



**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 July 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
Border measures	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	MBIE	●	●	<p>Staff testing:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance reporting is at 96%, down 2% from last week, for staff who worked in the week of 12-18 July 2021. This includes Hamilton data (Hamilton facilities are now back up to 91% compliance with cyber-attack issues largely resolved). 4% (178) of workers on site in the week of 12-18 July 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue. The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers. We have a specific piece of work underway to ensure those listed as 11+ days overdue are either tested or referred to the appropriate agency for management. <p>Vaccinations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 12-18 July 2021, 95.2% have had two doses of the vaccine, 2.4% had one dose and 2.3% have vaccination status 'unknown'. Vaccination follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not identify any instances of unvaccinated people going on site. There was one exception granted last week at the Distinction Hamilton for urgent roof repairs. 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 learn from the saliva testing prototype and improve the limitations of BWTR information.
	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The baseline number, established as at 14 July 2021, of active border workers at maritime ports and airports, who are in scope of the amended Order and on the Border Worker Testing Register (BWTR) showed 1462 were unvaccinated. BWTR data extracted as at 8.00am, 21 July 2021, show this number is now 1372; while the number of those fully vaccinated has increased from 2,785 to 3,076 (from 14 July to 21 July). The indicator remains at amber due to implementation issues and risks.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> A few managed return flights are running from South Australia.
Two-way QFT with Australia	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
	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 s6(a)
Two-way QFT Niue	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s6(a) These discussions confirmed Niue is committed to a staged opening of its borders s6(b)(i) Niue has also signalled its intention to require all in-bound passengers to be vaccinated. Preparations are under way for a Ministry of Health led technical mission to Niue to take place 27 July – 24 August, which will be required to undertake two weeks' managed isolation in Niue.
	BEB	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
Reopening new travel pathways	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.

Border (continued)

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following Cabinet's mandate to progress discussions on one-way quarantine free travel from Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu to New Zealand, our High Commissioners in these countries were tasked to convey the proposal to governments:<ul style="list-style-type: none">s6(b)(i)s6(a)New Zealand has sent draft Arrangements and health and border requirements to Posts for sharing with host governments s6(a) Officials are working at pace to prepare other necessary protocols and documentation.Officials will report back on progress to the Cabinet Social Wellbeing Committee on 11 August.
MoH	●	●	<p>South Australia</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A risk assessment for South Australia was completed on Tuesday 20 July 2021.As a result, a pause was implemented from 23.59 20 July 2021 with a few managed flights to occur to bring people home to New Zealand. <p>Victoria</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A risk assessment for Victoria was completed on Thursday 15 July 2021, with QFT from Victoria paused as of 01.59hrs 16 July 2021.The Public Health Risk Assessment was reviewed on Monday 19 July 2021, where it was deemed the current pause should continue. <p>New South Wales</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">A Public Health Risk Assessment was completed on Wednesday 14 July 2021 for QFT with NSW.The assessment recommended the continued pause of QFT.Managed return flights currently in place since 23 59 hrs Monday 12 July 2021 will continue. <p>Queensland</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">The risk assessment for Queensland was reviewed on Tuesday 20 July 2021 in light of new cases being reported, it was deemed that QFT from Queensland can continue.

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 19 (last week it was 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 11 of the remediation proposals received to date. A further three remediation proposals were reviewed by MIQs Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group (VRAG) last week bringing the total number reviewed to date to 11. Regarding ventilation systems the status remains amber as we assess implications on the MIQ system of delivering the remediation works across the portfolio. Next steps, leading to green, will be looking across the whole portfolio to schedule the remedial work whilst balancing room capacity.
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 (same as last week). We now have signed the legal contract for seven facilities (previously four). We are continuing to work through getting the remainder of the execution copies issued. This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotels.
		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 28 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 have been issued up to 2 June 2021 (excluding exceptions and aircrew). The new invoicing platform has generated over 9,000 invoices, with a value of more than \$37m, in its first seven 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. The first debt collection payment has been confirmed. Recruitment is underway to fully resource this function. We will send invoices in batches to the debt collection agency meaning the figure may not change every week. This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices and while we make progress on debt recovery.

