



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



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



BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD



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



COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

22 October 2021

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1. Status Summary

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

Border

	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As of 19 October 2021, 6,431,194 vaccinations have been delivered, including 2,837,706 people who are fully vaccinated. As of 19 October 2021, 14,586 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training. 9,869 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far. As of 19 October 2021, Book My Vaccine holds over 462,000 future bookings at 758 sites. 85 percent of people aged 12+ are booked or have been vaccinated with at least one dose. This figure is over 95 percent for the 65+ age group. The expected Pfizer delivery of 700,830 doses arrived as scheduled. The Super Saturday event was a great success, delivering 130,002 vaccines and far exceeding the target of 100,000. Over 25 percent of vaccines delivered on the day were to Māori and Pacific peoples. The next objective is going to be to build off the momentum established by Super Saturday to continue to drive vaccine uptake, particularly first dose uptake among our key community groups. The mandated vaccination of the majority of the health and education sector workforces was announced on 11 October 2021. Webinars are being planned for both healthcare and education workforces, in order to share information around the Order and address vaccine hesitancy. The first webinar for the healthcare workforce is expected to commence the week of 18 October and planning is ongoing for the commencement of the education workforce webinars.
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Staff Testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance reporting is at 98%, (the same as last week), for staff who worked in the week of 11-17 October 2021. 2% on site in the week of 11-17 October 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue (111 workers). The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers. <p><i>Vaccinations</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 11-17 October 2021, 97.7% have had two doses of the vaccine, 1% had one dose and 1.4% have vaccination status 'unknown'. Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR identified one unvaccinated worker at the Pullman Auckland on 12 October. The worker was incorrectly let on site via the loading dock by a hotel staff member. Detail on the follow-up actions by MIQ are contained in the body of this report. There were no vaccine exemptions granted last week.
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Saliva Testing</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 17 October, 731 MIQ workers have opted-in to saliva testing. Saliva testing is currently operational across all active MIQF sites. 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.
Two Way QFT with Australia	MOH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia reopened its borders to quarantine-free flights from New Zealand's South Island on 19 October 2021. Inbound QFT with Australia remains suspended.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cook Islands and Niue have undertaken repatriation flights for their residents but inbound QFT remains closed.
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand and Niuean officials will meet to discuss steps towards commencement, including necessary readiness work and any Niuean concerns about New Zealand community transmission. The meeting will be held on 27 October. On 19 October, the first repatriation flight carrying 23 Niueans stranded in Auckland arrived in Niue. They entered 14 days quarantine.
Two-way QFT Niue				

Border (Continued)

	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
Border Measures	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Agency Comment The first QFT flight from Samoa carrying 150 RSE workers arrived in Auckland on 16 October. Airport processing proceeded smoothly, with some workers then transferring to a domestic flight to Nelson. s6(a) RSE industry are planning to bring 972 RSE workers from Vanuatu to New Zealand by the end of the year. Officials and industry will work to ensure that incoming numbers remain proportionate to Vanuatu's repatriation capacity s6(a) Officials have prepared advice recommending the expansion of one-way QFT from Sāmoa, Tonga, and Vanuatu, as well as Tokelau, to eligible travellers beyond RSE workers. Self-isolation and testing would not be required, but vaccine requirements would remain. Officials advise that this expansion could occur from 8 November to ensure operational readiness and provide a sufficient notice period for travellers.
	MoH	●	●	<p><i>Saliva testing at boundary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 20,820 individuals and 1,302 businesses have registered with Asia Pacific Healthcare Group (APHG), the saliva testing provider engaged by the Ministry for saliva testing to meet testing requirements to cross Alert Level boundaries. A total of 42,279 saliva tests for permitted workers crossing the boundary have been completed by APHG. <p><i>Boundary testing compliance</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Land border: As 18 October, a total of 725,209 vehicles had been stopped at the checkpoints on Auckland's northern and southern boundaries, with a total of 9,459 vehicles turned around (1.4%). A total of 41,722 heavy vehicles had been stopped and 1,213 of them turned around (3.0%) attempting to leave Tāmaki Makaurau. Air border: On 19 October of the 350 passengers checked, 3 were refused to leave Auckland of which 2 had no evidence of a test. <p><i>Border Worker Saliva Testing National Rollout</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 20 October 2021: 2,307 border workers have opted into saliva testing. This number will fluctuate due to the dynamic nature of our border workforce. Of the 1,347 active workers who are undertaking saliva testing, approximately 91.2 percent are compliant in meeting their testing requirements. A total of 705 saliva tests have been completed by APHG for 440 Regional Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers. Currently 151 of these workers are 'actively' undergoing testing.

Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community

	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
Place and conditions of stay	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Ventilation Systems</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. Ventilation remediation has been impacted by the current high demand for rooms but will continue based on cohorts and some rooms being empty. The ventilation work for the new Elms facility continues with completion scheduled prior to returnee arrivals. Further information about ventilation systems is outlined in the body of the report.
	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Renewing Contracts</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 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. <p>This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotels.</p>

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

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Transmission Prevention	MBIE	●	<p><i>Recommissioning Ramada MIF</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Australian Border Force (ABF) recently notified NZ authorities of its intent to resume deportations from Australia to NZ prior to resumption of QFT. It has now confirmed that two cohorts of deportees will be sent to NZ this calendar year. The first cohort is planned to arrive via charter flights on 2 and 3 November 2021. The second cohort is planned via charter arrivals on 23 and 24 November 2021. This means that, under current settings, the last deportees will depart MIQ on 8 December 2021. Following arrival of the second cohort of deportees, there will be a pause in deportations via charter flights from Australia over the Christmas holiday period, with the current intent to not resume them until 15 February 2022 (TBC). As previously notified to you, MBIE has made arrangements to recommission Ramada in Auckland as a dedicated MIF to house and manage the deportees. We are on track to have the facility ready for operations by 26 October 2021 and to receive the first deportees from 2 November 2021. Ventilation remediation work has been completed at the Ramada to bring it up to the MIQ preferred standard. As part of the commissioning process, MBIE has put processes in place to address the four recommendations made by the Ombudsman in their OPCAT report on Ramada in August 2021. MBIE is also working with all the key agencies to stand up the Ramada as a facility again. This includes agencies not generally involved with the MIQ network, including Ministry of Social Development, Ara Poutama Aotearoa and the charity People at Risk Solutions (PARS), to ensure a focus on rehabilitation and reintegration for deportees. Key stakeholders such as Iwi, the Mayor and Auckland City Council have been notified, with no concerns raised to date. The intent is to notify businesses immediately neighbouring the facility on 20 October 2021.
	MOH	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Changes are being made to the Required Testing Order for daily testing of MIQ workers and twice-weekly testing of MIF workers. This will take effect on 25 October.
Post-managed isolation processes	MBIE	●	<p><i>Fees Collection:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are invoicing returnees approximately two weeks after they leave the facility. This time allows us to gather all the information we need to determine liability and contact details. as a result Invoicing is now up to date with returnees leaving MIQ on 27 September. A solution to allow credit card payments to be received went live on Friday 15 October with our first payments being received that day. The MIQ website and invoices have been updated to reflect this. We are currently investigating the invoicing treatment of Afghanistan returnees, aircrew and pause jumpers. Aircrew invoicing is mostly up to date with remaining airlines invoiced on Friday. We are now working through questions from the airlines. We are beginning work to invoice returnees in the self-isolation trial, which will be manual until a longer-term process can be built. 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. 154 invoices have been sent out so far. 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. <p><i>Debt Recovery:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the now 993 invoices worth \$3.023m sent to a debt collection agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$376k has been paid (or will be paid through instalment, up \$127k or 12%), \$441k is currently awaiting information from customers or has been credited due to an error, a further \$461k (this includes the no address/overseas category) requires more detailed tracing, the remaining \$1,745k (includes the passive collection) debt continues to be a work in progress. Milton Graham is a partner firm that MBIE have engaged to support communication to returnees with accounts identified for active management. The firm will make contact with a returnee if an invoice is more than 30 days overdue to discuss payment options with the customer. However, they are not a debt collection agency. 1,253 invoices worth \$4.12m have now been passed to Milton Graham for active management. Direct emails and phone calls commenced on 12/10/2021. This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices and while we continue to make progress on debt recovery.

