



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



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



MANATŪ HAUORA



BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD



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



COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

15 July 2021

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1. Status Summary

Border

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
MoH	●	●	<p>Saliva testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work continues on preparing for the roll out of saliva testing to border workers. Uptake of participation into the prototype has been low to date. Contributing factors to this low uptake include: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> participation is optional with some employees preferring to continue with nasopharyngeal swabbing. during the prototype there is a continuing requirement for nasopharyngeal testing to be carried out on participating workers. The Ministry is currently working with border agencies to increase uptake and determine how saliva testing can be best aligned to the wide variety of work patterns.
MBIE	●	●	<p>Staff testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance reporting is at 98%, up 1% from last week, for staff who worked in the week of 5-11 July 2021 when adjusted for the Hamilton/Waikato cyber-attack issue. If you include Hamilton data our compliance is sitting at 91%. Compliance reporting for Hamilton facilities is averaging 14%. More detail in the report. This week, the MoH report on compliance takes into account some test confirmations from Waikato DHB. The data feed from the Waikato DHB lab to BWTR has been re-instated and results from 11 June 2021 to 12 July 2021 have been sent through. There are about 4,000 earlier results still to be sent. These results were not included in this report, which is why the rate of compliance stated is slightly lower than the figures presented by MoH. <p>Vaccinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> BWTR shows, of the workforce on site, 94% have had two doses of the vaccine, and 3% had one dose, of staff who worked in the week of 5-11 July 2021. Vaccination follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR last week did not identify any instances of unvaccinated people going on site. One incident was identified on the ground. There were no exceptions granted last week. MIQ-issued vaccination certificates continue to be issued periodically as vaccination status data is being updated. This indicator will remain amber while work is underway to resolve the ransomware attack, learn from the saliva testing prototype and improve the limitations of BWTR information.
BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Vaccinations Order Amendment came into effect 15 July. Border sector engagement is ongoing by agencies, including face-to-face meetings being held by MoH, Maritime NZ and DHBs with ports around the country. Supporting information for PCBUs made available the week of 12 July, with translated versions to follow. Vaccination delivery planning is underway with DHBs both individually and collectively. The initial MoH focus is local adaptation to local need through collaboration with DHBs and local employers. The baseline number of active border workers at maritime ports and airports, who are in scope of the amended Order and currently on the BWTR, shows 1462 are unvaccinated (as at 8.00am 14 July data). An as-yet unknown number of additional individual workers are expected to be identified and entered into the BWTR as PCBUs assess both the 'anticipatory nature' and 'affected items' elements of the amended Order against their current workforce. This is the subject of further work in coming weeks. The indicator remains at amber due to implementation issues and risks.
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine-free travel to New Zealand from Australian Capital Territory (ACT), Northern Territory, Queensland, South Australia, Tasmania, Victoria and Western Australia continues. Travellers from the eligible jurisdictions are subject to certain requirements, including a negative pre-departure test at least 72 hours before departure. <p>Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine-free travel from Queensland has resumed. Return green flights from Queensland have stopped now that regular quarantine-free travel is running. <p>New South Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quarantine-free travel from New South Wales (NSW) remains paused. Managed return flights from NSW began on Tuesday 13 July. All returnees on managed return flights are required to enter a managed isolation facility for at least 14 days upon arrival into New Zealand.
BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Customs continues to undertake PDT compliance checks of s6(c) [REDACTED]. The status remains at amber due to the complexity of arrangements, demands on the public and private workforce to plan and adapt for changes. The indicator is likely to move to green once pauses and suspensions become a routine and consistent process.

Border (continued)

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A call centre for travellers seeking to travel on managed return flights from New South Wales to New Zealand has been operating since 12 July. MFAT call centre staff are undertaking initial sense checks of whether travellers are likely to fulfil the criteria for an urgent/exceptional place in New Zealand MIQ. If they are, travellers are directed to apply to MBIE for a place.
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Work for two-way QFT with Niue is underway, with commencement dates to be confirmed. The Ministry of Health is making arrangements for joint New Zealand/Niue planning and health readiness meetings in July.
MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials will meet this week with Niuean counterparts to agree next steps towards two-way QFT. Preparations are under way for a technical visit to Niue by public health officials to support readiness work, possibly in late July or August. s6(b)(i) Niue's Premier has publicly stated that Niue will require travellers under the QFT scheme to have been vaccinated.
BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) is providing a briefing updating on New Zealand and Cook Islands response work. The Ministry of Health has developed possible scenarios for the managed return of travellers (symptomatic and non-symptomatic). Cross-agency consultation continues to review and a workshop on 9 July 2021 enabled testing of these scenarios.
MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 12 July, Cabinet agreed a mandate for officials to start discussions with Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu on commencing limited one-way QFT from at least one of these countries by 1 September 2021. These initiatives would initially encompass travellers covered by existing border exceptions, which would allow the entry of significant numbers of RSE workers, as well as people qualifying for the health worker, other critical worker, student, humanitarian and Pacific border exceptions, New Zealand citizens, most residence class visa holders, and those eligible for a resident visa on arrival. Discussions with partner governments could commence later this week.
MoH	●	●	<p>Country risk assessment - Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A risk assessment was completed on 9 July for NSW and Queensland. <p>Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Queensland was classified as a green, low risk state and the recommendation was to resume QFT flights with Queensland from 11.59 PM 12 July. Requirement for a pre-departure test (PDT) was recommended for travellers from Queensland, in line with all other green states. The managed return flights from Queensland continue as planned. <p>NSW</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The recommendation was made to continue with the current pause in place with NSW, however managed flights for returning travellers can be put in place. There is no requirement for a PDT for travellers from NSW as they are required to complete 14 days managed isolation in a facility with usual MIQ testing requirements of Day 0, 3 and 12 testing prior to being released on day 14. This commenced at 11.59 PM 12 July 2021.

Reopening new travel pathways - Pacific Islands

Two-way QFT Niue

- Pacific Islands

Country Risk Assessments

Proactively Released

Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community

		Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
Transmission prevention		MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
		MBIE	●	●	<p>Ventilation systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The total number of remediation proposals received to date is 16 (last week it was also 16). A number of facilities have already commenced remediation work in advance of submitting their formal remediation proposal. Our independent HVAC engineer has reviewed and provided feedback on eight of the remediation proposals received to date. A further two remediation proposals, along with the HVAC engineer's feedback were reviewed by MIQs Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group (VRAG) last week bringing the total number reviewed to date to eight. Regarding ventilation systems the status remains amber as we assess implications on the MIQ system of delivering the remediation works across the portfolio. Next steps, leading to green, will be looking across the whole portfolio to schedule the remedial work whilst balancing room capacity.
	Place and conditions of stay	MBIE	●	●	<p>Renewing contracts:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The extended terms and conditions have been agreed with 22 facilities (up from 16 last week). We now have signed the legal contract for four facilities (previously three). We are continuing to work through getting the remainder of the execution copies issued. <p>Cohorting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A separate briefing has been provided to your office this week on cohorting. This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotels.
Post-managed isolation processes	MBIE	●	●	<p>Fees collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to make progress with post 25 March 2021 invoices. Automated invoices have been issued up to 24 June 2021 (please note invoices do not go out until returnees leave a MIF and hence the two week lag), while those invoices we have to manually produce are issued up to 26 May 2021 (excluding exceptions and aircrew). The new invoicing platform has generated over 8,000 invoices, with a value of more than \$34m, in its first six weeks of operation. We have developed a methodology for addressing the pre-25 March 2021 invoice backlog and work continues on building the solution. <p>Debt Recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have sent a total of 100 invoices worth \$332k to a debt collection agency. We will send invoices in batches to the debt collection agency meaning the figure will not change every week. This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices. 	