Community Protection

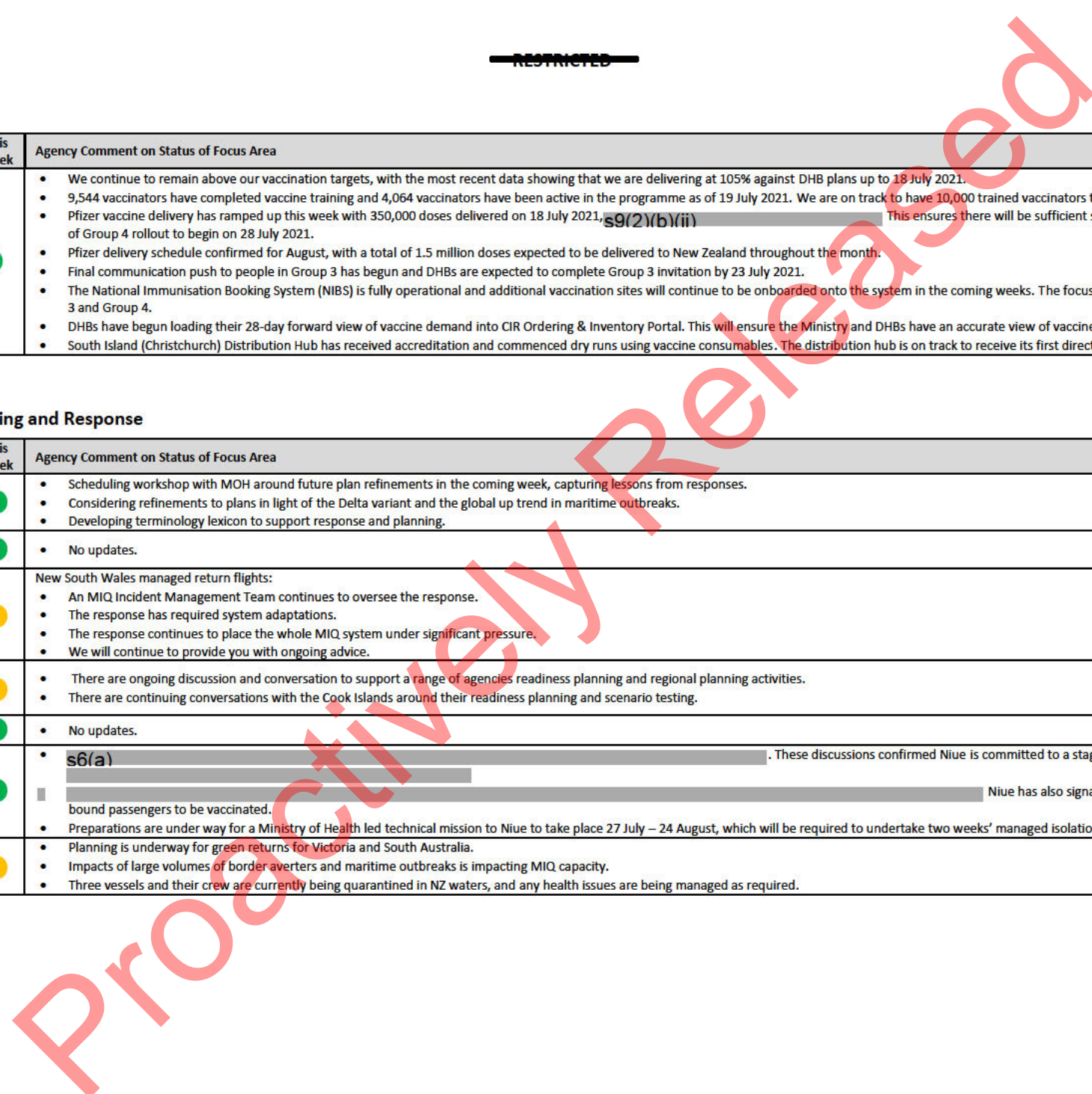
		Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Case investigation, surveillance and testing		MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.

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 105% against DHB plans up to 18 July 2021. 9,544 vaccinators have completed vaccine training and 4,064 vaccinators have been active in the programme as of 19 July 2021. We are on track to have 10,000 trained vaccinators this month. Pfizer vaccine delivery has ramped up this week with 350,000 doses delivered on 18 July 2021, s9(2)(b)(ii) This ensures there will be sufficient stock on hand for the commencement of Group 4 rollout to begin on 28 July 2021. Pfizer delivery schedule confirmed for August, with a total of 1.5 million doses expected to be delivered to New Zealand throughout the month. Final communication push to people in Group 3 has begun and DHBs are expected to complete Group 3 invitation by 23 July 2021. The National Immunisation Booking System (NIBS) is fully operational and additional vaccination sites will continue to be onboarded onto the system in the coming weeks. The focus now is to increase capacity for Group 3 and Group 4. DHBs have begun loading their 28-day forward view of vaccine demand into CIR Ordering & Inventory Portal. This will ensure the Ministry and DHBs have an accurate view of vaccine stock across the country. South Island (Christchurch) Distribution Hub has received accreditation and commenced dry runs using vaccine consumables. The distribution hub is on track to receive its first direct flight with vaccine stock on 27 July.

Resurgence Planning and Response

Resurgence planning including review of the response	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
Readiness planning	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheduling workshop with MOH around future plan refinements in the coming week, capturing lessons from responses. Considering refinements to plans in light of the Delta variant and the global up trend in maritime outbreaks. Developing terminology lexicon to support response and planning.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
QFT response	MBIE		●	<p>New South Wales managed return flights:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> An MIQ Incident Management Team continues to oversee the response. The response has required system adaptations. The response continues to place the whole MIQ system under significant pressure. We will continue to provide you with ongoing advice.
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are ongoing discussion and conversation to support a range of agencies readiness planning and regional planning activities. There are continuing conversations with the Cook Islands around their readiness planning and scenario testing.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No updates.
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s6(a) . These discussions confirmed Niue is committed to a staged opening of its borders, s6(b)(i) Niue has also signalled its intention to require all in-bound passengers to be vaccinated. Preparations are under way for a Ministry of Health led technical mission to Niue to take place 27 July – 24 August, which will be required to undertake two weeks' managed isolation in Niue.
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Planning is underway for green returns for Victoria and South Australia. Impacts of large volumes of border averters and maritime outbreaks is impacting MIQ capacity. Three vessels and their crew are currently being quarantined in NZ waters, and any health issues are being managed as required.



2 COVID-19 Insights

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

2.1.1 Passengers on Flights Between New Zealand and Australia

For the period of 5 July to 20 July there were a total 35,836 arrivals into New Zealand from Australia, and 29,981 departures to Australia. There were 5,855 more arrivals to New Zealand from Australia than departures to Australia during this period.