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

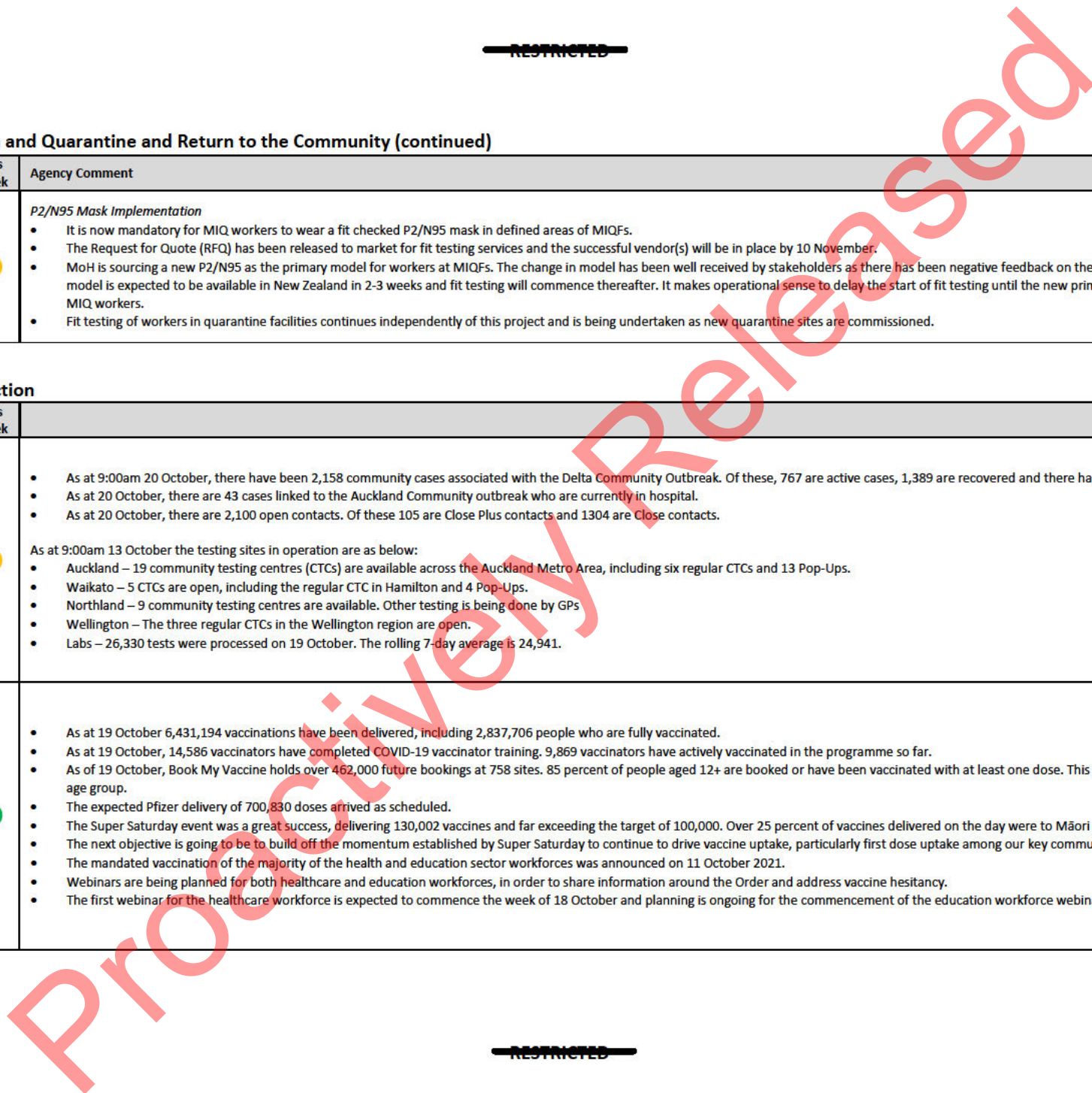
Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MBIE	●	●	<p><i>P2/N95 Mask Implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is now mandatory for MIQ workers to wear a fit checked P2/N95 mask in defined areas of MIQFs. The Request for Quote (RFQ) has been released to market for fit testing services and the successful vendor(s) will be in place by 10 November. 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 2-3 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. Fit testing of workers in quarantine facilities continues independently of this project and is being undertaken as new quarantine sites are commissioned.

Community Protection

Case investigation, surveillance and testing

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 9:00am 20 October, there have been 2,158 community cases associated with the Delta Community Outbreak. Of these, 767 are active cases, 1,389 are recovered and there have been two deaths. As at 20 October, there are 43 cases linked to the Auckland Community outbreak who are currently in hospital. As at 20 October, there are 2,100 open contacts. Of these 105 are Close Plus contacts and 1304 are Close contacts. <p>As at 9:00am 13 October the testing sites in operation are as below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Auckland – 19 community testing centres (CTCs) are available across the Auckland Metro Area, including six regular CTCs and 13 Pop-Ups. Waikato – 5 CTCs are open, including the regular CTC in Hamilton and 4 Pop-Ups. Northland – 9 community testing centres are available. Other testing is being done by GPs Wellington – The three regular CTCs in the Wellington region are open. Labs – 26,330 tests were processed on 19 October. The rolling 7-day average is 24,941.
MOH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 19 October 6,431,194 vaccinations have been delivered, including 2,837,706 people who are fully vaccinated. As at 19 October, 14,586 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training. 9,869 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far. As of 19 October, Book My Vaccine holds over 462,000 future bookings at 758 sites. 85 percent of people aged 12+ are booked or have been vaccinated with at least one dose. This figure is over 95 percent for the 65+ age group. The expected Pfizer delivery of 700,830 doses arrived as scheduled. The Super Saturday event was a great success, delivering 130,002 vaccines and far exceeding the target of 100,000. Over 25 percent of vaccines delivered on the day were to Māori and Pacific peoples. The next objective is going to be to build off the momentum established by Super Saturday to continue to drive vaccine uptake, particularly first dose uptake among our key community groups. The mandated vaccination of the majority of the health and education sector workforces was announced on 11 October 2021. Webinars are being planned for both healthcare and education workforces, in order to share information around the Order and address vaccine hesitancy. The first webinar for the healthcare workforce is expected to commence the week of 18 October and planning is ongoing for the commencement of the education workforce webinars.