Community Protection

		Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	
Case investigation, surveillance and testing		MoH	●	●	<p>Updated COVID-19 Testing Guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The latest update of the Ministry's six-weekly COVID-19 Testing Guidance for the Health Sector took effect from 8 July. The COVID-19 Testing Guidance supports the more broadly focused COVID-19 Testing Plan. The primary focus of the Testing Plan is improving testing at the border to quickly identify and manage infections in those most at risk. The secondary focus is improving testing in the community to quickly identify any community transmission of COVID-19, should it be present. Key messages in the Testing Guidance highlight the importance of winter testing, having tests if symptomatic regardless of vaccination status, and the importance of testing all symptomatic people, including children and the elderly, particularly in light of the growing prevalence of the highly-infectious Delta variant of the virus.

Vaccination

Implementation and operation

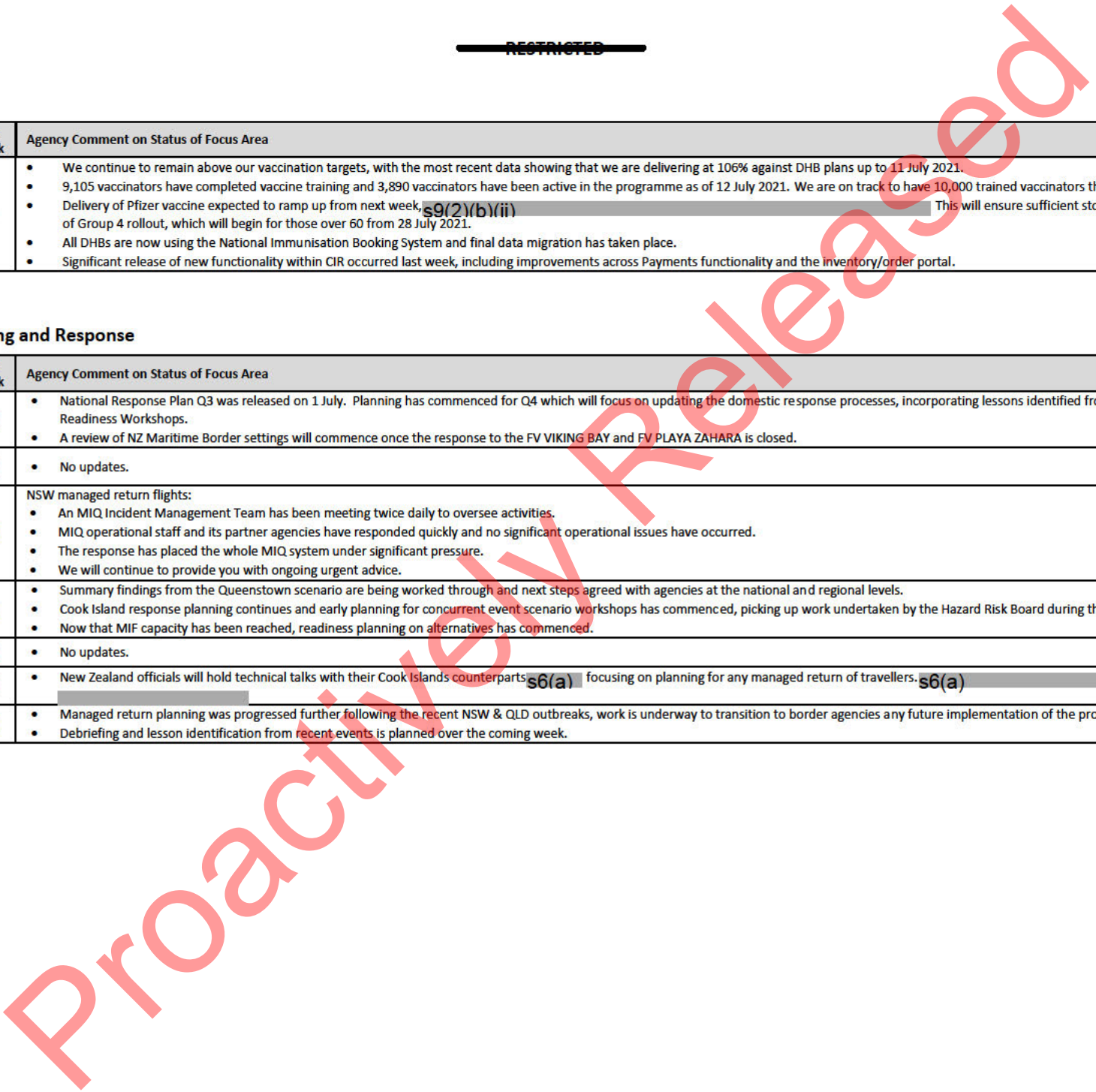
Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to remain above our vaccination targets, with the most recent data showing that we are delivering at 106% against DHB plans up to 11 July 2021. 9,105 vaccinators have completed vaccine training and 3,890 vaccinators have been active in the programme as of 12 July 2021. We are on track to have 10,000 trained vaccinators this month. Delivery of Pfizer vaccine expected to ramp up from next week, s9(2)(b)(ii) This will ensure sufficient stock is on hand for the commencement of Group 4 rollout, which will begin for those over 60 from 28 July 2021. All DHBs are now using the National Immunisation Booking System and final data migration has taken place. Significant release of new functionality within CIR occurred last week, including improvements across Payments functionality and the inventory/order portal.

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 Q3 was released on 1 July. Planning has commenced for Q4 which will focus on updating the domestic response processes, incorporating lessons identified from the Wellington Alert Level 2, June Readiness Workshops. A review of NZ Maritime Border settings will commence once the response to the FV VIKING BAY and FV PLAYA ZAHARA is closed.
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
MBIE	●	●	<p>NSW managed return flights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An MIQ Incident Management Team has been meeting twice daily to oversee activities. MIQ operational staff and its partner agencies have responded quickly and no significant operational issues have occurred. The response has placed the whole MIQ system under significant pressure. We will continue to provide you with ongoing urgent advice.
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary findings from the Queenstown scenario are being worked through and next steps agreed with agencies at the national and regional levels. Cook Island response planning continues and early planning for concurrent event scenario workshops has commenced, picking up work undertaken by the Hazard Risk Board during the Summer. Now that MIF capacity has been reached, readiness planning on alternatives has commenced.
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand officials will hold technical talks with their Cook Islands counterparts s6(a) focusing on planning for any managed return of travellers. s6(a)
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Managed return planning was progressed further following the recent NSW & QLD outbreaks, work is underway to transition to border agencies any future implementation of the processes. Debriefing and lesson identification from recent events is planned over the coming week.

Readiness planning
QFT response



2. COVID-19 Insights

The Insights section has previously been written by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC’s COVID-19 Group, working in collaboration with other agencies who have contributed information.

Following discussion with your office, this week the Ministry of Health have identified a health-centred topic to cover, and have written an Insights section. We are taking an iterative approach to this.

The Insights and Reporting Team are eager to continue to provide Insights, and will continue to collaborate with other agencies on this. Ministry of Health will continue to contribute Insights where they identify relevant topics which are health-centred.

If you have any feedback or requests for topics, we are happy to receive them.

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

2.1.1 Flight Arrivals and Departures

For the period of 19 April to 13 July (following the opening of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia) there were a total 246,859 arrivals into New Zealand, and 250,420 departures. There were 3,561 more departures from New Zealand over this period than arrivals. Total arrivals and departures are illustrated in figure 1 below with a breakdown of these arrivals and departures by port given in figure 2 (arrivals) and figure 3 (departures).