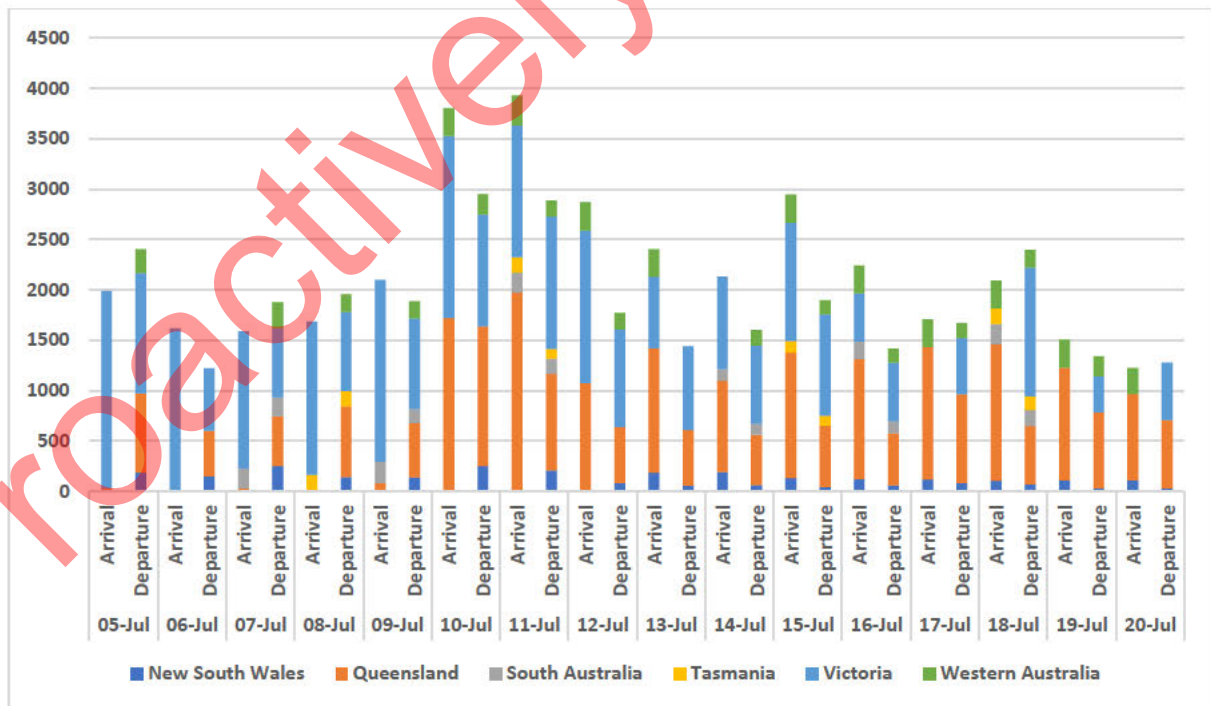
Arrivals to New Zealand from Australia by state since 5 July 2021 were as follows:

- New South Wales: 1066 (3%)
- Queensland: 14141 (39%)
- South Australia: 1092 (3%)
- Tasmania: 593 (2%)
- Victoria: 16178 (45%)
- Western Australia: 2766 (8%)

Departures from New Zealand to Australia by state since 5 July 2021 were as follows:

- New South Wales: 1830 (6%)
- Queensland: 10953 (37%)
- South Australia: 862 (3%)
- Tasmania: 488 (2%)
- Victoria: 13534 (45%)
- Western Australia: 2314 (8%)

Figure 1: Passengers on Flights Between New Zealand and Australia by Day



2.2 Insights of Note Written by the Ministry of Health

2.2.1 Overview of Variants

“Variants of Concern (VOC)” are variants with mutations that occur in areas of the viral RNA that may alter how the virus behaves, e.g. increase transmissibility or characteristics making the virus less likely to be identified and eliminated by the human immune system. In December 2020, variants that appeared to be more transmissible than the original raised the need for the health system response to closely monitor variants. The Ministry of Health has been producing weekly VOC updates since January 2021. The latest of these updates is available on the Ministry’s website.¹

Prevalence of the Delta variant (B.1.617.2, first identified in India) continues to increase worldwide. For example, Delta now accounts for approximately 99 percent of sequences in England. A new version of the Delta variant that has acquired the added mutation K417N (this variant is also known informally as “Delta plus”) does not appear to be increasing in England. Mutation K417N is potentially associated with the human immune system being less effective in responding to the virus.

2.2.2 Delta variant

The Delta variant appears to be associated with a shorter incubation period than previous variants, an estimated time of 4 days between exposure and first positive test, compared to 6 days for previous variants.² In addition, the Delta variant also has an increased viral load, approximately 1,000 times more virus was detected on the first positive test, compared to previous variants.

A shorter incubation period means that contacts who are infected become infectious sooner and with a higher viral load. Therefore, there may be a higher chance that if they are not contacted in time, these people may be in the community while infectious. Travellers entering managed isolation and quarantine facilities, who are infected prior to travel, may become infectious sooner; potentially being infectious early on during their managed isolation and quarantine stay or while in transit.

3 Ministry of Health



3.1 Items to note/updates

3.1.1 Exploring opportunities for sewage testing on ships as a tool to screen seafarers for COVID-19

This item informs you about the findings from an assessment by the Institute of Environmental Science and Research Ltd (ESR) into the feasibility, capability, and limitations of sewage testing as a screening tool for COVID-19 at the maritime border. This work was commissioned by the Ministry.

ESR found that nasopharyngeal swabbing remains the 'gold standard,' and should remain the primary method by which arrivals are tested for COVID-19.

ESR's scientists observed that:

- only half of infected cases shed detectable levels of virus in their faeces, so sewage testing does not have the reliability required of a border screening tool
- sewage testing may fail to detect cases that are in the early stages of infection, a large proportion of whom are likely to be infectious
- sewage testing may detect historic infections, resulting in the quarantine of individuals (and their fellow crew) who do not present a risk of viral transmission.