Implementation and Operation



Vaccination

Implementation and operation

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
MoH	●	●	<p><i>Self-Isolation Pilot</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Participants were informed of the outcome of their Expression of Interest on 15 October. Selected applicants were advised of their provisional acceptance and have been asked to provide information about their travel for verification before final acceptance into the pilot. We expect there to be some changes to participants as we work through the verification process, as some participants are finding that they cannot comply with the accommodation requirements or have visa issues meaning they will not be able to depart and return to New Zealand. We will continue to replace these with the next eligible EOIs from the ballot process. We await confirmation from your Office on whether any additional EOIs will be required from those who did not make it through the ballot process. On Friday you will receive a briefing which outlines the final operational design of the pilot for your approval.

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"> National Response plan for Q4 has been released to agencies on 1 October and was tabled at CCB on 12 October. A proactive release is likely to be in early November. National Response Planning is underway for the COVID-19 Protection Framework and dual systems for the summer.
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet reviewed the public health risk for Auckland, Northland, Waikato and the rest of New Zealand on Monday 18 October and announced that Auckland will stay at Alert Level 3 with restrictions in place for another two weeks, with a review to occur on Sunday 31 October. Waikato will remain at Alert Level 3 for the rest of the week, with a review on Friday 22 October. Northland will move to Alert Level 2 at 2359 Tuesday 19 October. The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2.
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The readiness focus has shifted to the regions, with a number of initiatives commencing this week and next. The inaugural RLG webinar was held this week, and the second webinar is planned for next week. Connections have been made across the system with key stakeholders to ensure an orchestrated approach for regional engagement, specifically with MOH, MSD and DPMC Comms. Integrated planning across the COVID-19 Planning and Readiness Team for summer resurgence preparations has commenced.
MOH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Cabinet reviewed the public health risk for Auckland, Northland, Waikato and the rest of New Zealand on Monday 18 October and announced that Auckland will stay at Alert Level 3 with restrictions in place for another two weeks, with a review to occur on Sunday 31 October. Waikato will remain at Alert Level 3 for the rest of the week, with a review on Friday 22 October. Northland will move to Alert Level 2 at 2359 Tuesday 19 October. The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2.
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key activities have included continuation of AL 3 area to Waikato and King Country with Waikato using soft boundaries compared to checkpoints. Auckland remains on Step 1 with concern around the R number and modelling of spread causing concerns for quarantine capacity and likely to require surge for contact tracing within next few weeks. There are concerns around mitigations to prevent spread for schools in Auckland re-opening.
MBIE	●	●	<p><i>MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak: Community cases</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There continues to be significant pressure on Quarantine rooms in Auckland due to the increasing number of community cases. Current forecasting predicts that quarantine rooms in Auckland will be exhausted shortly, if the trend continues. Amohia, a community Isolation and Quarantine facility in Hamilton, commenced accepting local community cases on Monday 11 October. A positive meeting was held with the Maori King this week which resulted in agreement for Amohia to transition to a dual facility. This change will be implemented once the requirements for the change are agreed and occur. This work is being done in partnership with Tainui. We are formulating options for management of quarantine capacity in Auckland which are possible within our current system but the options are very limited. We are preparing more information for you on short term and longer term options for management of quarantine capacity to support community cases in the future. With growing numbers of community cases our options are becoming narrower as we balance border returnees with community case MIQ requirements. Incidents involving community cases and community close contacts are increasing which is placing further pressure on staff in these facilities. Two absconder incidents involving three individuals occurred at Holiday Inn on the evening of Tuesday 19 October. All three absconders are community cases, with two being apprehended quickly after absconding and one absconder handed herself into Police at approximately 2pm the next day, 20 October.

PROTECTED

2. COVID-19 Insights

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

2.1.1 From Protest to Resistance

Since the beginning of the pandemic, a common theme in online discussions by those who disagree with the government's response to COVID-19, has been the framing of government and its' apparatus as dictatorial, authoritarian, and undemocratic. However, in recent months this has evolved from rhetoric to some people encouraging active resistance towards the government and violence towards those working within the response including politicians and government officials. This has ranged from protests billed as 'standing up to excessive state control' to the targeting of specific individuals with online threats of violence (such as identifying and targeting individuals for online abuse), and undermining the response, for example through fake COVID-19 vaccine bookings. In addition, the language has become increasingly dangerous with themes of violent revolt and insurrection becoming more common. The number of individuals engaging in discussions around taking such action remains low. However, the normalising of such language and behaviour raises the threat of online violence evolving into offline violence. While the individuals using dangerous speech may not be directly associated with violent actions, they may have provided the motivation and justification for such actions. Police continue to monitor protest activity.

2.2 Insight of Note Written by the Ministry of Health

2.2.1 COVID-19 International Perspectives

Global daily new COVID-19 cases have been declining since late August, though over 2.8 million COVID-19 cases and 40,000 deaths have been reported worldwide in the last week.¹ New cases in Europe are increasing, those in North America, Africa, South America and Asia are declining, and appear to have hit a peak in Oceania, primarily in Australia.² To date, 240 million cases (~3% of the global population) and 4.9 million deaths have been reported in the pandemic.³ Limited testing and challenges in the attribution of causes of death in some countries means that the true number of confirmed cases and deaths are likely to be significantly underestimated.⁴ Approximately 36% of the global population is fully vaccinated and a further 12% have received one dose.⁵ The Delta variant and its sub-lineages continue to increase in prevalence worldwide and are dominating in the vast majority of countries.⁶ While Delta sub-lineages are found, none have been seen to rapidly dominate others.⁷

Increasing numbers of countries are beginning to move away from elimination and suppression, to ultimately find a "new normal". Restrictions and lockdowns are reduced in favour of maximizing vaccination, while aiming to ensure healthcare systems are not overwhelmed. Denmark has almost entirely abandoned restrictions upon reaching 80% of the eligible population vaccinated, though daily case rates are beginning to rise. The vaccination programme in Papua New Guinea is yet to get off the ground and cases continue to surge, with health systems reaching capacity. In this context, the analysis of the COVID-19 strategies in these countries is beneficial and relevant to informing future responses to the current Delta Outbreak.

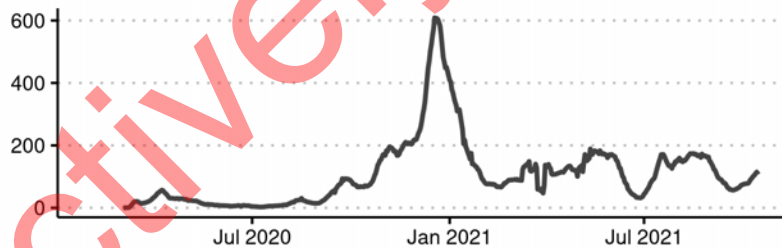
Demark

- After a decline in daily new cases and 80% vaccination of all over 12 years of age, on 10 September Denmark was the first country in the Nordics to remove all COVID-19 restrictions.⁸ While the reopening meant that Danes no longer had to show their 'corona passport' to access some activities and facilities, it was noted that restrictions may be reintroduced if the situation deteriorated.⁹ The only remaining public health measures are to get vaccinated, stay home if sick, keep social distance and to wash hands.¹⁰
- Despite the above, cases have begun to rise again. In the population of 5.8 million, a 7-day average of 684 cases reported daily is far lower than the peak of over 3,500 cases in December 2020.¹¹ Daily deaths remain low, at an average of 1.6 per day.¹²

