provided the lists of both successful and unsuccessful applicants to your office for review.

We requested your confirmed list of official delegation participants, and up to 10 pilot places for businesses (including sole traders) of significant economic or national interest to New Zealand, by midday Thursday 14 October. This is needed in order to meet our public commitment to communicate on Friday 15 October with everyone who had submitted an EOI.

Participants will be informed of the outcome of their EOI by 15 October. Applicants who were selected in the ballot will be advised of their provisional acceptance. They will be asked to provide their travel information for verification before final acceptance into the pilot.

We plan to provide you with a briefing note on 14 October seeking your agreement to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Isolation and Quarantine) Amendment Order (No 3) 2021 to give legal effect to the self-isolation pilot. Next week you will receive a briefing which outlines the final operational design of the pilot for your approval.

### 4.1.5 Reduction of NZDF and Bulk Recruitment Pilot

We have received the briefing *Withdrawal of NZDF involvement in MIQ* back from your Office and we will now progress this work towards the cabinet paper stage. As outlined in this paper, we have started an immediate reduction of NZDF within MIQ. This commitment was for a reduction of 55 NZDF by the end of October, and was phase one of the work programme. Twenty-one NZDF were removed from MIQ last month with the remaining 34 coming out over the next couple of weeks. They are predominately being replaced by private security as we have not yet started recruiting for the significant number MIQ Officers we need to replace NZDF.

To ensure we are able to replace NZDF throughout 2022 (if this is approved by cabinet) we will be undertaking bulk recruitment and induction to bring the hundreds of MIQ Officers on board. We are looking to undertake a pilot in November and December to bulk recruit 60 MIQ Officers and for each of them to undertake a new two-week induction. This will ensure they are well trained and able to contribute from day one in the MIFs. The lessons from the trial will inform the final design of the bulk recruitment. We will keep you updated on this work via the Weekly Report.

# 4.1.6 \$9(2)(f)(iv)

### 4.1.7 MIQ's role in Afghanistan evacuation

A total of 434 evacuees from Afghanistan have arrived in New Zealand. The table below shows the MIQ status of the Afghanistan evacuation programme as at 10 AM 13 October:

Place	Category	Number	Notes
Naumi MIF	Evacuees	26	
Jet Park QF	Evacuees	0	
TOTAL Return	nees in MI	26	Total Departed MI: Afghan Nationals 408 (excludes birth after arrival), NZ National 1, AOG Staff 90

Afghan nationals continue to make their own way across borders, with 60 passengers expected to arrive in New Zealand over the next 10 days and more likely to follow. Because these Afghans are not yet using the s6(a), s6(b)(i)

MFAT have no ability to

control the flow of returnees.

Options to accommodate arriving Afghan nationals outside the current MIQ system are being explored to reduce the load on the system. Additionally, attempts will be made to have future returnees stage \$6(a), so that we can control the rate of arrival.

### 4.1.8 Current Judicial Review Cases

There are three current judicial review cases for MIQ. The first is by Grounded Kiwis and is a broad ranging claim that the MIQ allocation system breaches the NZBORA and is unlawful. This will be a complex case and we are seeking to have it heard early next year. The first case management conference is at 11 AM on 18 October.

The second is by Sami regarding a decision to decline an emergency allocation for a father to come to New Zealand to support his wife through what is said to be a high-risk pregnancy. A date has not yet been set for a teleconference.

The third is regarding Mr Bolton, who applied for a special circumstances exemption which would only allow him to leave early and not to self-isolate from the outset. It cannot in any event be considered until he arrives in the country. s9(2)(a)

In this respect, the application is premature because not all of the decisions have been finalised. No date has been set for a case management conference.

### 4.2 Operational Update

### 4.2.1 Capacity and Room Release Update - As at 6 October

As at 13 October, a total of 44,823 rooms since early March have been released for the period of June through to the end of January 2022.

From early March to present, 134,905 returnees have secured a date to return home during the period of March through to the end of January 2022.

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

On the 12th October, the fourth Lobby room release went live. 2,927 rooms were released across November – January:

- o 159 for November
- o 1,197 for December
- o 1,571 for January

November sold out first, within the first hour. December and January sold out together (within minutes of each other), after two hours.

5,015 Passengers got a room, with 20% going to departing from Australia.

### 4.2.2 Review of MIQ National Reserves

Recent responses to the New Zealand community outbreak and other unanticipated pressures has highlighted the importance of having a precise and responsive view of contingency capacity in the MIQ system, to support the rapid response to unanticipated demands for MIQ capacity.