ESR also noted that exposure to raw sewage presents significant health and safety risks, including potential exposure to other faecal pathogens, some of which may not be endemic to New Zealand.

As a result of these findings, we will not be pursuing sewage testing on vessels.

Next steps

ESR will be publishing the report on its website, on or around 30 July 2021. The Ministry will summarise the report's findings in our routine quarterly update sent to around 200 border organisation, agencies and individuals on 30 July 2021

3.2 Policy/Programme Updates

3.2.1 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11.59 pm 20 July 2021, 1,553,035 vaccinations have been delivered, including 628,259 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 16 percent are Asian.

87,158 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents nine percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 20 July 2021.

198 sites were active on 20 July 2021.

The production plan for the next seven days is for 222,852 doses across New Zealand.

Communication campaigns for Group 3

A final major communication push to people in Group 3 has begun through several streams. This includes DHB-led local promotion, a national campaign promoting the 0800 number, and a number of press releases through TV, radio, digital and social activity.

Community outreach has commenced to Group 3 with focus on Māori and Pacific networks, and the disability sector is underway.

DHBs are expected to complete Group 3 invitations by 23 July 2021.

Supply

The expected Pfizer delivery of 349,830 doses arrived on 18 July 2021, two days ahead of schedule. 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.

Group 4 rollout preparations

The Ministry of Health has developed a capacity and demand tool to better understand consumer pathways for booking their appointment. This will track from the time that the consumer is first eligible and able to book their appointment. The tool is under development and data quality will improve and provide a more robust view of the capacity of DHBs for appointments against their production plan as well as the timeframe for booking.

Work is underway to ensure a whānau-centred approach is used throughout Group 4 rollout. It is proposed that individuals in priority population groups are informed that they can book whānau members when they are invited within their Group 4 age band.

Book My Vaccine

As of 20 July 2021, Book My Vaccine is operational across 159 sites and has been used to make 688,433 bookings.

The National Immunisation Booking system is now fully operational and additional vaccination sites will continue to be onboarded to the system in the coming weeks. The focus is now to increase capacity for Group 3 vaccination bookings so that these can be completed prior to national invitations for Group 4 launching on 28 July 2021.

The Ministry of Health is also working with DHBs to ensure that there is reserved capacity (i.e. not available to the general public) in booking streams to support timely access of vaccination to workers that will be covered under the extended border order.

Logistics and Distribution

As at the end of the day on 20 July 2021, we have made 1,409 deliveries to sites across the country. This equates to delivery of 263,494 vials or 1,580,964 doses.

Some DHBs have started to load their 28-day forward view of demand into the COVID-19 Immunisation Register (CIR) Ordering & Inventory Portal. The remaining DHBs will begin doing so by the end of July 2021. This gives the Ministry of Health and DHBs an accurate view of vaccine stock and consumable orders, consumption, waste and stock on hand across the country.

Following the Auckland vaccination sites temporarily running out of stock on 13 July 2021, Logistics has worked closely with the Northern Regional Health Co-ordination Centre (NRHCC) to ensure new measures are put in place to prevent sites running out of vaccine stock in the future.

South Island (Christchurch) distribution hub

The South Island (Christchurch) distribution hub received accreditation in the week beginning 12 July 2021 and commenced dry runs using vaccines consumables. 'Wet runs' with vaccine stock will commence this week. The distribution hub is on track to receive its first direct flight with vaccine stock on 27 July 2021.

Mass vaccination event

Manukau Institute of Technology (MIT) has sent a direct invitation to students, with instructions on booking themselves and their whānau for the first mass vaccination event from 30 July to 1 August 2021. The NRHCC will monitor uptake, and work with MIT to provide reminders as required.

The first event is intended to showcase how the mass vaccination model works in a New Zealand context. Lessons learned from this event will be used to refine the Ministry of Health's planning guidance to DHBs on mass vaccination events

General practice rollout

DHBs are increasing commissioning of primary care providers to deliver COVID-19 vaccinations. Information from DHBs indicates that during July 2021 they plan to bring 176 primary care providers into the programme. This is a mixture of general practice, Māori Hauora and community pharmacy.

To assist with this process an on-boarding guide has been developed that intends to help providers to implement all aspects of vaccination delivery in accordance with the programme standards and operating guidelines. The aim is to ensure providers are set-up to succeed and ensure national consistency.

Technology

The COVID-19 Population, Identification and Registration (CIPR) will generate invitations for Group 3 people who have not yet been vaccinated or booked an appointment.

Priority updates for the CIR Ordering & Inventory Portal have begun development and testing. These include a step for DHBs to complete a 'quality assurance check', and linking the demand forecast to order creation.

Equity

Equity production plans for Māori and Pacific vaccination volumes are included in the vaccine production planning for July to October 2021.

Applicants for the Disabled Peoples COVID-19 Immunisation and Vaccine Communication Fund were advised of their outcome last week. As at 19 July 2021 the agreements to commence have been put into place. An advisory group has been established to supplement the programme, provide feedback on communications, and identify gaps to improve future national level communications for disabled people.

Training has been launched on supported decision-making and the informed consent process for disabled people. This will complement disability equity training, and training that has been developed for supporting vaccinators in the delivery of vaccinations to people with complex behavioural needs.

Workforce

As at 20 July 2021, 9,596 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 4,118 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

The programme is on track for the first cohort of COVID-19 vaccinators to complete their training and be authorised to begin vaccinating over the next few weeks.