- Testing in Denmark fell to around 6 tests per 1,000 population in September.¹³ This is low relative to the 20-35 tests per 1,000 between February and June this year.¹⁴ It has gradually increased in the past week as new daily case numbers begin to rise.¹⁵ Test positivity remains relatively low at 1.5%.¹⁶
- At-home rapid antigen testing has not been widespread in Denmark and could only be performed at a testing site.¹⁷ Denmark recently closed all its remaining rapid antigen test sites due to the low rates of community transmission.¹⁸ Rapid antigen tests are now only available in emergency situations where a person cannot wait for their result.¹⁹
- As at 18 October, Denmark has 121 patients hospitalised, of whom only 13 are in ICU.²⁰ Denmark's ICU capacity is over twice New Zealand's.
- Asymptomatic and mild cases have been advised to self-isolate at home to ensure the availability of hospital and intensive-care facilities.²¹ Symptomatic cases are advised to call their primary care physician, who will either refer to quarantine at home or for testing and potential further treatment in a hospital.²²
- Denmark has now fully vaccinated 85% of the eligible population (76% of the total population), with an additional 2% having received a first dose.²³ From next week, Danish health authorities will begin inviting more citizens to receive a third dose; 2.2% of Danes have already received their booster shot.²⁴
- Denmark's strategy of trusting its citizens with truths around the pandemic has been cited as a significant driver of public adherence to guidelines, leading to low death rates and laying the groundwork for high vaccination rates.²⁵
- Denmark authorities have agreed to ease entry rules and simplify the travel restrictions for new arrivals.²⁶ From 25 October, unvaccinated travellers reaching Denmark from the EU/Schengen Area must show a pre-departure test taken within 24 hours before their arrival, while the fully vaccinated can enter without restriction.²⁷ Moreover, travellers from OECD countries and countries that are successfully connected to the EU's COVID-19 Passport scheme can enter Denmark without following testing and self-isolation rules.²⁸
- From 15 October, Denmark's advice on travel abroad for Danish citizens will no longer be primarily based on the global COVID-19 situation.²⁹ The Ministry of Foreign Affairs announced that travel guides would be based on other risks such as war, terror, and natural disasters.³⁰

COVID-19 cases in Denmark


Daily new cases per million population



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

Papua New Guinea

- COVID-19 cases in Papua New Guinea's (PNG) outbreak are high, s6(a)
- In the week to 17 October, 2,042 new cases and 64 deaths were reported in the population of approximately 15 million. s6(a)
- Cases have been reported in 20 out of 22 provinces in the week to 3 October, the most being reported in the Western Province of the mainland (26% of total cases), followed by the Northern Capital District (NCD; 18%) and the Eastern Highlands Province (14%).³⁴
- Outbreaks and restrictions in PNG vary across the country s6(a)
- A national ban on gatherings over 20 people has been in place since the end of September.³⁶ Furthermore, the Eastern Highlands and Enga Provinces are in lockdown.³⁷

- It is not clear how many people are hospitalised with COVID-19 in PNG, however medical facilities across the country, which were already strained prior to the pandemic, are at their limit.³⁸ For example, Port Moresby hospital is running at capacity and has been forced to scale back regular services.³⁹ The main hospital in the Eastern Highlands Province has reported many staff becoming infected and several deaths.⁴⁰ This is of particular concern due to the already low number of medical staff.⁴¹
- Testing is very low in Papua New Guinea, with just 1,848 tests conducted in the week ending 3 October.⁴² The national test positivity rate is reported to be 13%.⁴³ Delays in case reporting are a significant challenge, approximately 39% of recent case notifications were received at least 7 days after case diagnosis.⁴⁴ Whole genome sequencing rates are also low, however all recently reported cases have been the Delta variant.⁴⁵
- Papua New Guinea's vaccine rollout has yet to pick up momentum.⁴⁶ Only 0.7% of the population is fully vaccinated and an additional 0.8% have received one dose.⁴⁷
- s6(a)

- An Australian Medical Assistance Team (AUSMAT) has recently arrived and is expected to provide expert advice and with medical equipment.⁵⁰
- The risk to New Zealand remains low. There are currently no direct flights from Papua New Guinea to New Zealand and there are no bookings in MIQ in the next 30 days from travellers from Papua New Guinea. All international passengers departing PNG must undertake a PCR test at the airport and only passengers confirmed as negative can enter the airport building and check-in for a flight.⁵¹

Note: Data to generate a graph of daily new cases in Papua New Guinea is not available.

Proactively Released

3. Ministry of Health



3.1 Items to Note/Updates

3.1.1 Health system preparedness programme: update

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

The Programme Steering Group met for the third time this week, confirming accountable Ministry of Health staff to deliver against the various workstreams. These are:

- Director-General of Health for the public health workstream
- Deputy Director-General, Health Workforce for the workforce workstream
- Deputy Chief Executive, Sector Support and Infrastructure for the environment, facilities, and supplies workstream
- Chief Allied Health and Chief Nursing Officers for COVID-19 care in the community workstream.

The regional District Health Boards (DHBs) are currently applying the methodology of the northern region resilience planning to formulate regional resilience plans, and then a subsequent aggregate national set of plans. The completed regional resilience plans are due back to the Ministry of Health on 21 October.

Concurrently, the programme is pulling together all the known sector activities into an overall national preparedness work programme. All activities are continuing to progress while the formal work programme is finalised. The work programme is underpinned by the evidence and requirements of the DHBs, applying equitable principles to vulnerable communities, data and digital technologies, and funding support. The draft work programme will be socialised with the accountable executives, pending DHB regional plans, and subsequently tabled at the Steering Group for approval, and Assurance Group for noting.

Next steps

On 21 October the Steering Group will consider all the regions' priorities with their accompanying business case/funding requirements.

The regional priorities will be incorporated into a draft national preparedness work programme for consideration by the Steering and Assurance Groups the following week.

The Programme is hosting multiple workstream workshops in the week of 18 October to collate the draft preparedness work programme.

3.2 Policy/Programme Updates

3.2.1 Impact of COVID-19 on the trainee health workforce pipeline: update

This item updates you on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on health workforce training and education.

The Ministry of Health recently asked responsible authorities (RAs) to report what, if any, affect the recent COVID-19 alert level restrictions instituted in the Auckland region have had on the training pipeline. Although less than half of the RAs responded, they consistently reported only minimal disruptions and were confident that these were being adequately mitigated. This suggests that the system has continued to adapt well since we previously sought similar (nation-wide) information in May 2020.

Disruptions reported

Some students have been unable to undertake their clinical placements and assessments, causing education providers to restructure and/or revise the scheduling of programmes and, where no alternative options were available, pause training. Assessments were also delayed where alternative methods (i.e. virtual assessments) could not be used.

The Royal Australian College of Surgeons cancelled fellowship examinations for nine medical specialties, affecting approximately 200 candidates who will now sit assessments in 2022. It is not clear how many of these are New Zealand candidates.

In pharmacy, current plans are to proceed with year-end assessments, but they may still be delayed until May 2022 (with potential significant effect on registration dates for the current and next intern cohort). The Ministry of Health will continue to monitor this.

Based on the information provided by the RAs, the Ministry of Health considers that a longer-term effect on the health workforce pipeline will be minimal. It should be noted that the Ministry of Health has limited levers to intervene or to influence this part of the system. This continues to expose the future health workforce pipeline to risk.

Next steps

We will continue to monitor and report on any further disruptions to the trainee pipeline that may impact the health workforce.

3.2.2 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11.59 pm on 19 October 2021, 6,431,194 vaccinations have been delivered, including 2,837,706 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 17 percent are Asian.