To improve the way MIQ manages its contingency capacity, MBIE has commissioned KPMG to undertake a review of processes, data and systems MIQ uses to manage its contingency capacity (National Reserves). It will present recommendations to improve the processes and tools MIQ uses to manage and report on contingency capacity, with a particular focus on enabling MIQ decision-makers to have a more granular and timely view of what contingency capacity is available, how this capacity can be used in the event of shocks to the system, and how this information can be reported outwards.

The review is expected to start imminently and take around 8 weeks. Officials will brief you on results, and seek your agreement where necessary to recommended changes, as the review progresses.

### 4.2.3 Ventilation

Ventilation remediation work continues for the remaining facilities in parallel with the deployment of air filtration units to new/additional quarantine rooms (Amohia Community Isolation Quarantine Facility and Holiday Inn) and the common spaces of new facilities (Ramada Auckland and Elms Christchurch).

50 air filtration units were installed in quarantine rooms at the Amohia on Saturday 9 October. We are awaiting a decision on sending a further 35 units to the facility.

The ventilation remediation work has been completed for Ramada Auckland and the achievement of MIQ preferred conditions has been confirmed. Ventilation remediation work continues for Elms Christchurch which is targeted for completion ahead of returnee arrivals.

Approximately 10 air filtration units for common spaces are yet to be installed between cohorts at the Rydges Auckland (being the last of the original 31 facilities to have air filtration units installed in their common spaces).

We are targeting the final sign-off of ventilation remediation work for a further five facilities within the next two weeks.

### 4.2.4 Vaccination of Frontline Staff

For workers on site for the week 4-10 October 2021, BWTR shows that 97.6% had two doses of the vaccine, 1.1% had one dose and the remaining 1.3% (59 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 59 workers with an 'unknown' vaccination status, 31 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing Team is investigating the remaining 28 workers, to confirm vaccination status.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not find any breaches of the Vaccination Order.

Of the 39 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 27 September - 3 October 2021 weekly report:

- 27 have been confirmed as being compliant with the vaccine order;
- 10 are compliant, but have been passed to MoH for investigation as potential NHI issues; and
- 2 have a Ministerial exemption (vaccinated overseas).

### 4.2.5 Staff Testing

Reporting from BWTR shows that 4,706 people undertook work in our facilities last week, and the table below shows how many of those workers were compliant with the Testing Order, were overdue for a test or still needed to be NHI-matched.

Compliance increased slightly to 98% (up 1% from last week).

Workers on site 4-10 Oct 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,593	98%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	82	2%
Need NHI-match	31	
Workers on site	4,706	

Of the 82 overdue, 49 of those are less than 4 days overdue, 26 are 4-10 days overdue and 7 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 31 that still need an NHI-match, all were created in BWTR in the last 7 days.

13 workers were previously reported as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 27 September to 3 October 2021. Nine are now showing compliant in BWTR, three are compliant but have been referred to MOH for NHI issues, and one has been instructed to be swabbed.

### 4.2.6 Saliva Testing

As at 11 October, 630 MIQ workers opted-in to saliva testing.

Saliva testing is currently operational across all active MIQF sites. The Ramada Auckland and The Elms Christchurch will have saliva testing made available once they are operating as MIQ sites. Following advice from Ministry of Health, we are strongly encouraging workers to opt-in to saliva testing and for those workers at quarantine facilities to provide daily saliva samples while at work during this current outbreak.

We have been working closely with the Ministry of Health on the proposed changes to the Required Testing Order, and preparing for how these can be successfully rolled out. Given the operational impacts we will need time to manage communications and compliance monitoring with our PCBUs and workforce once the Order is signed. We expect this to take up to two weeks. We also continue to work through the reporting and monitoring impacts arising as a result of the changes.

Workers have a choice of testing modality and the uptake to date indicates a stronger preference for the nasopharyngeal testing regime. We continue to promote the benefits of the saliva testing regime to ensure all workers understand the benefits and are able to opt-in easily. For workers in quarantine facilities we will continue to strongly encourage uptake of daily saliva testing when onsite. The Ministry of Health and APHG have provided our Auckland quarantine facilities with face-to-face support opportunities to further encourage uptake.