Rollout of the vaccine to Polynesia

Cook Islands

As of 15 July 2021, a total of 20,592 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 Island will be supported by the HMNZS Wellington in late July 2021 following the delivery of vaccines to Tokelau. We are expecting vaccine rollout to commence on 22 July 2021.

Niue

Vaccine rollout to Niue has been completed, with 93 percent of the eligible population now fully vaccinated. Niue are reporting 97 percent of the eligible population being fully vaccinated following adjustments to their numbers to exclude those who left Niue after receiving dose 1.

Tokelau

HMNZS Wellington arrived on 19 July 2021 and vaccines were delivered using contactless delivery. Rollout to the general population is expected to commence on 20 July 2021.

Other countries

The landscape has shifted considerably over the last week and there is now a large amount of vaccines being donated to the Pacific by a range of donors. s6(a), s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted content]

Next steps

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

3.3 Technical Advisory Group: Update

COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 13 July 2021 and the following items were discussed:

- the vaccine rollout
- preliminary advice and recommendations about the risk of myocarditis with the Pfizer vaccine.

COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group

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

3.4 Upcoming communications issues and activities

As at 19/07/21

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial involvement
w/c 19 July 21	Revised Testing Guidance	MoH	Updates to DHBs and primary care organisations, web content	Optional
19 July 21	Quarantine free travel (QFT) - managed return flights from NSW continue for returnees that have a space into managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) for 14 days. Review of Victoria and Queensland QFT pause 19 to 20 July 2021.	MoH/DPMC	Press release, media interviews, web content	Yes
19 July 21	Playa Zahara vessel now docked in port of Lyttelton and mariners moved into MIQ. Continue to provide updates on Viking Bay vessel in Wellington.	MoH / Customs	Press release, health advice	Optional
19 July 21	Health advice and locations of interest (s70s) updates for New Zealand travellers in New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Queensland.	MoH	Web content	No

4 Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Top Items to Note

4.1.1 NSW managed return flights

We continue to focus on the NSW response. The response has required system adaptations and continues to place the whole MIQ system under significant pressure.

Call centre volumes are increasing again after the 530 room second tranche announcement. Some calls are from upset/distressed people.

We continue to monitor incident logs for any trends across the NSW returnees and are capturing lessons learnt from the quota allocation process for tranche 1.

Approximately 115 people remain in the urgent and emergency (U&E) group for the next tranche. We are keeping these people updated.

Over 100 people were declined for a U&E allocation. The majority of declines were because returnees did not travel to Australia within the required timeframe.

We are working with the airlines to continually improve processes in order to maximise the allocation of rooms across passenger cohorts.

Planning has started for a potential NSW phase 3 and a potential Victoria bubble closure.

4.1.2 Staff testing update – compliance statistics for 12 to 18 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 12 – 18 July 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,221	96%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	178	4%
Need NHI-match	87	
Workers on site	4,486	

Of the 178 overdue, 138 of those are less than 4 days overdue, six are 4-10 days overdue and 34 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 87 that still need an NHI-match, 76 were created in BWTR in the last 7 days and the remaining eleven may be NHI issues which we are working through with MoH.

16 workers (excluding Hamilton workers) were recorded as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 5-11 July 2021. We have confirmed eleven of them have been swabbed, one has been referred to MOH as they are no longer employed, one is a possible NHI-matching issue, and we are still awaiting a confirmation from employers of test compliance for the other three.

4.1.3 Focus on reducing 11 + days overdue

The immediate focus of our staff testing team has been to ensure that those who are working in our facilities are meeting their obligations and now that they are meeting these at a high rate, we can focus on cleaning up the older testing records.

There remains a group of MIQ workers who are listed as 11+ days since they had a test, noting that the large majority of these workers have not had recent attendance in our facilities.

Of those listed as 11+ days:

- a significant portion are former NZDF staff who worked in MIQ and were tested on their way out but did not get a follow-up test (this was their former practice which no longer occurs);
- many were incorrectly recorded as requiring to be tested (i.e. was a courier/delivery driver who never left their vehicle and were incorrectly signed into WOL but are not required to be tested); or
- are workers from Waikato whose testing records have been impacted by the cyber-attack.

While we are confident that the majority of this group do not pose a public health risk, we are focused on ensuring they get a test or are referred to the appropriate agency for management. Please note, the total number of workers listed as 11+ days for MIQ is down by 141, from 658 last week to 517 this week. We are actively working to bring this number down

NZDF are following up with their staff who are still recorded as non-compliant to ensure they get a close out test and we are also working with the Ministry of Health to ensure the records for those who are actually not required to be tested are removed from this non-compliant list.

Any remaining legacy issues with these overdue workers are being worked through with the employers directly (where possible) or if they no longer work for their employer, are being referred to the Ministry of Health for management

34 workers who were on site last week were recorded in BWTR as 11+ days overdue. Of these:

- 22 are Waikato workers so their records will be impacted by the cyber-attack;
- 12 are actively being followed up, but we know some of these have now been tested, have an exemption from nasal swabbing or are the non-compliant due to NHI matching issues

4.2 Operational Update

4.2.1 Vaccination of frontline staff update

For workers on site for the week 12-18 July, BWTR shows 95.2% had two doses of the vaccine, 2.4% had one dose and the remaining 2.3% (105 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 105 with an 'unknown' status, 87 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing team is investigating the remaining 18 workers to confirm vaccination status.