382,141 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 19 October 2021.

784 sites were active on 19 October 2021.

On 19 October 2021, the Programme reached the milestone of 100 percent of eligible Asian people receiving their first dose of the vaccine.

Group 4 rollout

More than 89 percent of the eligible population of Auckland has now received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 85 percent of the eligible population has received their first dose nationwide.

Uptake among the 12-to-15-year-old cohort has been particularly strong, with more than 75 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.

Super Saturday

The National Day of Action (Super Saturday) event was a great success. 130,002 vaccinations were delivered on the day, a record number of doses and exceeding the target of 100,000. This includes 39,025 first doses and 90,977 second doses. Approximately 2.5 percent of the total population of New Zealand was vaccinated on the day.

The event had a strong equity approach and turnout among the Māori population was high with 21,702 doses delivered to Māori, making up more than 16 percent of the total doses delivered on the day. Particularly encouraging was the fact that approximately half of the doses administered to Māori were first doses. 12,274 doses were delivered to Pasifika, making up more than nine percent of the doses delivered on the day.

The next objective will be to build off the momentum established by Super Saturday to continue to drive vaccine uptake, particularly first dose uptake among key community groups.

Equity

A major focus of the Programme in the lead-up to Super Saturday was on ensuring accessibility and flexibility of delivery settings on the day. This included working with DHBs to help them identify and promote accessible vaccination sites and identifying and sharing resources developed by DHBs and the disabled community.

Hon Peeni Henare and members of the equity team have recently been engaging with Māori health providers, iwi and primary care providers across Northland, Taranaki, Lakes, Canterbury and West Coast DHBs. It has been a positive way to look at collaborative approaches that are locally led and nationally supported. It has also created opportunity to pivot the Programme so that the hard-to-reach whānau are considered, and strategies can be developed. The equity team has followed up by being invited to join conversations with the DHBs, health providers and Iwi.

Third primary dose for immunocompromised people

We are ready to implement the administration of a third primary dose for eligible consumers in the week of 18 October 2021 following confirmation of an announcement with the Minister's office. Two outstanding issues are being resolved:

- ensuring people who are eligible for a third dose will have access to free consultation with their primary care provider
- completion of supporting guidance and collateral by the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) by 21 October 2021.

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.

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.

The amendment to the Order is being drafted and is expected to be signed in the week commencing 18 October 2021. Planning is underway and communications material is being developed to support implementation of the amendments to the Order. Work is also underway on processes for exemptions to the Order for people who are unable to be vaccinated or to avoid critical staff shortages.

Webinars are being planned for both healthcare and education workforces, to share information around the Order and address vaccine hesitancy. The first of these webinars is expected to take place with healthcare workers in the week of 18 October 2021. Planning is ongoing for the education workforce webinars; these are expected to commence in the near future.

Workforce

As at 19 October 2021, 14,586 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 9,869 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

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

The Hands Up database has more than 17,100 registrations as at 19 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 19 October 2021, Book My Vaccine holds over 462,000 future bookings at 758 sites. With increasing numbers of fully vaccinated people and the popularity of drive-through and walk-in vaccination clinics, reduction in booking numbers is to be expected.

Technology

The first phase of the My Covid Record web application, 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.

Supply

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

Overall wastage is tracking well at approximately 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 rollout in the Pacific

Niue and Cook Islands commenced their rollout to their 12 to 15-year-olds on 8 October 2021. Niue has completed its first dose rollout to this age group; it has yet to release their final numbers. Cook Islands commenced its rollout to its younger age group in Rarotonga, successfully delivering a first dose to 86 percent of those eligible. Due to the remote nature of the outer islands, the rollout is expected to be complete by January 2022.

Planning is progressing well with Samoa and Tonga on the delivery of the Pfizer vaccine to support the vaccination of their 12 to 17-year-old cohorts. We are aiming to deliver the vaccines to Tonga and Samoa from the week of 18 October 2021, with vaccines being delivered the week of 18 October 2021. School-based vaccine rollout in Tonga will commence on 22 October 2021, and Samoa on 25 October 2021.

Planning with Fiji is ongoing, as it looks to complete the rollout of the Moderna vaccine to the 15 to 17-year-olds group, and its population aged 18 and over with the AstraZeneca vaccine. s6(b)(i)

We have indicated to Tokelau a vaccine delivery of November 2021. We are pursuing an option of either a New Zealand Defence Force delivery or a commercial delivery via Samoa.

3.2.3 Technical Advisory Group: update

CVTAG

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) did not meet in the week commencing 11 October 2021. The next CVTAG meeting was scheduled for 19 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

COVID-19 TAG

TAG did not meet in the week commencing 11 October 2021. The next TAG meeting is scheduled for 22 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

CTTAG

The COVID-19 Testing TAG (CTTAG) met on 14 October 2021 and discussed the following items:

- Work in progress in response to rapid review
 - briefing response to rapid review
 - draft actions to each recommendation
 - testing strategy draft
- Pilot projects for rapid antigen test (RAT)
 - two workshops with business leads exploring RAT pilots
 - Middlemore/Auckland/Waitemātā DHB pilots
 - •Director-General of Health authorisation of RAT

- New tests evaluation and approval framework.

The next CTTAG meeting is scheduled for 28 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

Therapeutics TAG

The COVID-19 Therapeutics TAG met on 15 October 2021 and discussed the following items.

- COVID-19 Therapeutics Strategy
- Pharmac and Medsafe updates
- structure for interface with primary care
- community therapeutics: oral agents/horizon scanning
- paediatric therapeutics
- guideline update/patient information update.

The next Therapeutics TAG meeting is scheduled for 29 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

3.2.4 Communications Issues and Activities

As at 19 October 2021

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial involvement
19 Oct 21 ongoing	Auckland outbreak: daily communications and support for the health sector and public, including cases in the Waikato. Locations of interest and updated health advice.	Ministry of Health	Communications, key messages, website, stakeholder engagement	Optional
19 Oct 21	Pilots for rapid antigen testing at Middlemore Hospital Emergency Department, Auckland DHB NICU and Waitematā Delivery Suite are underway.	Ministry of Health	Talking points, operational communications, policy guidelines, web content	Optional
19 Oct 21	Trial of rapid antigen testing for the 25 businesses.	Ministry of Health / MBIE	Operational communications, policy guidelines, web content	Optional
19 Oct 21	Amendment to RTO for daily testing of MIQ workers and twice-weekly testing of MIF workers, effective 28 October.	Ministry of Health	Press release, talking points, Q&A, operational communications, web content	Yes, announcing
20 Oct 21	Announcement on allocation in MIQ for critical health and disability workers.	MBIE / Ministry of Health	Press release	Optional
22 Oct 21	Preparation for new COVID-19 management framework announcement.	DPMC / Ministry of Health / key agencies	Q&As, website, engagement materials	Optional

3.3 Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
Publication: Getting through Together	December 2021	The National Ethics Advisory Committee's publication Getting Through Together considers the ethical issues that may arise during any pandemic. The emphasis is on using shared ethical principles so people can care for themselves, their whānau and their neighbours, and make decisions. This is updated from the 2007 version.	Clare Perry, Deputy Director-General, Health System Improvement and Innovation S9(2)(a)

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Items to Note/Updates

4.1.1 MIQ's response to the Delta outbreak

We continue to see an increase in community cases coming into Auckland MIQ over the past week. We are expecting to run out of quarantine capacity soon if this trend continues. We are starting to see the impact of the Ministry of Health self-isolation pilot with referrals to MIQ dropping in relation to case numbers. While we are working on practical solutions to get more quarantine capacity, our options within the current system are very limited due to the ongoing need to support border returnees. System-wide changes will be required to enable us to continue to support large numbers of ongoing community cases.