### 4.2.7 Rapid Assessment on Governance

Murray Jack and Katherine Corich have commenced the second of a series of Rapid Assessments focussing on governance. The first being a review of MIQ excluding governance. This second review is to provide succinct recommendations for improvement of the current system governance structures (if necessary), with specific reference to clinical and data governance.

The rapid assessment will take a future focus cognisant of potential changes in agency participation as part of a more enduring 'system' response. They will consider current arrangements including composition, terms of reference and agendas and to which they remain fit for purpose. The assessment will consider the role of MIQ governance in the broader COVID governance system, and how the governance arrangements both support agencies delivering in their areas of accountability while also supporting cross agency coordination. A draft report is expected mid-November with the final report due December 3rd.

### 4.2.8 Ombudsman update

We have received seven Ombudsman notifications this week. Six of these were preliminary requests for information or follow ups on old cases. On 6 October, we received notification from the Ombudsman of a self-initiated investigation into MIAS.

The three follow ups for the SO Auckland, Commodore Christchurch and Novotel Christchurch investigations were responded to by the due date of 8 October.

# 4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 13 October 2021 (to December 2021)

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
RSE	4 Nov 2021 (Flight 7)	150	116 (150pax) TBC	RSE flight seven will be from the Solomon Islands. This will be the final RSE flight to enter MIQ.
Construction Sector Accord	Oct 2021	60	57 (64 pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month.
	Nov 2021	60	TBC	
	Dec 2021	60	TBC	
	4 Oct 2021	8	2 (8 pax)	
	Late Oct tbc	45	33 (45 pax)	Discussion is underway to resume the refugee quota intakes for the
Refugee Intakes	Mid Nov	60	44 (60 pax)	Financial Year 2021/2022. The number of rooms per intake is subject to
	Early Jan 2022	60	44 (60 pax)	availability in MIQ especially over the October-November period.
	Feb-Jun 2022	145 per intake	105 (145 pax) per intake	
Afghanistan Evacuees	2 Oct 2021	20	10 (20 pax)	While the estimate of rooms available was set as 20 rooms per month, we are finding that we are receiving information at very short notice which is putting a large strain on the system. The phased, inter-agency response is
	12 Oct 2021	6	2 (6 pax)	under development to ensure advanced notice of arrivals from
	14 Oct 2021	6	2 (6 pax)	Afghanistan. Receiving timely information will ensure Evacuees can be
	16 Oct 2021	5	2 (5 pax)	placed at the same MIF and receive consistent wrap around services such
	23 Oct 2021	53	39 (53 pax)	as translation and psychosocial support.
	TBC 5 Oct 2021	50 30	36 (50 pax) 30	
	6 Oct 2021	30	30	
	26 Oct 2021	100	TBC	
	9 Nov 2021	67	TBC	There are currently 121 pax in two MIFs in CHC, plus 7 pax in AKL.
	21 Nov 2021	1	TBC	Peak occupancy occurred on 5 Oct. 250 pax have now completed MI and
Mariners	Late Nov 2021	Up to 15	TBC	moved to their employment. As expected, there have been a small number
	Late NOV 2021	(catch up of	TBC	of positive test results (less than 2%), and a few minor bubble breaches. All
		pers		MIFs have commented how they have enjoyed hosting these mariners.
		deferred		
		from earlier		
		flights)		
NZTE	Early Nov	25	TBC	Trial monthly allocation for exporter, administered by NZTE.
NETE	Early Dec	25	TBC	That monany anocation for exporter, dammistered by NETE
	7 Oct	72	13 (17 pax)	
EXPO	25 Oct	7275	22 (23 pax)	
	22 Nov	80	80 TBC	
Mountain biking: Crankworx	October	70	45 (52 Pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month.
Rugby: All Blacks	Late Nov	65	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Rugby: Black Ferns	Late Nov	65	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Cricket: BlackCaps	9 Dec 2021	33	TBC	This cohort of BlackCaps will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC has begun to plan for their arrival.
	4 Oct	5	5	
	11 Oct	15	12	
	20 Oct	16	15 (16 pax)	
NZDF	21 Oct	50	17	
	3 Dec	76	17 TBC	
			28	
			31	

Cricket: Bangladesh	10 Dec	35	ТВС	Bangladesh will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC has begun to plan for their arrival. Note that to accommodate the team in a MIF that can safely support them to train, permission to break cohorting will be sought.
Antarctic Programme	1 Oct	27	27	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German and Korean programme.