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

Of the 17 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 5-11 July 2021 Weekly report:

- 11 have been confirmed as compliant with the vaccine order;
- one worker was denied entry due to non-vaccinated status after they had signed into Who's-on-Location.
- one worker was incorrectly signed-in (they didn't enter the facility); and
- We have contacted and are still awaiting vaccine confirmation for the remaining four.

4.2.2 Capacity update

- As at 7am 21 July 2021, there is currently no availability on MIAS.
- Planning is under way for room top ups as per below:
- August will be topped-up to 100% next week, in conjunction with any unused Emergency Allocations.
- September and October will be topped-up in line with the Voucher Release framework (up to 90% for September and 60% for October will be released), expected to occur next week.

- For December, we are waiting for Airline schedules to be finalised. The December release is expected for the end of July/first week of August 2021.

4.2.3 Ombudsman update

Regarding the thematic report the Ombudsman intends to publish, we thanked the Ombudsman for his work and for providing positive feedback about the hard work that workers at managed isolation and quarantine facilities do to keep New Zealand safe. Ministry of Health provided an update on their ongoing support of facilities and MBIE provided an update on our continuous improvement work.

Two inspections occurred last week:

- 13 July 2021 – Sudima Christchurch
- 14 July 2021 – Crowne Plaza Christchurch

We received provisional reports for the Distinction Hamilton and Jet Park Hamilton on 15 July 2021 and are working to formulate MBIE's response to the draft recommendations, with our response due by 29 July 2021.

We have received a copy of the letter the Ombudsman has written to you regarding his concerns around the suitability of the Grand Mercure to operate as a managed isolation and quarantine facility – primarily due to the outside area available to returnees.

4.2.4 Security Enhancement Programme update

MBIE is 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): All MBIE Security Officers on rostered shifts.
- Hamilton (target 15): All 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): All 105 positions have now been filled with 105 candidates having accepted offers. They will now all be on-boarded over the next three weeks.

Now that all facilities have essentially met their target for recruiting MBIE security officers, going forward we will report on this by exception.

4.3 Schedule of Reviews

4.3.1 Regulations Review Committee and Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges

MBIE has received a letter from the Regulations Review Committee, requesting information about MIQ fee increases for temporary entry class visa holders.

At their meeting on 19 May 2021, the Committee considered the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Managed Isolation and Quarantine Charges) Amendment Regulations 2021, which increased managed isolation costs for many temporary entry class visa holders. They write that the fee increase for this class of persons was "substantial, with MIQ fees now around three times higher than they were".

The Committee has requested from MBIE more information about this fee increase, in particular: why the new level of the fee was chosen; why it was targeted at temporary entry class visa holders; and what the Ministry considers to be the actual costs of MIQ in this context. Our response is due by 18 August, 2021.

4.3.2 Update on MIAS – BOTs review

MIQ is confident that it has taken reasonable steps to ensure that people cannot gain an advantage by deploying BOTs when accessing the MIAS system.

However, in response to the recent public and media interest in the possibility that BOTs can be deployed to increase a person's chances of securing a voucher for a place in a MIF, MIQ has commissioned independent reviews of the system, processes, and controls that relate to the specific stage in MIAS that allows a voucher to be obtained.

Recognising that MIQ is continually implementing improvements to the MIAS system, the aim of the reviews is to: identify aspects of the system, processes and controls that could be exploited by the use of BOTs or similar technologies; and to test the system using BOTs and any other relevant 'hacking' techniques.

MIQ has also requested that any risks identified be quantified, tested, and recommendations made to address them as appropriate. This work is expected to be completed in the next 1-2 weeks.

4.3.3 Update on cohorting – KPMG review

KPMG has been commissioned to conduct an independent review of the cohorting model which has been implemented by the National Planning team.

Further updates on the scope and timing of the review will be provided next week.

Proactively Released

4.4 Schedule of Reviews

	Date commenced	Expected completion date	Current status	Purpose
MIQ Emergency Allocations Applications Decision-Making Process Review	July 2021	July 2021	In progress	The objective of this review is to assess whether a decision made concerning two emergency allocation applications (“the applications”) followed the correct process by complying with the Standard Operating Procedures (SOP) and Guidelines for Assessing Emergency Allocation Applications (Guidelines), and if the decision was consistent with other similar applications.
Financial Management Review	May 2021	July 2021	In progress	Identify opportunities for improvement in process and procedures for supplier invoicing, review of financial reporting that is currently in place, and review of financial delegations framework.
MIQ PCBU Health and Safety Obligations Review	April 2021	July 2021	In progress	This review is to identify MBIE’s responsibilities as a lead PCBU and assess how well these responsibilities are fulfilled to support other PCBUs meet their health and safety obligations.
MIQ Exemptions Review	June 2021	July 2021	In progress	To assess consistency, transparency and fairness of the exemptions from managed isolation process for people entering New Zealand.
Onsite Ventilation Assessments	February 2021	Testing: May 2021 Programme of work: August 2021	In progress	A comprehensive understanding of MIQF ventilation systems, remediation work completed (if required) to optimise the performance of the systems and additional operational practices implemented to complement the ventilation system operations.
Rapid review of Border Worker Testing (BEB led)	April 2021	Two part review. Part one (focused on MIQ) due to be presented to BEB on 29 July 2021. Part two (focused on wider border) still TBC when it will be completed.	BEB-led report. Phase 1 Final report going to the Border Executive Board on 29 July 2021. This will be provided to your Office once considered by the BEB. Phase 2 in progress	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.
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.