This week we had three absconders from the Holiday Inn, Auckland. Two community cases absconded over the facility fences, and were under MIQ and Police observation at all times. They were apprehended quickly and arrested. The third absconder was a community case who was transported to MIQ directly from hospital. Permission was given for her to be escorted to her home to collect clothing and ensure her dog was being adequately cared for. She absconded from her property during the 10 minute period provided to complete this activity at which point the MIQ security escort contacted New Zealand Police. The absconder subsequently handed herself into Police at approximately 2pm on Wednesday 20 October. We will be undertaking reviews of each of these events and will release the results once complete.

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 convert one further isolation facility to quarantine in Auckland (which cannot be done within current settings), as well as exploring further quarantine facilities in Christchurch and continuing conversations with Waikato Tainui and the Maori King who have recently agreed that Amohia in Hamilton can shift to operate as a dual facility to support MIQ capacity constraints.

MIQ notes that the relationship with Waikato Tainui and the Maori King continues to be positive and they have quickly agreed to changes in support of New Zealand's response to COVID-19, in particular to support cases in the Waikato community. During a recent meeting, the Maori King requested that you consider meeting with him to discuss the COVID-19 response.

MIQ is also supporting Ministry of Health with cabinet papers regarding proposed short stay MIQ and limited reopening of the border, as directed by Ministers.

4.1.2 New requirement for non-NZ citizens to be vaccinated when travelling to New Zealand

Customs is leading the operationalisation of policy decisions to mandate that all non-New Zealand citizens are fully vaccinated before travelling to New Zealand; this policy is due to take effect from 1 November. MBIE-MIQ is responsible for adding a new self-declaration function to the MIAS registration form and, along with INZ and other agencies, for ensuring that those due to travel to New Zealand after 1 November are aware of the new requirements.

An email has been sent to MIQ voucher-holders explaining the new requirement and linking people to further information on the MIQ website. This information is consistent with details provided on the Unite Against COVID website.

Once the new MIAS functionality is in place, people registering on the site will have to state whether they are fully vaccinated, or will be fully vaccinated, with the last dose being at least 14 days before arrival. We will not be asking for any verification, however documentation will be checked by the airlines prior to boarding and Customs upon arrival in New Zealand. This functionality will be in place prior to 1 November.

Some travellers due to travel after 1 November have raised concerns that information is currently limited about the exemption criteria and application process, as well as the type of proof of vaccination required. The

exemptions process cannot be operational until the power is established following changes to the ABO; this process is likely to be in place the week of 25 October. Communications are being developed as information is finalised which will reduce uncertainty.

MIQ notes the tight timeline to finalise drafting and signing the amendment Order. This will place any exemption applications and decisions, needed prior to commencement, under considerable pressure to ensure travellers can still fly. Whilst we think this would only affect a small number of travellers, where there is a legitimate case, we will seek to help people move their vouchers to a later date if practicable. We would only do this for the first 2-3 weeks following implementation; and it is not our intention to publicise this particular mechanism.

We are working with other agencies on a communication and engagement plan and on updating the relevant websites to provide travellers with greater clarity on the new travel requirements and exemptions process.

4.1.3 Self-Isolation Pilot

Participants were informed of the outcome of their Expression of Interest (EOI) on 15 October. Selected applicants were advised of their provisional acceptance and have been asked to provide information about their travel for verification before final acceptance into the pilot. A team has been stood-up to process the verifications over the next two weeks.

We expect there to be some changes to participants as we work through the verification process, as some participants are finding that they cannot comply with the accommodation requirements or have visa issues meaning they will not be able to depart and return to New Zealand. We will continue to replace these with the next eligible EOIs from the ballot process. We will need to confirm by the end of the week whether you intend to select additional EOIs which did not make it through the ballot process.

The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Isolation and Quarantine) Amendment Order (No 3) 2021 has been approved. It gives legal effect to the self-isolation pilot. Key stakeholder meetings with Auckland and Christchurch airport are progressing to ensure operational readiness ahead of the first participants arriving on 30 October. The monitoring solution has been agreed and commercial arrangements are in progress in parallel with the detailed implementation planning.

On Friday you will receive a briefing which outlines the final operational design of the pilot for your approval. Advice has also been provided by officials about aligning the period of self-isolation required by the participants in the pilot with any changes to MIQ timeframes being considered by the Government currently.

4.1.4 MIQ's role in Afghanistan evacuation

A total of 449 evacuees from Afghanistan have arrived in New Zealand. The table below shows the MIQ status of the Afghanistan evacuation programme as at 10AM Wednesday 20 October:

Place	Category	Number	Notes
Naumi MIF	Evacuees	21	
Jet Park QF	Evacuees	0	
TOTAL Returnees in MI		21	Total Departed MI: Afghan Nationals 428 (excludes births after arrival), NZ National 1, AOG Staff 90

A further 92 Afghanistan evacuees (requiring 51 MIQ rooms) are forecast to arrive in New Zealand in the next 14 days. MIQ is working closely with MFAT to coordinate the return of evacuees with available MIQ rooms, but this is becoming increasingly challenging as a result of constraints on holding evacuees in third countries.

4.2 Operational Update

4.2.1 Capacity and Room Release Update – As at 20 October

As at 20 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, 135,567 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 21 October, the fifth Lobby room release went live, starting at 1:00pm. 2,100 rooms were released across December – January:

- o 1,000 for December
- o 1,100 for January

4.2.2 Ventilation

Ventilation remediation work has been impacted by the current high demand for rooms. Ventilation remediation will continue based on cohorts and some rooms being empty. However, given that most of these facilities are currently very full, the work is expected to slow down and the dates for the final retest results will move out.

The Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group (VRAG) met this week to review the final test results for four facilities (Ramada, Naumi, Amohia Hamilton and Sudima Auckland). The group agreed that the final signoff for the sites can now be progressed.

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

4.2.3 Vaccination of Frontline Staff

For workers on site for the week 11-17 October 2021, the BWTR shows that 97.7% had two doses of the vaccine, 1% had one dose and the remaining 1.4% (67 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 67 workers with an 'unknown' vaccination status, 43 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing Team is investigating the remaining 24 workers, to confirm vaccination status.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR identified one unvaccinated worker at the Pullman Auckland on 12 October. The worker was incorrectly let on site via the loading dock by a hotel staff member. The employer has been notified and advised it was an error and they will make sure any workers sent to MIQFs are vaccinated. Other workers on site are being re-educated that all staff and contractors coming on site must enter via the main entrance only and an interim security guard has been placed at the loading dock while CCTV is being considered for this area.

Of the 28 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 4-10 October 2021 weekly report:

- 21 have been confirmed as being compliant with the vaccine order;
- 4 are compliant, but have been passed to MoH for investigation as potential NHI issues;
- 1 was an incorrect sign-in; and
- 2 have a Ministerial exemption (vaccinated overseas).

4.2.4 Staff Testing

Reporting from the BWTR shows that 4,812 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 stayed steady at 98%.