Figure 1: International Flight Arrivals and Departures – 19 April to 13 July0

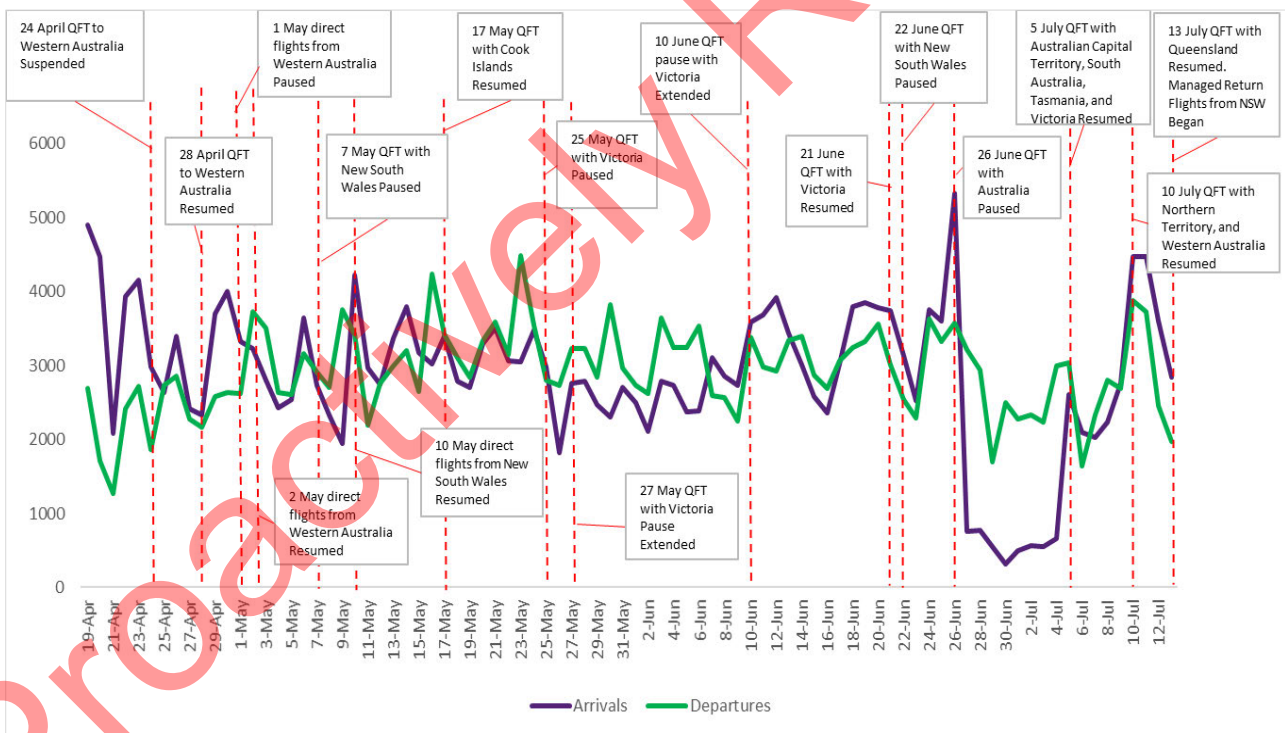
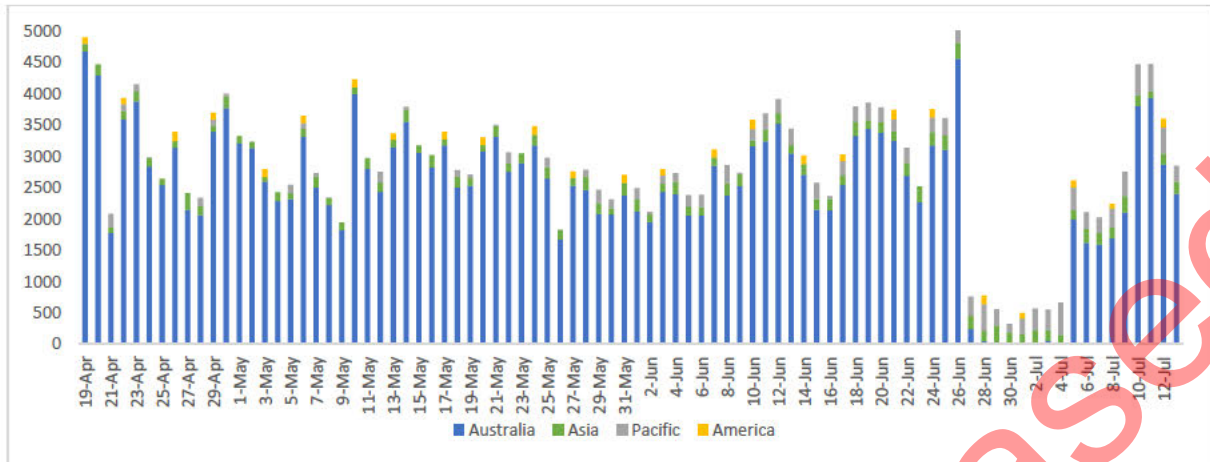


Figure 2: International Flight Arrivals – 19 April to 13 July



Arrivals to New Zealand by previous port were as follows:

- **Australia: 88%**
- **Asia: 6%**
- **Pacific: 5%**
- **America: 1%**

Figure 3: International Flight Departures – 19 April to 13 July



Departures from New Zealand by next port were as follows:

- **Australia: 85%**
- **Asia: 6%**
- **Pacific: 6%**
- **America: 2%**

Over the 14-day period between 30 June 2021 and 13 July 2021 there have been a total of 29,715 arrivals into New Zealand and 36,859 departures, which is 7,144 more departures than arrivals over this period.

Arrivals to New Zealand by previous port over this 14-day period were as follows:

- **Australia: 74% (22,054)**
- **Asia: 8% (2,504)**
- **Pacific: 16% (4,746)**
- **America: 1% (411)**

Departures from New Zealand by next port over this 14-day period were as follows:

- Australia: 73% (27,035)
- Asia: 8% (3,017)
- Pacific: 16% (6,042)
- America: 2% (765)

Thank you to the New Zealand Customs Service for contributions to this insights section

2.2 Insights of Note Written by the Ministry of Health

2.2.1 COVID-19 International Perspectives: 13 July 2021

The number of COVID-19 deaths reported worldwide has surpassed 4 million in the past week. Cumulative cases are now exceeding 180 million and daily reported cases are again increasing after a long period of decline.¹ In an update on 12 July 2021, WHO DG Ghebreyesus said the Delta variant has now been recorded in 104 countries, spreading particularly quickly in countries with low vaccination rates and it is expected to become the dominant COVID-19 strain circulating worldwide.²

The following summary includes Indonesia, India, United Kingdom (UK) and Fiji as country case-studies. In the past fortnight, the UK and Indonesia were the points of departure from where the highest number of acute cases were imported into New Zealand, followed by India.^{3 4} New Zealand is currently providing additional support to Fiji in the current outbreak. As such, this has also been included as a country case-study.