4.5 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 20 July 2021

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
NZDF Operation WHIO	28 Jul 2021	35	35	Both groups arriving on military flights.
	29 Jul 2021	16	16	
RSE	21 Jul 2021	150	116 (150 pax)	The second cohort of 150 RSE workers arrived on 21 July 2021.
	7 Aug 2021	150	116 (TBC)	
Construction Accord	Aug 2021	60	15 (19 pax)	Construction Accord did not take up the allocation in June or July.
	Sep 2021	60	TBC	
Netball – English Roses	27 Aug 2021	30	TBC	This will be the first sports team under the new full cost recovery model. Planning has begun. An off-site SMIF (Sports managed isolation facility) for off-site training has been sourced and IPC assessment is underway.
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 cohorts (3)	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. Discussion regarding the inbound travellers and their additional luggage requirements is underway.
Antarctic Programme	17 Sep 2021	200	200	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German and Korean programme.
	18 Sep 2021	39	39	
	21 Sep 2021	1	1	
	27 Sep 2021	145	145	
	28 Sep 2021	145	145	
	4 Oct 2021	46	46	
	6 Oct 2021	17	17	
	9 Oct 2021	10	10	
	10 Oct 2021	10	10	
	11 Oct 2021	202	202	
	18 Oct 2021	42	42	
25 Oct 2021	20	20		
29 Oct 2021	3	3		

4.5.1 Time Sensitive Travel

Time Sensitive Travel applications for September and October 2021 arrivals closed 14 July 2021. Seventy-five applications requesting allocations for 181 people (of these 29 are family members) were received. Applications are now being assessed with decisions to be made in the first week of August 2021.

4.6 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 21 July 2021

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

4.7 Fees

4.7.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to 18 July 2021. Invoices have various repayment terms depending on whether they are a sports group (10 days), critical worker (30 days) or standard returnee/maritime crew/aircrew (90 days). \$5m in payments received for the week is due to receipting being delayed due to the financial year end the previous week.

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued overdue	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days overdue	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups ¹	415	67	355	6	\$17,770,084	\$14,523,088	\$3,219,330	\$27,666	0	\$0
Maritime	364	246	98	20	\$1,698,983	\$1,141,082	\$512,186	\$45,715	9	\$10,629
Aircrew	204	139	7	58	\$1,088,210	\$787,265	\$44,950	\$255,995	4	\$53,197
Other	22,401	10,792	8,816	2,793	\$81,857,203	\$40,757,941	\$32,654,680	\$8,444,582	1,028	\$3,420,470
Total	23,384	11,244	9,276	2,877	\$102,414,480	\$57,209,376	\$36,431,146	\$8,773,958	1,041	\$3,484,296

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.

4.7.2 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	\$3,184,327
2-4 weeks	\$4,882,339
5-8 weeks	\$5,228,836
9+ weeks	\$1,375,539

4.7.3 Waivers

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

Waiver applications received	In progress	Total completed	Total financial hardship applications	Total special circumstances applications	Approved waiver applications		Declined waiver applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
8,436	2,029	6,407	823	5,584	87	4,783	736	801

4.8 Emergency Allocation Applications

3,756 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020.

328 applications were received in the week ending 18 July 2021 and 142 applications were processed.

From the applications processed in the week ending 18 July 2021, 60% of the applications were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals	Year to Date Totals
	12 Jul 2021 to 18 Jul 2021	30 Oct 2020 to 18 Jul 2021
Approved	85	2,086
Declined	57	1,670
Applications processed	142	3,756

* 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	89
Rooms Allocated in MIAS	82
Cancelled by the applicant	0
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	7

4.9 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 13 July to 19 July 2021 is as follows:

Week 13 Jul 2021 – 19 Jul 2021	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	235	35	224
Improvements	8	0	9
Compliments	2	0	2
Queries	11	0	11
Ombudsman	7	3	19
Parliamentary/OIA	0	0	0
Other	0	0	0
Total	263	38	265

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 114. For the last four weeks the average is 234 per week.

This week we have received 263 new cases and have resolved 265 cases.

We continue to see a high number of cases this week regarding MIAS and vouchers with 162 cases in total (145 about being unable to book and 17 about technical/system issues). Complaints about Emergency allocation also remained high with 44 received (24 complaints raised about a declined decision and 19 about issues or queries regarding the process). Numbers for fee waivers remained steady however isolation exemptions cases continue to increase, as travellers seek an alternative to securing a voucher and border averters seek early departure. MIF complaints have decreased slightly this week.

5 Border Executive Board Report



5.1 Key Issues Being Considered

5.1.1 Border Executive Board meeting

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

5.1.2 QFT Travel

Operationally, implementing the changing QFT arrangements continue to be a focus of effort within the border sector.

Advice has been provided on the funding required to support the deployment of an additional nine Immigration NZ Airline Liaison Officers to maximise pre-departure checks in Australia (bringing the total to 15), and for additional Customs Officers to s6(c)

Whilst the Airline Liaison Officers could be in place by early September 2021, the recruitment training and deployment of up to 62 more Customs Officers is estimated to take 3-4 months.

5.1.3 Very high risk countries

Agencies have continued to convene weekly to consider the implementation of risk mitigation measures for travellers from very high risk countries – mitigations are now routine. Last week, nine passengers attempting to travel from India to New Zealand as part of a marine crew exchange were identified as not being permitted to enter New Zealand and were refused boarding. A further four passengers who were part of the same marine crew exchange and had left via Doha, were identified en-route and interviewed on arrival. Following a stay in MIQ, they will be returned to India.

Border agencies have engaged in advice being provided about the potential impacts of reclassifying the current four very high risk countries (India, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, and Brazil) to high risk status.

5.1.4 Mandatory Vaccination for Border Workers – Phase 2

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.