Workers on site 11-17 Oct 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,658	98%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	111	2%
Need NHI-match	43	
Workers on site	4,812	

Of the 111 overdue, 73 of those are less than 4 days overdue, 33 are 4-10 days overdue, and 5 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 43 that still need an NHI-match, all were created in the BWTR in the last 7 days.

7 workers were previously reported as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 4-10 October 2021. Four are now showing compliant in the BWTR, and three are compliant but have been referred to MOH for NHI issues.

4.2.5 Saliva Testing

As at 17 October, 731 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 continue to prepare for implementing the proposed changes to the Required Testing Order. As previously noted, 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 will take up to two weeks.

4.2.6 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 is a complex case and has been set down for hearing on 25/26 January 2022.

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. The hearing date has been set for 26 October.

The third is regarding Mr Bolton who applied for special circumstances and health exemptions to allow him to fly into NZ on a private jet and self-isolate at home which have been declined. s9(2)(a)

Mr Bolton applied unsuccessfully to obtain a place on the self-isolation pilot. The hearing date for this case is 27 October 2021.

4.2.7 Ombudsman and OPCAT update

We have received six Ombudsman notifications this week. All of these were preliminary enquiries and requests for information. We have received two final opinions in the favour of the complainant, regarding fee waiver and emergency allocation. An additional two final opinions have come back in MBIE's favour, both regarding fee waivers.

On 13 October the OPCAT team requested access to two individuals at the Jet Park Auckland. We have facilitated the provision of the contact details for these individuals to the team. The OPCAT team have requested more information as a part of the follow ups for the Commodore and the Novotel Christchurch, which we have provided. The OPCAT team are conducting "monitoring visits" at the SO and Four Points Auckland on 19 October.

We have received notification of an OPCAT inspection occurring at the Pullman Auckland on 20 October. We have received the provisional report for the Crowne Plaza Christchurch with our response due 28 October. The final report for the Naumi Hotel Auckland has been received with our response due 1 November.

4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 20 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 (75 pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month.
	Nov 2021	60	TBC	
	Dec 2021	60	TBC	

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
Refugee Intakes	4 Oct 2021	8	2 (8 pax)	Refugees will resume arrival into New Zealand with Intake 3 consisting of 45 pax to begin arrival on 27 October. The remaining 22 pax are tentative for the first week of November while room capacity is being confirmed.
	27 Oct	7	3 (7 pax)	
	28 Oct	16	9 (16 pax)	
	Early Nov	22	15 (22 pax) tbc	The Refugee Quota arrivals were temporarily deferred due to no capacity at the Mangere Refugee Centre, however, confirmation has been received from Refugee and Migrant Services that there will now be some capacity to place them post-MIQ.
	Mid Nov	60	44 (60 pax) tbc	
	Early Jan 2022	60	44 (60 pax) tbc	
	Feb-Jun 2022	145 per intake	105 (145 pax) per intake tbc	A decision on arrival numbers for November will be confirmed following the announcement of MIQ remodelling.
Afghanistan Evacuees	2 Oct 2021		10 (20 pax)	Work continues with MFAT to operationalise the bespoke Groups/Emergency Allocations process while ensuring the approval provided for Evacuee numbers works with a constrained MIQ system. MFAT is working to ensure Evacuees with most urgency are prioritised, however, operations remain challenging in an environment where neighbouring countries want Evacuees moved out with urgency placing pressure on MIQ from MFAT to accommodate at short notice. Translation and welfare support continues for all Evacuees who arrive in MIQ.
Mariners	12 Oct 2021		2 (6 pax)	There are currently 49 pax in MIFs in CHC and AKL. Positive cases are still less than 2%, and no significant behavioural events have occurred.
	14 Oct 2021		2 (6 pax)	
	18 Oct 2021		2 (5 pax)	
	19 Oct 2021		2 (3 pax)	
	21 Oct 2021		3 (6 pax)	
	23 Oct 2021		9 (15 pax)	
	26 Oct 2021		9 (18 pax)	
	30 Oct 2021		27 (49 pax)	
	TBC		2 (2 pax)	
	5 Oct 2021	30	30	
	6 Oct 2021	30	30	
	26 Oct 2021	100	100	
	9 Nov 2021	67	67	
	21 Nov 2021	1	1	
	Late Nov 2021	Up to 15 (catch up of pers deferred from earlier flights)	Up to 15	
NZTE	Nov	25	7 (7 pax)	Vouchers have been issued for the first half of November.
	Dec	25	TBC	
EXPO	7 Oct	72	13 (17 pax)	
	25 Oct		20 (21 pax)	
	22 Nov	80	80 TBC	
Mountain biking: Crankworx	October	70	40 (47 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	24 Nov	20	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 and MoH has begun to plan for their arrival and training. Some of this allocation will be divided for inbound media who are critical to the delivery of the Summer Series of Cricket. These individuals will not have any exemptions or special arrangements.
NZDF	4 Oct	5	5	
	11 Oct	15	12	
	20 Oct	16	15 (16 pax)	
	21 Oct	50	17	
	3 Dec	76	76 tbc	
Cricket: Bangladesh	10 Dec	35	TBC	Bangladesh will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC and MoH has begun to plan for their arrival and training. Given changes in the current MIQ environment selecting the appropriate facility for the team is still being finalised.
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). Decision Makers approved 441 workers, plus 104 accompanying family members. Due to a number of withdrawals the final number of rooms required is currently 284 for 350 people.

4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

4.4.1 As at 19 October 2021:

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
21 October	MIQ Report on Absconder from Novotel Ellerslie	MIQ	Proactive comms and interviews	N
20 October tbc	Ombudsman announces his review of MIQ capacity and systems for room allocation	MIQ	Reactive	N
26/27 October	MIQ length of stays - part of a wider package	MoH/Customs/MIQ	Reactive	Y
27 October	Summary of Self Isolation Pilot	MIQ	Reactive	N
2 November	Ramada to reopen as MIF for deportees	MIQ/Police	Reactive comms	N
November	Report on 4 MIF transmissions during community outbreak	MoH	Joint MoH and MIQ proactive comms	N
8 November TBC	Transition of facility from isolation to quarantine in Auckland	MIQ	proactive	N
Mid November	New MIF in Christchurch operationalised	MIQ	Proactive communications	TBC

4.5 Fees

4.5.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to the 17th of October.

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

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

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued over due	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days over due	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups/ Temp Visa	5,142	2,375	1,827	940	\$50,381,433	\$33,104,086	\$12,081,743	\$5,195,604	1	\$3,100
Maritime	492	352	109	31	\$2,531,565	\$1,713,912	\$704,815	\$112,838	16	\$41,286
Aircrew	230	208	13	9	\$2,184,285	\$1,648,845	\$426,917	\$108,522	9	\$108,522
Other	25,673	14,795	4,795	6,084	\$87,725,363	\$53,197,416	\$14,807,236	\$19,720,711	2,269	\$7,364,238
Total	31,537	17,730	6,744	7,064	\$142,822,646	\$89,664,259	\$28,020,713	\$25,137,675	2,295	\$7,517,147

*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	3,897,868
2-4 weeks	4,405,419
5-8 weeks	3,074,933
9+ weeks	1,912,919

4.5.3 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 17 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 applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
10,544	4,084	6,460	833	5,627	87	4,818	746	809

4.6 Emergency Allocation Applications

6,553 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020. 367 applications were received in the week ending 17 October 2021 and 244 applications were processed. Of the 244 applications processed in the week ending 17 October 2021, 75% were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 11 October to 17 October	Year to Date Totals 30 October 2020 – 17 October 2021
Approved	184	3597
Declined	60	2956
Applications processed	244	6553

*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	192
Rooms allocated in MIAS	121
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	71

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 12 October to 18 October.