### 4.3.1 Time Sensitive Travel (TST)

The Time Sensitive Travel window for arrivals in Nov/Dec 2021 closed on 14 September 2021. Applications were received for approximately 679 people, including at least 116 family members, and four ministerial delegations for 30 people and 30 rooms. Decision makers approved 439 allocations (439 pax, including 115 family). 456 rooms will be required. A further 10 allocations (MPI - 10 pax) were provisionally approved pending the obtainment of all relevant applicant details.

### 4.4 Communications Issues and Activities

### 4.4.1 As at 6 October 2021:

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
14 October	MIQ Report on Absconder from Novotel Ellerslie	MIQ	Proactive comms and interviews	N
Late October	Ombudsman announces his review of MIQ capacity and systems for room allocation	MIQ	Reactive	N
26 October	Summary of Self Isolation Pilot	MIQ	Reactive	N
November (date TBC)	Ramada to reopen as MIF for deportees	MIQ/Police	Reactive comms	N
November	Report on 4 MIF transmissions during community outbreak	МоН	Joint MoH and MIQ proactive comms	N
Mid November	New MIF in Christchurch operationalised	MIQ	Proactive communications	ТВС

### 4.5 Fees

### 4.5.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to 10 October.

Invoices have various repayment terms depending on whether they are a sports group (10 days), critical worker (30 days) or standard returnee/maritime crew/aircrew (90 days).

Please note that for all arrivals from the 20 August, all invoicing had payment terms of 30 days except for sports groups under Crown Service Agreements who have 10 days.

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued over due	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days over due	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups/ Temp Visa	4,895	2,453	1,530	912	\$48,843,629	\$35,449,425	\$8,439,478	\$4,954,726	1	\$3,100
Maritime	483	359	94	30	\$2,482,846	\$1,796,944	\$574,172	\$111,731	16	\$41,286
Aircrew	220	201	0	19	\$1,945,365	\$1,774,399	\$0	\$170,966	16	\$155,908
Other	25,075	14,038	5,087	5,951	\$85,652,935	\$48,232,067	\$18,296,220	\$19,124,648	2179	\$7,072,016
Total	30,673	17,051	6,711	6,912	\$138,924,775	\$87,252,836	\$27,309,870	\$24,362,070	2,212	\$7,272,310

<sup>\*</sup>Groups has only previously included sports groups, critical workers and critical Health Workers. However, going forward this now includes temporary visa holders as this aligns more to the categorisation of Critical workers i.e. same fee charging structure.

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

### 4.5.2 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	6,615,267
2-4 weeks	3,423,118
5-8 weeks	3,133,332
9+ weeks	1,878,794

### 4.5.3 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 10 October 2021. The numbers below relate to all waiver applications; waivers can be applied for before, during and after an individual has stayed in managed isolation.

Waiver applications received	In progress	Total completed	Total financial hardship applications	Total special circumstances applications Approved waiver applications Declined waiver		Approved waiver applications		aiver applications
	s 4				Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
10,366	3,915	6,451	831	5,620	87	4,814	744	806

### 4.6 Emergency Allocation Applications

6,311 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020. 355 applications were received in the week ending 10 October 2021 and 230 applications were processed. Of the 230 applications processed in the week ending 10 October 2021, 68% were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 4 October 2021 - 10 October 2021	Year to Date Totals 30 October 2020 – 10 October 2021
Approved	156	3413
Declined	74	2898
Applications processed	230	6311

<sup>\*</sup>These figures only include completed applications, with all supporting evidence, which were received within the required timeframes, which have been decided by a decision marker.

Total Rooms Approved Under Emergency Allocation from 4 October to 10 October	167
Rooms allocated in MIAS	133
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	34

The emergency allocation system is being used by applicants at a higher volume than anticipated. This causes significant pressures on the Operations teams as they assess each application and are increasingly declining applications. We anticipate that the continued release of vouchers via the lobby system will reduce this pressure over time.

### 4.7 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 5 October to 11 October.

Week 5 October 2021 – 11 October 2021	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	263	45	248
Improvements	2	0	2
Compliments	6	1	6
Queries	5	0	6
Ombudsman/OPCAT	7	5	6
Parliamentary/OIA	2	1	1
Other	1	0	2
Total	286	52	271

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 141. For the last 4 weeks the case average is 284 per week.

This week we received 286 new cases and have resolved 271. This is an increase from the 264 cases received last week.

MIAS cases represented 53% of all cases received. Numbers again spiked on Tuesday 5 October and Wednesday 6 October due to the third voucher release, but steadily came down towards the end of the week.