A paper outlining the Supply Chain Exemption draft criteria and process is to be discussed at the Border Executive Board meeting on 22 July 2021, prior to final advice being submitted to you for approval.

The baseline number, established as at 14 July, of active border workers at maritime ports and airports, who are in scope of the amended Order and on the Border Worker Testing Register (BWTR) showed 1462 were unvaccinated. BWTR data extracted as at 8.00am, 21 July, shows that this number is now 1372; while the number of fully vaccinated people has increased from 2785 (14 July) to 3076 (21 July).

6 New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Maritime

New vessel of interest: The container vessel (CV) Mattina departed Fremantle, Australia on 12 July 2021 and arrived in Bluff at 2100hrs on 18 July 2021. Prior to the vessel's arrival, the Ministry of Health had been contacted and advised that there were two symptomatic crew members on-board. Upon arrival all 21 crew were tested, with the two symptomatic crew undertaking rapid testing. Testing results have confirmed that 9 crew are positive for COVID-19.

FV Viking Bay - The vessel remains berthed at Queens Wharf, Wellington with Customs' staff maintaining a 24/7 presence. There are 5 crew left on board with the remainder in MIQ.

FV Playa Zahara - The vessel remains berthed within Lyttelton Port and Customs' staff are maintaining a 24/7 presence. There are 5 crew left on board with the remainder in MIQ.

As a result of the increase in international seafarers testing positive for COVID, work is now underway to review COVID settings for commercial vessel and fishing vessel crew in the maritime environment.

6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

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 was cancelled. 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 did not meet this week. The next meeting is scheduled for 27 July. Debbie Ryan and Philip Hill met with Christine Stevenson, CE of the New Zealand Customs Service on 20 July. The discussion focussed on operational considerations and challenges of travel between New Zealand and other Pacific nations, border workforce testing and vaccinations (including supporting border workers), and technological innovations that will be needed for the future border.

9 Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The group did not meet this week, and the next meeting is 28 July. An update will be provided next week.

10 Business Leaders Forum

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

No updates at this time.

11 Government Modelling Group

11.1 Items to Note/Updates

Officials are expecting an interim report from TPM next week regarding the effectiveness of different control measures for international arrivals. We aim to share the material with the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group and then incorporate relevant insights into the August Reconnecting New Zealanders Cabinet Paper.

On Wednesday, Treasury hosted a session with Professor Tony Blakeley who has recently published modelling which supports discussion around strategic choices for reopening.

- The session was widely attended by officials from across agencies, the NZ-based researchers that we work closely with, and also included Professor Sir David Skegg and Professor Dame Juliet Gerrard.
- Blakeley's modelling explores the "repeat game" of COVID-19 strategy, investigating the outcomes arising from optimising for different objectives and/or having different thresholds for relaxing or escalating the stringency of domestic response. These are features that New Zealand researchers are exploring in future work, too.
- Officials will investigate applicability of Blakeley's modelling to the NZ context and comparability with vaccination modelling undertaken domestically.

- A particular point of interest given current QFT status: Blakeley's modelling predicts that, following the further restrictions introduced on 18 July, New South Wales will return to a state of having fewer than 5 cases per day at around the end of August (with a confidence interval of between 19 August and 9 Sep).

Officials also had a discussion with Rodney Jones (and team) earlier in the week, to explore the international context. While conditions continue to deteriorate in a number of countries, it remains too early to formally assess impacts of choices taken in other states. There was some discussion of the idea that later waves of COVID-19 outbreaks have appeared shorter and sharper (such as in India) than the prolonged "tails" of infection typically seen in 2020 (and, more recently, as seen in Taiwan). We will continue to monitor:

- the extent to which the link between cases and hospitalisations has been altered in the UK;
- the divergence in outcomes in the USA at the state-level, beneath the steady increases in case numbers nationally;
- the impacts of worsening conditions as a driver of increasing vaccination rates (particularly in countries whose rollouts had otherwise plateaued); and
- the impacts of vaccination status amidst a recent rapid rise in cases in Singapore.

Proactively Released

13 Appendix

	Audit summary	Audit high-risk findings, and actions taken to remedy	Incidents/Reviews	IPC Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs), operations frameworks and guidance documents
Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs)	Summary analysis of IPC Audit 4 findings and themes in action. Final Audit Reports released to Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment for distribution to relevant stakeholders. Quarterly IPC Audit 5 proposed start date 16 August 2021.		IPC support review completed at Grand Mercure Wellington following arrival of COVID-19 positive mariners for quarantine. The review identified IPC processes that did not align with the IPC SOP and Operations Framework and limited CCTV coverage of quarantine lift exit/outside area. Recommendations made relate to personal protective equipment (PPE) doffing (taking off) stations, face to face health checks and quarantine wing lift access and supervision.	
Airports	Quarterly Airports IPC audit 2 completed (excluding Rongotai). Rongotai Airport audit to be completed week of 19 to 23 July 2021 dependant on flight arrivals.			
Maritime/Ports	Draft IPC review tool further refined following IPC Principal Adviser input. Pilot IPC review date to be confirmed. Proposed date of 20 July 2021 unachievable due to Nelson Port resource unavailability. Rescheduled for 26 July 2021.			

¹ https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/6_july_2021_-_variants_update_-_full_report.pdf

² Li B, Deng A, Li K, et al., *Viral infection and transmission in a large well-traced outbreak caused by the Delta SARS-CoV-2 variant*. *Virological.org*, 08 July 2021, <https://virological.org/t/viral-infection-and-transmission-in-a-large-well-traced-outbreak-caused-by-the-delta-sars-cov-2-variant/724>

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