International Spotlights

Indonesia

- As at 11 July 2021, the seven-day average of daily new cases is 34,371, up from 24,111 one week prior.⁵
- As at 11 July 2021, the seven-day rolling average of daily new deaths is 840 deaths, up from 492 one week prior.⁶
- The seven-day average test positivity is 26.6 percent and rising quickly, indicating that the number of COVID-19 cases in the country is likely to be significantly underreported.⁷
- Vaccination rates are low, approximately 7.8 percent of the population have received one vaccine and 5.5 percent are fully vaccinated as of 11 July 2021.⁸
- Whole genome sequencing has been limited in Indonesia, but data collected indicates the Delta variant is the dominant strain in circulation.⁹

Indonesia has imposed a lockdown in parts of the country until 20 July 2021, including the main island, Java, and Bali.¹⁰ Furthermore, from 12 July, Singapore and the United Arab Emirates have suspended transit for all travellers from Indonesia, removing the primary route for returning New Zealanders.¹¹ Transit appears to remain possible through Qatar and Tokyo, but these routes are currently untested and may be prohibitively expensive for many travellers.¹² There have also been revised vaccination requirements for foreign nationals arriving, departing, and travelling domestically in Indonesia.¹³

India

- As at 11 July 2021, the seven-day average of daily new cases is 41,307, continuing a downward trend from 43,700 one week prior.¹⁴
- As at 7 July 2021 the seven-day average test positivity is 2.3 percent, indicating testing exceeds the WHO threshold for comprehensive surveillance of COVID-19.¹⁵
- Approximately 17 percent of the population have received one vaccine. 5.3 percent are fully vaccinated as of 11 July 2021.¹⁶
- The second wave has been attributed mostly to the Delta variant.¹⁷

Cases in India have continued a downward trend since their peak in May 2021 as states follow the five-fold strategy of ‘Test-Track-Treat-Follow COVID Rules-Vaccinate’.¹⁸ Although the decline in cases is encouraging, there is concern growing as the level of tourism has increased and local authorities encourage domestic travel in the hope of addressing severe economic issues.¹⁹ The Indian Medical Association has warned that both the government and public have become complacent, engaging in mass gatherings without following COVID-19 protocols.²⁰

UK

- As at 11 July 2021, the seven-day average of daily new cases has increased to 31,285, up from 24,503 one week prior.²¹
- In the past 30 days, 98 percent of the 4,269 sequenced samples have been the Delta variant.²²
- Most restrictions are likely to ease in the UK from 19 July 2021.²³
- The rate of the vaccine rollout is slowing in the UK, however 51 percent of the population are fully vaccinated as of 10 July 2021.²⁴

Hospitalisations and deaths in the UK remain low despite new cases rising, which is being attributed to high vaccination rates (Figure 1), particularly in older and vulnerable populations.²⁵ The majority of those being admitted to hospital have been unvaccinated.²⁶ Those aged over 85 are still being hospitalised at the highest rate per person, although the relative increase since the beginning of the latest wave is more pronounced in younger people, particularly in those aged 15 to 24.²⁷

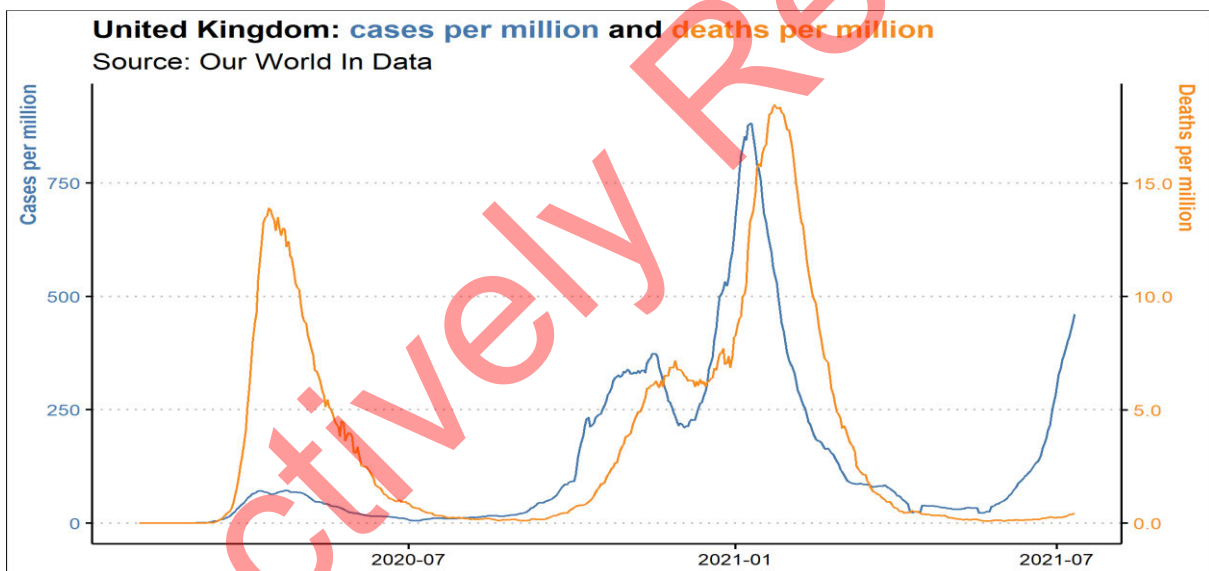


Figure 1: Cases and deaths per million in the United Kingdom from 05 February 2020 to 10 July 2021
Source: OurWorldInData.org

Fiji

- As at 11 July 2021, the seven-day average of daily new cases has increased to 622, up from 367 one week prior.²⁸
- There are 245 COVID-19 patients in hospitals in Fiji, with 43 being severe and two critical.²⁹
- Testing rates remain high, the seven-day daily test average is 3,604 as of 11 July 2021.³⁰
- Approximately 60.2 percent of the target population have received one vaccine and 11 percent are fully vaccinated.³¹
- The government aims to fully vaccinate 80 percent of Fiji’s target population by 1 November 2021.³²

There have been reports that many Fijians are unable to stay at home and isolate due to a lack of support such as food rations.³³ Furthermore, many Fijians live in poor, crowded conditions, making social distancing and isolation difficult.³⁴

3. Ministry of Health



3.1 Policy/Programme Updates

3.1.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11.59 pm on 13 July 2021, 1,404,343 vaccinations have been delivered, including 564,789 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 16 percent are Asian.

80,363 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 13 July 2021.

177 sites were active on 13 July 2021.

The production plan for the next seven days is for 156,597 doses across New Zealand.

Supply

The expected Pfizer delivery of 180,180 doses arrived on 13 July 2021 as planned. s9(2)(b)(ii) which will provide sufficient supply for the rollout to Group 4 which commences for those over 60 from 28 July 2021.

Vaccine approval

On 7 July 2021, Medsafe granted provisional approval for the Janssen COVID-19 vaccine to be used in New Zealand for individuals 18 years of age and older. A Cabinet paper that will provide options on the best use of the Janssen vaccine in the New Zealand context is being prepared and will be considered by Cabinet in August 2021.

Incident reporting

This week we have received reporting that highlighted issues when a specific combination of syringe and low dead space needles is used. This issue has the potential to impact on dosage administered and therefore immune response, so has been treated with the highest priority by the Programme.

Updated clinical guidance and advice has been given to providers, and additional supplies of suitable needles have been distributed. An investigation into the root cause of the underlying issues has also already commenced.

Rollout for Groups 3 and 4

A model is being developed to understand the impact of opening up bookings for Group 4 age bands. It will estimate the capacity for each DHB to meet the proposed new volumes for each DHB. This will include an estimate of how many weeks it will take for new bands to be fully booked, given known bookings and production plans. The model is being demonstrated to DHB Senior Responsible Officers this week and a draft of the model will be provided to your office on 21 July 2021 for discussion.

Workplace vaccination

The planning blueprint and expressions of interest form for businesses and providers that would like to be involved in workplace vaccinations are now available on the Ministry of Health website. Detailed planning continues with both Fonterra and Mainfreight as pilots for this approach.

Mass vaccination event

The Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) will begin the targeted invitation process next week for the first mass vaccination event which is scheduled for 30 July-and 1 August 2021.

The Ministry of Health has developed a blueprint for planning and delivering mass vaccination events, modelled on the approach taken by NRHCC. This guidance is intended to support other district health

boards (DHBs) that wish to deliver high-throughput pop-up events. The blueprint will be shared directly with DHBs and published on the Ministry of Health website with other guidance on vaccine delivery.

General practice and pharmacy rollout

There has been increased interest from primary care providers in becoming vaccination sites and we continue to engage with the sector through fortnightly newsletters and webinars.