### 5 Border Executive Board Report



### 5.1 Key Issues Being Considered

### 5.1.1 Border Executive Board Meeting

The Board met on 13 October 2021.

The Board had a further discussion on trade and business implications, including maintaining domestic and export supply, if a workplace was to have a COVID-19 positive employee. The Board agreed to endorse advice being provided to Ministers Parker and Wood via a briefing from MBIE.

The Board endorsed the draft Cabinet paper "Collective responsibility for an integrated border system and COVID-19 defences" proceeding to engagement with your Office. This is a report back that was requested by Cabinet when the Board was established. It will be ready for consideration at the 24 November SWC meeting. No action is required by Cabinet. The requested scope is activity the Board has taken to improve performance of the border sector including:

- Appropriate systems for collecting, sharing and protecting private data at the border
- Improving / enhancing other agencies' ability to participate in ITOC
- Investment in new technologies for the sector, including integrated technology assets and scanning technologies.

The Board approved the terms of reference for the joint New Zealand Customs Service and Ministry of Health review into five maritime COVID-19 incidents since July 2021 (Viking Bay (fishing vessel), Playa Zahara (fishing vessel), Mattina (cargo vessel) and both visits by the Rio De La Plata (cargo vessel)). Its purpose is to inform system improvements including clarifying roles, responsibilities and communication pathways. Ports and industry stakeholders have been invited to participate.

The findings are due to be considered at the 10 November 2021 Board meeting with a report provided to you after this.

### 5.1.2 Presentation of 2020/21 Border Executive Board Annual Report

The Border Executive Board is required to publish its own performance story. It has a three-year waiver from publishing its own financial statements as these are administered by the New Zealand Customs Service.

The performance story will be published within the New Zealand Customs Service Annual Report document. The financial and non-financial performance will be published as part of Vote Customs. These arrangements reflect Custom's role as the servicing agency and vote administrator.

The BEB Annual Report will be presented to the House of Representatives by the Minister of Customs by 21 October 2021. A physical copy of the BEB Annual Report will be forwarded to your Office next week.

### 5.1.3 Statement of Intent

The Border Executive Board has a three-year waiver from publishing its own strategic intent. The strategic direction for the border is incorporated into the New Zealand Customs Service Statement of Intent 2021-2025.

The Minister of Customs is being asked to present the Statement of Intent to the House of Representatives by 21 October 2021, alongside the New Zealand Customs Service Customs Annual Report.

A physical copy of the New Zealand Customs Service Statement of Intent 2021-2025 will be forwarded to your Office next week.

### 5.1.4 Future Borders Sprint Process

As reported last week, the project team concluded an eight-week sprint and delivered their final showcase to the Chief Executive Sponsors' group on 6 October 2021. You will be provided with a final report shortly.

### 5.1.5 One-way QFT with Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu

On 11 October 2021, the second one-way quarantine-free flight from Vanuatu with 137 vaccinated Recognised Seasonal Employer workers arrived in Auckland.

The first one-way quarantine-free flight from Samoa is scheduled to land in Auckland on 17 October 2021. Planning for the first one-way quarantine-free flight from Tonga is still ongoing.

### 6 New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



### 6.1 Items to Note/Updates

### 6.1.1 Maritime

Customs has initiated communications activities to inform the yachting community of the entry requirements and health protections in place at the maritime border to protect against COVID-19, including requirements for isolation and MIQ for those who are returning home to New Zealand from the Pacific.

The Maritime Border Order and private craft pages on Customs' website have been updated and includes a new FAQ section. A Facebook advertising campaign is running until mid-November, targeting people with yachting interests across Fiji, Samoa, Tonga, French Polynesia, New Caledonia and the Cook Islands, Customs has also approached yachting community groups on Facebook, which have agreed to share our messaging with their members. Customs is pushing information out on our own social media accounts while Maritime NZ and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade will share Customs' messaging via their social media networks.

Key yachting stakeholders in New Zealand and across the Pacific have been communicated with via email and a new easy reference information flier which sets out the key requirements for small craft. Small craft messaging has been included in the weekly Customs Release, as well as in Maritime NZ's regular stakeholder email. The messaging will also be shared with the Oceania Customs Organisation Secretariat for distribution to their relevant Pacific networks.

