

## COVID-19 INDEPENDENT CONTINUOUS REVIEW, IMPROVEMENT AND ADVICE GROUP: MEETING AGENDA

<b>Date &amp; time</b>	Wednesday 16 February, 3.30-4.45pm
<b>Location</b>	<a href="https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610684360?pwd=SWFnS3NlVjAxRC9Yc0R5NGpkdWl3OT09">https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82610684360?pwd=SWFnS3NlVjAxRC9Yc0R5NGpkdWl3OT09</a> Meeting ID: 826 1068 4360 Passcode: 721004
<b>Attendees</b>	Sir Brian Roche (Chair), Debbie Ryan, Dale Bramley, Philip Hill, Rob Fyfe, Amber Bill (DPMC), Martin Rogers (DPMC), Louise Cox (DPMC), Kirsten Beynon (MoH, Item 1), Ian Town (MoH, Item 1), Geoff Gwynn (MoH, Item 2), Robyn Shearer (MoH, Item 2)

	Agenda item	Duration	Lead
1.	Testing regime – update from Ministry of Health	30 min	Kirsten, Ian
2.	Care in the Community – update from Ministry of Health	30 min	Geoff, Robyn
3.	Key areas for assurance (advice to Minister Hipkins)	10 min	Brian
4.	Confirmation of minutes and any other business	5 min	Brian



# COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group Minutes

<b>Date</b>	Wednesday 16 February 2022	
<b>Time</b>	3:30 – 4:45pm	
<b>Venue</b>	Zoom	
<b>Attendees</b>	Sir Brian Roche (Chair) Debbie Ryan Dale Bramley Philip Hill Rob Fyfe Amber Bill (DPMC) Louise Cox (DPMC) Martin Rodgers (DPMC)	Kirsten Beynon (MoH, Item 1) Ian Town (MoH, Item 1) Robyn Shearer (MoH, Item 2) Geoff Gwynn (MoH, Item 2)
<b>Minute taker</b>	Louise Cox	

## Item 1: Testing update from Ministry of Health

1. Kirsten Beynon and Ian Town from the Ministry of Health attended to provide a technical update on the testing regime. Kirsten introduced herself and provided some detail of her background and the purpose of her role as Chief Advisor Testing.
2. Sir Brian introduced himself and invited Kirsten and Ian to provide a snapshot of the current world of testing and the pressure points. Kirsten and Ian provide detail on the pressure points around capacity in particular and how these are being addressed.
3. There was further conversation that covered the following areas.
  - Strategic structures around Kirsten's role including the ongoing role of the COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group.
  - Rapid Antigen Testing and other testing options such as Lucira's Loop-Mediated Isothermal Amplification (LAMP) tests (including testing at the border, conversations with potential partners to trial LAMP tests, and supply chain for RATs).
  - Progress on the adoption of saliva testing.
  - Progress with bringing on other testing providers.
  - Testing supply and demand, including anticipating coming demand.

- Impacts of the 'worried well' on and prioritisation of PCR capacity.
4. Brian thanked Kirsten and Ian for their time and the discussion.

## **Item 2: Care in the Community update from Ministry of Health**

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5. The DPMC Secretariat introduced Robyn Shearer and Geoff Gwynn who attended to discuss the health elements of the Care in the Communities programme.
6. Robyn talked to a presentation that stepped through:
- health system preparedness for Omicron
  - caring for people with COVID-19 in the community
  - caring for our most vulnerable
  - assurance and continuous improvement activities.
7. Geoff provided further detail on the metrics in development including that the nine currently available will be augmented by a further 14 in March. Geoff offered to share a draft Care in the Community dashboard that will include the metrics.
8. There was further conversation that covered the following areas:
- Mechanisms to identify cases triaged as low risk whose health deteriorates, and those who self-identify as low risk when they are higher risk (including risk versus burden due to the high numbers that will be categorised as low risk and in the self-management pathway).
  - Workforce capacity including the capacity to deal with medium and high risk cases at larger volumes, projected capacity versus planning at the regional and DHB levels, and provider capacity.
  - How data is used to identify, monitor and address trends such as emerging equity issues with the rises of cases in Counties Manukau and the disproportionate representation of Pacific and Māori in South Auckland hospitalisations.
  - Complexity of the Care in the Community systems and stress testing and piloting.
9. Brian thanked Robyn and Geoff and raised that the Group will support the programme in any way possible over the coming weeks.

## **Item 3: Key areas for assurance (advice to Minister for COVID-19 Response)**

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10. The Group discussed the key themes to highlight in the weekly advice note to the Minister for COVID-19 Response. They discussed the following areas for inclusion:
- Equity:
    - i. Over-representation of Pacific and Māori in cases and hospitalisations
    - ii. Gap in real-time data that brings equity issues to the fore
    - iii. The one-size fits all approach doesn't reflect what is playing

- iv. Care in the Community:
  - v. Visibility of system capacity to care for community cases is not apparent
  - vi. Centralised operational oversight may be lacking
  - Simplicity of communications and currency of definitions:
    - i. Disconnection between the changes brought in through the Phases approach and public understanding
    - ii. Contact definitions may be unnecessarily complicated
    - iii. The further promotion of community activation where communities, whānau and individuals have plans in place to check on and support each other.
  - Testing:
    - i. Targeting of RAT resources in Auckland where cases are higher
    - ii. Incongruity of procurement models with necessary speed, including the urgent need utilise other testing options such as LAMPs
    - iii. The key role of the COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group
    - iv. The need to fully integrate saliva testing
11. In addition to the above, the Group discussed raising the broader impacts on the health system outside of COVID-19 and the need to monitor, interpret and respond to wider health-system quality and safety issues.

#### **Item 4: Confirmation of minutes and other business**

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12. The minutes of the meetings held 25 January and 8 February 2022 were confirmed. No other business was raised.