A playbook for onboarding primary care providers has been developed, with the first version due to be released on 16 July 2021. This will take providers through a step-by-step process to become a vaccination site, setting them up to succeed and ensure clinical quality and patient safety. This will also support national consistency.

Use of the national booking system (Book My Vaccine) is currently optional for primary care providers that have existing booking functionality with their current patient management systems, but use is encouraged, and the playbook outlines how it can be used.

The electronic payments system to support invoicing for, and payments to, providers commissioned on a price per dose basis went live on 1 July 2021. This has been well received by both DHBs and Primary Care. Providers are now being transitioned to this payment mechanism.

Book My Vaccine

All DHBs are now on, and using, the National Immunisation Booking System. Data migrations from existing systems to Book My Vaccine are also now finalised.

As of 13 July 2021, Book My Vaccine holds 493,151 active future bookings at 136 vaccination sites.

Technology

In addition to the work done to ensure all DHBs were onboarded to Book My Vaccine, the past week has also seen a huge range of new technology releases. These include enhancements to the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR), improvements to Post-Event reporting, additional features and functionality within the Inventory/Orders Portal and a suite of changes within the COVID-19 Immunisation Customer Support (CICS) tool.

Equity

More than 40 organisations have been advised on their successful proposals for funding under the \$2 million funding package for iwi/Māori organisations to deliver tailored communications campaigns to whanau. The Ministry of Health is working on contract negotiations worth more than \$1.9 million and more funding may be allocated later.

The Ministry of Health is in the final stages of fully distributing \$16.25 million to Pacific health providers and Pacific DHBs to support Pacific equity in the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out.

The Ministry of Health has set-up dedicated vaccinator events with IMAC for Pacific nurses in Auckland. Four training events are planned with 25 to 30 places for Pacific nurses in each event. This will result in an addition of up to 120 Pacific nurse vaccinators, and the Ministry of Health intends to scale up this process across other regions.

A \$2 million funding package to deliver tailored communications campaigns for disabled peoples has received 41 applications for funding. A panel met on 2 July 2021 to assess the applications and 35 applicants are recommended for approval worth \$1.329 million. Contracts for successful applicants and letters for unsuccessful applicants are being drafted. Any remaining funding will be reprioritised across other vaccination work for disabled people.

Workforce

As of 13 July 2021, 9,171 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 3,917 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

This week the Programme Steering Group also approved the Workforce data integration plan, which will support workforce data analysis, identify current and future gaps in the workforce, and allow time for a planned and considered approach to any solutions proposed and implemented. The new solution will have centralised data on vaccinators including ethnicity and will enable matching of vaccinators from initial training and certification, authorisation, locations of work, administration of vaccines through to when they are no longer an authorised vaccinator.

Distribution and inventory management

As at the end of the day on 13 July 2021, we have made 1,343 deliveries to sites across the country. This equates to delivery of 236,604 vials or 1,419,624 doses.

Rollout of the vaccine to Polynesia

Cook Islands

As of 7 July 2021, a total of 20,100 vaccines have been administered in the Cook Islands and 82 percent of the population is fully vaccinated. The Cook Islands has started vaccinating the remote outer islands, and the vaccination of Palmerston will be supported by the HMNZS Wellington in July 2021 following the delivery of vaccines to Tokelau.

Niue

Vaccine rollout in Niue was completed on 10 July 2021.

Tokelau

Plans are well under way for Tokelau to commence its vaccine rollout from 20 July 2021. The HMNZS Wellington departed New Zealand for Tokelau with the vaccines on 12 July 2021.

Vaccine Ministers' approval for dose donation to Tokelau was received on 9 July 2021.

Other countries

Planning continues with Samoa, Tonga and Fiji while we await Medsafe's regulatory approval of the AstraZeneca vaccine. s6(a)

Next steps

We will provide you with a further update in the next Weekly Report.

3.2 Technical Advisory Group: Update

COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 6 July 2021 and discussed the following matters:

- advice for vaccination in the frail elderly
- preliminary advice on the decision to use the Janssen vaccine once provisionally approved by Medsafe
- Vaccine Alliance Aotearoa NZ (VAANZ) research trial
- preliminary advice about the risk of myocarditis with the Pfizer vaccine.

The next CVTAG meeting is scheduled for 13 July 2021.

COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) meeting is scheduled for 23 July 2021.

3.3 Ethnicity Collection in the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

This item updates you on concerns being raised by the Iwi Chairs Forum on the ethnicity and iwi affiliation data collection approach in the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme. The Forum may approach the media or contact you and Hon Peeni Henare. Members working for the Data Iwi Leaders Group have indicated that they may pull back from using national immunisations booking system (NIBS) if this matter is not resolved. Their anxiety is to know their iwi are vaccinated and safe.

The Ministry of Health recognises the importance of having accurate ethnicity data to help ensure equity in vaccination uptake and is obliged under its Ethnicity Data Protocols to ensure people regularly have the opportunity to supply and confirm their ethnicity.

Iwi affiliation data collection is an additional consideration to ethnicity data collection. They are both important aspects of a person's identity, however, the collection of iwi affiliation is still developing in the health and disability sector. Collecting iwi affiliation alongside the vaccine rollout is the first stage, with future work needed on using the information collected and embedding iwi affiliation data into the 'core' systems.

Ethnicity data collection

We understand that the Iwi Chairs Forum's current concerns are mainly about the collection of ethnicity data through the booking and vaccination process.

In prioritising the rapid scaling up of the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme, a consequence is that there has been limited capacity to immediately address the collection of ethnicity data at vaccination sites.

We have put systems in place for the National Health Index to supply the COVID-19 Immunisation Register with existing ethnicity details. This provides an interim solution but does not address some known data accuracy issues that can be improved by applying Ethnicity Data Protocols at the time of vaccination.

Iwi affiliation data collection project

A separate iwi affiliation data collection project has been set up, initially targeting the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme via the NIBS and vaccination sites.

The affiliation project includes representatives from the Data Iwi Leaders Group and Te Arawa as well as Statistics New Zealand. The project has developed draft Iwi Affiliation Ethnicity Data Protocols and a co-design implementation pathway, including linking from NIBS where Māori descent is confirmed at the time of booking.

The project steering group has agreed Terms of Reference, the project charter, scope and phases. The project is working to deliver this during the vaccine rollout to Group 4 with the aim to bring this online as early as possible.

One of the complexities that the affiliation project is addressing is that the exact method of ethnicity collection will depend on the type of vaccination site. General practices can use the existing systems to update ethnicity, but the Ministry is having to work on support for vaccination sites that do not have existing system capability. Collection will be according to the Ethnicity Data Protocols.

Next steps

The Ministry of Health is working through the implications of enabling ethnicity and iwi affiliation data collection at vaccination sites as soon as possible.

We are maintaining regular contact with Karen Vercoe, the chairperson of the Data Iwi Leaders Group under the Iwi Chairs Forum.

We are continuing work on the iwi affiliation data collection project with the aim of collecting iwi affiliation data during the Group 4 rollout and will keep you informed on progress through the Weekly Report.

3.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 12 July 2021

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial involvement
12 July 21	New order: expansion of mandatory vaccinations for border workers. Advice to employers, border workforce testing register for COVID-19 tests and vaccination.	Health	Press release (Minister), Director-General health sector update, newsletter, web content	Yes
12 July 21	Quarantine free travel - managed return flights from New South Wales (NSW) commenced from 11.59pm on 12 July 2021. All returnees to go into managed isolation and quarantine for 14 days. Review of quarantine free travel pause 14 July 2021.	Health/DPMC	Press release, media interviews, web content	Yes
12 July 21	Viking Bay vessel to dock in Wellington (fly quarantine flag) and mariners to be placed into managed isolation and quarantine.	Customs	Press release, health advice	Optional
12 July 21	Health advice and Locations of interest (s70) updates for New Zealand travellers in NSW and Queensland.	Health	Web content	No
w/c 12 July 21	Updated COVID-19 Elimination Strategy.	Health	Web content	Optional

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4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Top Items to Note

4.1.1 New South Wales Managed Return Flights

The key focus this week has been the response to NSW returnees. An MIQ Incident Management Team has been meeting twice daily to oversee activities. MIQ operational staff and its partner agencies have responded quickly and no significant operational issues have occurred. The response has placed the whole MIQ system under significant pressure.