Week 12 – 18 October	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	226	74	197
Improvements	0	0	0
Compliments	4	1	4
Queries	5	0	5
Ombudsman/OPCAT	18	8	15
Parliamentary/OIA	0	1	0
Other	2	1	1
Total	255	85	222

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 141. For the last 4 weeks the case average is 268 per week.

This week we received 255 new cases and have resolved 222. This is a decrease from the 268 cases received last week.

MIAS cases represented 38% of all cases received. Numbers again spiked on Tuesday 12 October due to the fourth voucher release, but steadily came down towards the end of the week.

5. Border Executive Board Report



5.1 Items to Note/Updates

5.1.1 Border Executive Board Meeting

The Board met on 20 October 2021.

The Board received a report back on the Digital Border initiative (part of the Border System Improvement work programme). Digital Border focuses on reducing risk by providing seamless entry for compliant passengers through specific technological improvements at airports. The initiative's three work streams are: digital declaration/platform; smart exit gates; and RTT x-ray capability (3D scanners). Whilst work on the scanners and algorithm technology continues, the Board endorsed work on the digital declaration and smart exit gates waiting until the Traveller Health Declaration System is further along so these can dovetail in.

From a border perspective, the Board discussed advice being prepared for Cabinet relating to COVID-19 vaccination requirements in the workplace. Key themes supported included:

- providing PCBUs with simple guidance to help identify what activity will require worker vaccination or testing
- retaining workforce agility within agencies and across the public service so workers can move to different roles
- retaining overseas market access
- taking a wider view of the economy to determine activity that should be subject to vaccination mandates.

The Border Executive Board next meets in a fortnight (3 November 2021).

5.1.2 Reconnecting New Zealanders: Early Steps

Over the past week, agencies provided advice to you on options, including operational implementation, of allowing fully vaccinated travellers from low risk Australian states and territories to enter New Zealand with modified managed isolation requirements.

5.1.3 One-way QFT with Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu

On 16 October 2021, the first one-way quarantine-free flight from Samoa with 150 Recognised Seasonal Employer workers arrived in Auckland.

Agencies will provide further advice on expanding one-way quarantine free travel to all eligible travellers from specified Pacific countries.

5.1.4 Proactive release

The Border Executive Board is preparing to proactively release the Rapid Review of Border Worker Testing – Phase One report undertaken by Venter Consulting Ltd. This was completed in June 2021 and focussed on whether those working in MIQ who were required to be tested, were being tested. The second phase of the independent review is currently underway; this is looking at both worker testing and vaccination at the aviation and maritime border.

Communication material is being prepared to support the release and we will engage with your Office prior to the report being proactively released.

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Maritime

Customs has received public enquiries looking into the viability of NZ flagged vessels ferrying passengers (New Zealand Citizens or Permanent Residence) across the Tasman. Agencies are considering the implications of this (including the potential for pressure on MIQ and the health system should COVID-19 be on board, and the possibility of amending the Maritime Border Order to prevent vessels carrying passengers).

As at 20 October 2021, there are six small craft in port at Ōpua. Crew from five of the small craft are isolating on board while the crew from the remaining small craft have been transferred to an Auckland Managed Isolation Facility.

6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 11 October 2021 to 17 October, there was one warning issued:

- 14 October 2021 – A child arriving from Sweden via Doha had no PDT documentation and a warning was issued to the parent.

Red flights

	Date	11 Oct	12 Oct	13 Oct	14 Oct	15 Oct	16 Oct	17 Oct	Week Total	%
	Passengers subject to PDT	454	150	212	402	391	587	460	2656	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	444	142	197	376	379	567	446	2553	96.0%
	Exemption verified	8	6	14	10	11	16	13	78	3.0%
	Referred to Secondary Area	2	2	1	16	1	2	1	25	1.0%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	2	2	1	15	1	2	1	24	96%
	Warned	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1	4.0%
	Infringement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

7.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives Board (CCB) did not meet this week. The next meeting for the CCB will be held on October 28, 2021.

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 19 October. The conversation spanned progress with the Reconnecting New Zealanders programme, the evolving strategic context and continued observations on the current Delta outbreak. Sir Brian Roche and Rob Fife met with Chris Bunny, the new Head of Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ), Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment. The meeting covered the Group's involvement in the space of MIQ and the Future Borders work and explored ways the Group can continue to add value to this work. Sir Brian Roche and Rob Fife also attended a meeting with the Prime Minister on 21 October, on the final report back for the Future Border Sprint work group and next steps.

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group (SC19PHAG) held its most recent meeting on October 20, 2021. Discussions focussed on contact tracing technology, as well as further discussion around the broader strategy for managing COVID-19 for a highly vaccinated New Zealand. The Group briefly canvassed the reception of their most recent advice since its delivery to Government on October 8, and its upcoming proactive release.

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

The Community Panel did not meet this week. A paper will be provided to the CCB for its next meeting including context and insights from previous Panel meetings. The next meeting for the Panel will be on 3 November.

12. Government Modelling Group

12.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Government Modelling Group did not meet this week.

13. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

Title	Agency	Committee	Date Expected	Key Contact	Purpose of Paper
s9(2)(f)(iv)	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]
[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]	[Redacted]

Proactively Released

14. Appendix – Weekly Updates on Infection Prevention and Control (IPC) at the Border

	Audit summary	Audit high-risk findings, and actions taken to remedy	IPC standard operating procedures (SOPs), operations frameworks and guidance documents
Managed isolation and quarantine facilities (MIQFs)	<p>Six Auckland MIQFs were audited this week for IPC processes. These audits resulted in 26 low risk findings and two moderate risk findings.</p> <p>The mandatory wearing of N95 masks for all staff in returnee (red zone) shared areas was observed to be compliant.</p> <p>The audits have provided a platform for discussing with MIQF management staff consideration deconflicting and consolidating staff movements in returnee corridors.</p> <p>The outstanding quarterly IPC audits for Auckland MIQFs are scheduled over the next two weeks.</p>	<p>No high-risk findings to date from IPC audit 5.</p>	
Airports	<p>No new updates.</p> <p>Auckland International Airport IPC assurance review currently scheduled for 21 October 2021. The audit tool has been updated to align with the latest air border IPC guidance.</p>		<p>No new updates.</p> <p>The revised IPC guidance for the air border for green and red zones (version 1.3) was published on the Ministry of Health's website on 16 September 2021.</p> <p>The next review of the documents is scheduled to start on 18 October 2021 as part of the monthly review cycle.</p>
Maritime/Ports	<p>No new updates.</p> <p>Ministry of Health IPC reviews remain on hold.</p>		<p>No new updates.</p> <p>The current guidance for pilots and workers undertaking a necessary task on an affected ship is published on Maritime NZ's website.</p> <p>As part of the continued engagement with the sector, the IPC team developed further detailed guidance on how to wear the appropriate PPE; the drafted document was shared with Maritime NZ via the Ministry of Health Border Operations team to collate feedback from the sector - this process is ongoing at this stage.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health Border Operations team is also engaging with the New Zealand Customs Service and Maritime NZ in establishing ownership of action points in response to the findings in the latest IPC assurance visits at the ports. This work was slightly delayed due to the domestic response and is ongoing at this stage.</p>

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