There will be an increase in small craft arrivals this week, with 15 arrivals occurring between 14 – 26 October carrying 39 crew. 13 of these small craft will likely have completed 12 days at sea and will therefore be allowed to complete their 14-day isolation alongside at the isolation berth in Opua. Remaining crews will be transferred to Auckland MIQ.

### 6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 4 October 2021 to 10 October 2021, there were no warnings or infringements issued.

### Red flights

	Date	4 Oct	5 Oct	6 Oct	7 Oct	8 Oct	9 Oct	10 Oct	Week Total	%
ļ	Passengers subject to	461	251	220	340	186	275	264	1997	
Primary	Test Certificate Verified	444	237	213	322	177	263	247	1903	95.3%
Actions	Exemption verified	13	11	5	11	4	47	13	67	3.4%
(Passport Control)	Referred to Secondary Area	4	3	2	7	5	3	4	27	1.3%
necessary because	Compliant	4	3	2	7	5	3	4	27	100%
Secondary Area Actions	Warned	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Infringement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
ACLIONS	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

### 6.1.3 QFT - Cook Islands

Quarantine-free travel from New Zealand to the Cook Islands remains paused. Last week, the first repatriation flight to the Cook Islands departed Christchurch with approximately 90 travellers based outside of Auckland.

On 15 October 2021, the second repatriation flight carrying Auckland-based travellers to the Cook Islands is scheduled to depart. There are approximately 160 travellers registered for this flight. Upon arrival, they will stay a full 14 days in a Managed Isolation and Quarantine facility

All returnees have to be vaccinated and return negative COVID-19 test results less than 72 hours prior to their flight.

On 8 October 2021 there was one green (quarantine-free) flight from the Cook Islands to New Zealand which arrived at Auckland with 64 passengers.

### 7 COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

### 7.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives Board (CCB) held its most recent fortnightly meeting on October 12, 2021. Discussions covered recent advice received from the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review and Advice Group (CICRIAG) and the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group (SC19PHAG), progress in the vaccination programme, and lessons emerging from the recent Auckland outbreak and their implications for Reconnecting New Zealand. This was supplemented by a strategic roundtable of participants.

# 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 5 October, 2021. Members of DPMC's Policy team attended part of the meeting to discuss the proposed COVID-19 vaccine certificates for domestic use. Members of the Group, Professor Philip Hill and Dr Debbie Ryan met with representatives from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade on 1 October, 2021 to discuss assurance frameworks and mechanisms in place for one-way Quarantine Free Travel for Recognised Seasonal Workers from certain Pacific countries.

Regarding the Group's recent advice to you on the Delta outbreak, DPMC has sought responses from relevant agencies in preparation for the proactive release of the advice during the coming fortnight.

# 9 Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

### 9.1 Items to Note/Updates

Following discussions held on October 6, 2021, the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group (SC19PHAG) delivered its most recent advice to Minister Verrall last Friday. The central focus of this document is the strategy for a highly vaccinated New Zealand. The advice answered the questions posed by Minister Verrall on:

- What public health objectives or strategy should New Zealand pursue, following the completion of the vaccination campaign?
- Given the answer to the first question, what should future case-based measures be?
- What is the Group's feedback on the draft "traffic light" framework?
- How do we transition to the new approach described above, noting the possibility of a concurrent community outbreak?

The document has since been shared with the Ministry of Health, the Prime Minister's Office, and the CCB, and work is underway to implement its recommendations.

### 10 Business Leaders Forum

### 10.1 Items to Note/Updates

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

# 11 Community Panel

### 11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Community Panel did not meet this week. Sarah Sparks, Chair of the Community Panel, met with the CCB to provide context around the Community Panel's latest insights and a paper will be provided to the CCB for its next meeting including context around these insights. The next meeting for the Panel will be on 10 November, 2021.

# 12 Government Modelling Group

### 12.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Modelling Steering Group continues to receive and discuss modelling of the current outbreak and R\_eff estimates as well as progressing longer-term strategy modelling

# 13 Upcoming Cabinet Papers

Title	Agency	Committee	Date Expected	Key Contact	Purpose of Paper
s9(2)(f)(iv)					
		-			
			W		
			7		

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>40</sup> Including the 24 hour time period prior

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>41</sup> Including the 24 hour time period prior

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>42</sup> Including the 24 hour time period prior

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>44</sup> Including the 24 hour time period prior

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>45</sup> Including the 24 hour time period prior

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>77</sup> Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. Manilla Formal Message, 20 Sept 2021.

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