We are managing the operational changes required as a result of the returnees – for example, the suspension of cohorting is meaning that exercise and smoking times are being carefully managed to maintain the cohorts.

MFAT have issued approximately 600 Urgent and Exceptional applications (UaE). Air NZ have almost met their capacity and a decision is pending on reallocating some UaE rooms from Qantas to Air NZ if Qantas is unable to use their UaE capacity. MIQ continues to monitor the UaE situation closely.

There are currently 63 border averters. Customs and border agencies are looking at how we can reduce the amount of border averters before they board flights in Australia.

We have worked with Police and Security personnel to ensure we are prepared for an expected increase in behavioural issues to deal with at a facility level.

We will continue to brief you and seek your decisions where required. Future briefings will address responses to future demand for urgent and exceptional applications and how to implement decisions around fees.

4.1.2 Staff testing update – compliance statistics for 5 to 11 July 2021

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

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

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

Workers on site 28 June – 11 July 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	3,917	91% (98% if Hamilton excluded)
Overdue NHI-matched workers	375 (93 if Hamilton excluded)	9% (2% if Hamilton excluded)
Need NHI-match	128	
Workers on site	4,420	

Of the 128 that still need an NHI-match, 102 were created in BWTR in the last 7 days. The Workforce Testing team is investigating the remaining 26 workers.

27 workers (excluding Hamilton workers) were recorded as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 28 June to 4 July 2021. We have confirmed ten of them have been swabbed, two are incorrect sign-ins; one has been referred to MOH as they are no longer employed; and we are still awaiting a confirmation from employers of test compliance for the other 14.

20 workers (excluding Hamilton workers) were recorded as '11+days overdue' in the report for the week 21 to 27 June 2021. We have confirmed 15 have since been tested, one is a possible NHI-issue that we are working with MoH to rectify, two have received their second follow ups (if they remain non-compliant they may be escalated to MoH) and two have received their first follow up and will continue to be monitored.

4.1.3 Vaccination of frontline staff update

For workers on site for the week 5 July to 11 July, BWTR shows 94% had two doses of the vaccine, 3% had one dose and the remaining 3% (145 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 145 with an 'unknown' status, 128 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing team is investigating the remaining 17 workers to confirm vaccination status.

One incident was identified on 10 July 2021. A truck driver booked to pick up sporting equipment from a facility entered through the gate and signed in. On exiting their vehicle they were questioned about their vaccination status by security staff. The driver then indicated they were not vaccinated. They got back into the truck and left the facility six minutes later.

Of the 87 with a vaccination status 'unknown' mentioned in the 28 June to 4 July 2021 Weekly report:

- 34 have had their vaccination data updated within BWTR.
 - Of the 34, 17 have had their second dose and 17 have had their first dose.
 - All 17 who have only had their first dose are within the 35 days compliance timeframe.
- Of the 53 who still have an 'unknown' status in BWTR:
 - Seven are fully vaccinated.
 - One has had their first dose within 35 days.
 - Seven are compliant but have been referred to MOH due to possible NHI-matching issues.
 - Three were incorrect sign-ins to Who's-on-Location.
 - One received a vaccine exemption to fix lifts.
 - For the remaining 34, the Workforce testing advisors are still awaiting confirmation of vaccination status and continue to follow up with employers.

4.2 Operational Update

4.2.1 Capacity update

As at 7am 14 July 2021, there is currently no availability on MIAS.

Existing rooms are continuously being re-released through cancellation and clean-up processes, and can be up to hundreds of rooms per day. Returnees who are the most persistent, or online at the right time in MIAS, are then able to secure a room on a date that works for them.

We are expecting to release rooms for December 2021 with an initial release of 40%, together with a top-up for August to 100%, September to 90% and October to 60%, towards the end of July 2021.

4.2.2 Ombudsman update

We responded to the following from the OPCAT office this week:

- Two final reports – for the Commodore and SO hotels;
- Provided log in credentials to the OPCAT inspectors to Learn@MIQ so that they can experience the same learning as our workers;
- Received two inspection notifications and related information requests – Sudima Christchurch (inspection 13 July 2021), and Crowne Plaza (inspection 14 July 2021).

Feedback on the Thematic Report that the Ombudsman intends to publish is due 16 July 2021. Further information about this report and its recommendations will be provided in the weekly report.

4.2.3 Security Enhancement Programme update

MBIE remains on track to move to a blended security workforce by August 2021. We are aiming for an indicative blend consisting of 55% NZDF, 9% Avsec and 21% MBIE security officers whilst retaining a residual contracted security workforce of around 15% from a single provider.

The MBIE security officer workforce transition is progressing:

- Wellington (target 16): 16 MBIE Security Officers on rostered shifts.
- Hamilton (target 15): 15 MBIE Security Officers onboarded, inducted and now on rostered shifts.
- Rotorua (target 18): 16 MBIE Security Officers onboarded, inducted and now on rostered shifts.
- Auckland (target 105):
 - 7 x MBIE Security Officers onboarded/inducted (week beginning 5 July 2021) and now on rostered shifts.
 - 19 x MBIE Officers onboarded/inducted (week beginning 12 July 2021) and will be rostered on shifts from next week.
 - 23 x MBIE Security Officers due to be onboarded, inducted the week beginning 19 July 2021.
 - Remaining officers being onboarded weekly for an additional three to four weeks dependant on role/offers being accepted.

Wellington and Christchurch no longer has any hotel contracted security personnel.

Remaining hotel contracted security personnel will be progressively offboarded.

4.3 Schedule of Reviews

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
Financial Management Review	May 2021	July 2021	In progress	Identify opportunities for improvement in process and procedures for supplier invoicing, review of financial reporting that is currently in place, and review of financial delegations framework.
MIQ PCBU Health and Safety Obligations Review	April 2021	July 2021	In progress	This review is to identify MBIE's responsibilities as a lead PCBU and assess how well these responsibilities are fulfilled to support other PCBUs meet their health and safety obligations.
MIQ Exemptions Review	June 2021	July 2021	In progress	To assess consistency, transparency and fairness of the exemptions from managed isolation process for people entering New Zealand.
Onsite Ventilation Assessments	February 2021	Testing: May 2021 Programme of work: August 2021	In progress	A comprehensive understanding of MIQF ventilation systems, remediation work completed (if required) to optimise the performance of the systems and additional operational practices implemented to complement the ventilation system operations.
Rapid review of Border Worker Testing (BEB led)	April 2021	Two part review. Part one (focused on MIQ) due to be presented to BEB on 29 July 2021. Part two (focused on wider border) still TBC when it will be completed.	BEB-led report. Phase 1 Final report going to the Border Executive Board on 29 July 2021. This will be provided to your Office once considered by the BEB. Phase 2 in progress	To assess the arrangements in place to support compliance with the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Testing) Order 2020. We are working with the Ministry of Health on our formal response to this report for the BEB. We have four recommended actions and all will likely be completed in the next couple of weeks. They all relate to work we have already underway.
Regular, ongoing reviews				
MoH Infection Prevention Control Audits of MIQ facilities	July 2020	-	Ongoing	The Ministry of Health conducts regular audits into infection prevention and control (IPC) at the managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) facilities around New Zealand. MIQ facilities are an important part of our border measures to keep COVID-19 out of the community. It is critical to the health of the country that MIQ facilities are well-maintained and any infection brought in by people entering New Zealand cannot spread into the community.
Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC) Systems Assurance Framework	March 2021	-	Ongoing	DPMC are working on a COVID-19 systems assurance framework that will give visibility of the end-to-end COVID-19 response system.

Review	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
Ombudsman OPCAT Reviews	February 2021	-	Ongoing	Aotearoa New Zealand has international human rights obligations under the United Nations Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT). The purpose is to monitor and carry out such inspections of managed isolation and quarantine facilities to ensure that people are being treated humanely and their human rights are being respected and protected.

4.4 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 13 July 2021

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
Antarctic USAP	16 Jul 2021	33	33	
	19 Jul 2021	169	169	
NZDF Operation WHIO	28 Jul 2021	35	35	Both groups arriving on military flights.
	29 Jul 2021	16	16	
RSE	4 Jul 2021	150	116 (150 pax)	The first cohort of 150 RSE workers arrived on 4 July 2021. Numbers for second cohort (arriving 21 July 2021) due 13 July 2021.
	21 Jul 2021	150	116 (TBC)	
	7 Aug 2021	150	116 (TBC)	
Refugees – Intake 1	24 Jun 2021	25	13 (25 pax)	All 123 pax for Intake 1 have arrived. There have been a total of 3 positive cases to date for Intake 1.
	25 Jun 2021	18	10 (18 pax)	
	26 Jun 2021	52	28 (52 pax)	
	29 Jun 2021	10	8 (10 pax)	
	2 Jul 2021	9	5 (9 pax)	
	8 Jul 2021	9	5 (9 pax)	
Construction Accord	Aug 2021	60	TBC	The Construction Sector Accord deadline to confirm August 2021 allocation is Friday 16 July 2021.
	Sep 2021	60	TBC	
Netball – English Roses	27 Aug 2021	30	TBC	This will be the first sports team under the new full cost recovery model. Planning has begun.
Refugees – Intake 2	30 Jul 2021	21	11 TBC	A total of 119 pax will arrive as a part of Intake 2.
	7 Aug 21	16	8 TBC	
	TBC	82	45 TBC	
Returning Olympic Athletes (3 cohorts)	2 Aug 2021	~184	TBC	Extensive planning is underway for the arrival and management of athletes, staff and media returning to NZ on three charter flights. SportNZ and NZOC will facilitate some Pacific Island Olympic athletes to return as part of the group. Discussions regarding the management of the group due to the nature of the competition are underway to maximise room usage for each charter flight.
	8 Aug 2021	~170	TBC	
	10 Aug 2021	~170	TBC	
Paralympic athletes	Sep 2021	100	5	Athletes and management returning from the Paralympics in Tokyo as multiple smaller groups, with the majority of MIQ secured via MIAS. Detailed planning is underway to ensure those with increased needs are well cared for in MIQ, this includes those who have booked MIAS vouchers in the public system.

4.4.1 Time Sensitive Travel

The deadline for applications for Time Sensitive Travel allocation for people arriving in September and October 2021 is 14 July 2021. As at midday Tuesday 13 July 2021, 24 applications requesting allocations for 52 people have been received.

There was a systems error on 14 July 2021 which meant individuals from the USA and UK were unable to submit applications for TST as they were unable to enter their travel dates. This issue has been resolved. As the application window has closed, we are proactively contacting those who were impacted by this error to offer them the opportunity to complete their application.

4.5 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 12 July 2021

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
12 July 2021	Vaccination amendment gazetted and announced	MoH	Internal communications	Y
13 July 2021 onwards	NSW flights	MFAT	Reactive communications; internal and returnee communications	Y
13 July 2021	MIQ one year at MBIE	MIQ	Internal communications	N
11, 15, 29 July 2021	Decision on three Managed Isolation Walks implemented	MIQ	Reactive communications	N
14 July 2021	Saliva testing	MoH	Proactive communications; internal communications	Y
Late-July (TBC) 2021	OPCAT report on MIQ by the Ombudsman	MIQ	Reactive communications	N
Late July (TBC) 2021	Rapid Review of Border Worker Testing – Phase One (report for BEB)	BEB	Proactive communications	N

4.6 Fees

4.6.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to the 11 July 2021.

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

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued overdue	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days overdue	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups ¹	341	102	246	6	\$17,310,659	\$14,702,618	\$2,580,375	\$27,666	0	\$0
Maritime	354	223	105	26	\$1,621,262	\$1,032,583	\$516,171	\$72,508	6	\$5,757
Aircrew	204	133	10	61	\$1,088,205	\$766,445	\$61,115	\$260,645	4	\$53,197
Other	21,722	9,708	9,231	2,783	\$79,210,026	\$35,856,501	\$34,541,962	\$8,811,562	927	\$3,091,227
Total	22,621	10,166	9,592	2,876	\$99,230,152	\$52,358,147	\$37,699,623	\$9,172,381	937	\$3,150,181

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

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

4.6.2 Weekly Average Invoicing and Debt Recovery %

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

The increase in average invoicing the past week is the processing of the June invoicing after the system was updated to capture the new 180 day rule.

Recent Weeks	Average invoicing per week (\$)
Past week	\$8,398,290
2-4 weeks	\$3,942,067
5-8 weeks	\$4,283,529
9+ weeks	\$1,366,249

4.6.3 Waivers

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

Waiver applications received	In progress	Total completed	Total financial hardship applications	Total special circumstances applications	Approved waiver applications		Declined waiver applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
8,253	1,857	6,396	823	5,573	87	4,774	736	799

4.7 Emergency Allocation Applications

3,614 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020.

291 applications were received in the week ending 11 July 2021 and 112 applications were processed.

From the applications processed in the week ending 11 July 2021, 46% of the applications were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals	Year to Date Totals
	5 Jul 2021 to 11 Jul 2021	30 Oct 2020 to 11 Jul 2021
Approved	51	1,998
Declined	61	1,616
Applications processed	112	3,614

* These figures only include completed applications, with all supporting evidence, which were received within the required timeframes, which have been decided by a decision maker.

Total Rooms Approved Under Emergency Allocation	53
Rooms Allocated in MIAS	42
Cancelled by the applicant	0
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	11

4.8 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 6 July to 12 July 2021 is as follows:

Week	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
6 Jul 2021 – 12 Jul 2021			
Complaints	311	24	311
Improvements	7	1	6
Compliments	3	0	3
Queries	8	0	8
Ombudsman	8	15	18
Parliamentary/OIA	2	0	3
Other	0	0	0
Total	339	40	349

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 105. For the last four weeks the average is 200 per week.

This week we have received 339 new cases and have resolved 349 cases.

The large increase in complaints this week was driven by 248 complaints about MIAS (228 about being unable to book and 15 about technical queries or issues). Complaints about Emergency allocation also remained high with 36 received (15 complaints about a declined decision and 16 cases where we have provided information about the process). Numbers for fee waivers remained steady however isolation exemptions cases doubled, mainly due to border averters seeking early departure.

5. Border Executive Board Report



5.1 Key Issues Being Considered

5.1.1 QFT Travel

QFT arrangements continue to be a focus of effort within the border sector. Over the past week, the border sector has worked on:

- Three different types of flights from Australia (QFT, managed green return and 'red' flights from Sydney)
- Following Cabinet's decision on 12 July, MFAT will start initial discussions with Samoa, Tonga and then Vanuatu regarding one-way quarantine free travel from these countries to NZ by air.
- Two-way QFT with Niue
- Maritime QFT with Australia

5.1.2 Mandatory Vaccination for Border Workers – Phase 2

The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Amendment Order 2021 came into effect on 15 July 2021.

Border sector engagement is ongoing by agencies, including face-to-face meetings being held by MOH, Maritime NZ and DHBs with ports around the country. Supporting information for PCBUs was made available on 12 July 2021, with translated versions to follow.

Vaccination delivery planning is underway with DHBs both individually and collectively. The initial Ministry of Health focus is local adaptation to local need through collaboration with DHBs and local employers.

The baseline number of active border workers at maritime ports and airports, who are in scope of the amended Order and currently on the BWTR, shows 1462 are unvaccinated (as at 8.00am 14 July data). An as-yet unknown number of additional individual workers are expected to be identified and entered into the BWTR as PCBUs assess both the 'anticipatory nature' and 'affected items' elements of the amended Order against their current workforce. This is the subject of further work in coming weeks.

5.1.3 Smart and safe border: Reconnecting New Zealanders

The Chair of the Border Executive Board and Chief Executive of Auckland International Airport Ltd jointly chaired a meeting on 13 July 2021 to commission the public and private sector working together to ensure the border is prepared for future changes. Attending were the Chief Executives from Wellington and Christchurch airports; Air New Zealand; the Board of Airline Representatives New Zealand; Sir Brian Roche and Rob Fyfe. The Border Executive Board agencies were all represented.

Attendees supported using an Agile Sprint process – this will look at how airports, airlines and border agencies, including the Ministry of Health, could be ready to put a variety of (yet to be confirmed but to include PDT, Vaccination Certificates, and Rapid Arrival Testing) measures in place to support international travel and trade. The intent is to be able to provide you with future options. A separate note will be provided with more detail.

Air New Zealand attended the Border Executive Board meeting on 8 July 2021. s9(2)(a) from the airline's Digital Innovation & Strategy team presented on Air New Zealand's trial of the IATA travel pass. In its current format, this does not entirely meet the needs of New Zealand government agencies, however it could potentially be leveraged by New Zealand's Travel Health Pass.

The lead for the Travel Health Pass work is transitioning from Ministry of Transport to the New Zealand Customs Service. Mat Black from Customs has been appointed as the Travel Health Pass Programme Director.

5.1.4 Systems Improvement: Integrated targeting and border operations

At its meeting on 8 July 2021, the Border Executive Board considered the proposal to improve integrated targeting and border operations. It was noted that the project's proposed initial focus was on: taking steps to enhance the resilience and relevance of the Integrated Targeting and Operations Centre (ITOC) by updating its

governance structure; extending the ITOC targeting service to better support 24/7 operations; bringing in the Ministry of Health and AVSEC interests; and managing risks across multiple modes (such as cargo and marine sectors).

Feedback and engagement had been received from nine different agencies (Customs, Immigration, MPI, NZ Police, AVSEC, Health, Maritime NZ, NZ Security Intelligence Service, and DPMC). These agencies were all keen to collaborate and extend the benefits of integration to achieve operational effectiveness as well as strategic alignment.

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6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Maritime

FV Viking Bay - A total of 15 infected crew were removed from the Spanish registered fishing vessel FV Viking Bay currently berthed at Queens Wharf Wellington to the Quarantine facility based at the Grand Mercure hotel. Five crew who did not test positive remained on board.

The Spanish owners of the vessel were contacted to obtain permission to reduce the number of crew required on board from seven to five. On 13 July 2021, one further crew member was taken off the vessel and delivered to MIQ.

The vessel has a slow leak which had been kept under control by the crew. Now with only reduced crew remaining on board, the ship's agent is making arrangements for the leak to be investigated and repaired if possible.

Customs remains onsite at Queens Wharf to ensure the safe isolation of the four remaining crew, and these crew will be tested regularly to ensure they do not develop COVID-19.

FV Playa Zahara - The FV Playa Zahara is another Spanish registered fishing vessel with 18 crew on board. Their last crew exchange through New Plymouth was 20 June, with all crew (seven) transferring on board testing negative for COVID-19.

During its time at sea, the master of the vessel has stated that 15 out of his 18 crew have displayed mild to medium symptoms, but stated he would only return to port once he obtained health clearance. The master has now asked to come to port for a crew exchange without health clearance, and the Ministry of Health has issued a quarantine notice over the vessel to facilitate the crew exchange.

The vessel berthed in New Plymouth on 13 July 2021 for testing purposes. All crew were tested one by one.

Following the completion of the tests, the vessel departed the port and remained coastal until results were received. Testing results received on 14 July 2021 show that 17 of the 18 crew have tested positive for COVID-19. The Spanish owners have agreed to send the vessel to Lyttelton.

All crew are feeling well. The estimated time of arrival at Lyttelton is 16 July 2021 at 9.00 pm at normal speed. But if the vessel is to undergo remote pilotage, this needs to be done in daylight so their estimated time of arrival would then be 17 July 2021 at 8.00am.

6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 5 July 2021 to 11 July 2021, there was one infringement issued:

7 July 2021 – A passenger arriving from China via the Singapore was issued an infringement after failing to produce evidence of a PDT documentation. The passenger claimed the documentation was on their phone but they had erased all data from the phone when leaving China.

s6(c)



6.1.3 Passenger Numbers – Cook Islands



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7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

7.1 Items to Note/Updates

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

8. COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group

8.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group met on 13 July for their regular fortnightly meeting. Graham MacLean, Head of System Readiness and Planning attended the meeting to discuss the Q3 Response Plan and to give an overview of readiness planning events underway. Sir Brian Roche, Rob Fyfe and Philip Hill attended the Border Executive Board's Safe and Smart Border – Reconnecting New Zealanders hui on 13 July. A programme of work has been proposed for completion by the end of September and the Group will remain actively involved.

Sir Brian Roche and Philip Hill visited the SCL laboratory at Wellington Hospital on 14 July to gain a better understanding of the procedures and technology the lab use for the processing of COVID-19 tests (nasopharyngeal and saliva). The Group also met with Stephen McKernan from the Health and Disability Transition Unit on 15 July to gain an insight into the direction of the health reform process.

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group met on 14 July to discuss the content of their next report to the Minister. The Group discussed recommendations for relaxing the border restrictions based on New Zealand's COVID-19 vaccination programme. The next meeting for the Group will be on 28 July.

10. Business Leaders Forum

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum is considering actions that they could take to support businesses to encourage the use of contract tracing as part of the planned health behaviours campaign. The date for the next meeting is yet to be confirmed.

11. Government Modelling Group

11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Modelling Steering Group are continuing to work with Te Punaha Matatini researchers on their next paper. This explores the relationship between using different tools for travellers (testing, tracing, isolation requirements) and the expected frequency and severity of outbreaks as vaccination rates increase. This work is due to be completed over the next couple of months, but we are working towards interim deliverables for the end of July which can inform the Reconnecting New Zealanders August Cabinet discussion.

Next week, officials will be engaging with Professor Tony Blakeley (University of Melbourne) and team, who have recently published modelling (situated in the Australian context) which explores similar themes. We will take a view on the comparability between their modelling and the work of TPM and ESR, domestically. Key points will be provided in next week's weekly report.

Officials will meet with Rodney Jones (Wigram Capital) next week to discuss current reflections on the international context.

Proactively Released

- ¹ Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 12 Jul 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>
- ² World Health Organisation. Director General's Opening Remarks at Media Briefing on COVID-19, 12 July [Internet]: World Health Organisation; 2021 [cited 12 Jul 2021]. Available from: <https://www.who.int/director-general/speeches/detail/who-director-general-s-opening-remarks-at-the-media-briefing-on-covid-19-12-july-2021>
- ³ Customs NZ arrival cards (extracted 12 July 2021).
- ⁴ ESR EpiSurv (extracted 12 July 2021).
- ⁵ Our World in Data. Coronavirus [Internet]: Our World in Data; 2021 [cited 12 Jul 2021]. Available from: <https://ourworldindata.org/coronavirus>
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