

Aide-Memoire

RECONNECTING NEW ZEALANDERS' READINESS FOR NEXT STEPS

То	Rt Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response	Report No	DPMC-2021/22-2181
From	Ruth Fairhall, DCE, COVID-19 Group, DPMC	Date	18/05/2022

Purpose

1. This Aide-Memoire provides an update on the status of system readiness to go live with the next steps of Reconnecting New Zealanders.

Background

- This report provides an update on readiness for: (1) Step 4 Accredited Employer work visas and Work Visas from 04 July; and (2) Step 5 – Visitor / Education Visas from 31 July. Appendix A summarises the Reconnecting New Zealanders (RNZ) steps, settings, and pathways.
- Appendix B includes a readiness report dated 18 May 2022.

Traveller volumes and airline updates

Passenger numbers since step 1 of Reconnecting and comparisons:

- Online Visitor visa applications for the Pacific Island Forum countries opened successfully on 16 May, as planned.
- 5. Numbers of travellers since RNZ Step 1 (28 February to 17 May):
 - i. Total 285,167
 - ii. Australia 178,117
 - iii. Rest of the World 107,050
- 6. We have seen a small decrease in travellers in the past week, with the average daily total travellers at 5,261, down from the previous week's average of 5,489.

Key operational updates including readiness

- 7. This report has an overall Green rating, with agencies continuing to manage the day-to-day activities to support travellers and confident of readiness for future steps and any further border changes.
- 8. The issue around what alternative accommodation support should be offered to travellers that do not have anywhere to isolate safely is being resolved by the Care in the Community DCEs group. This outstanding issue does not prevent any Reconnecting steps from occurring.

IN CONFIDENCE

- 9. Overall arrival testing compliance remains unchanged at 78%¹ while overall positivity rates have dropped slightly from 1.6% to 1.5%.
- 10. Since 28 February, 547 infringements have been issued for travellers who are non-compliant on arrival in New Zealand. This represents an enforcement rate of ~0.7%. There has been an increase in the number of people applying to have their infringements revoked, principally in relation to PDT requirements. Accordingly, Customs is reviewing the policy and practice around the revocation process, to ensure it is appropriate against the context of increased risk of people who are unsuccessful with the revocation seeking relief through the District Court.
- 11. As the next Reconnecting step is in July, the next update on Readiness will be provided in late June.

Recommendations

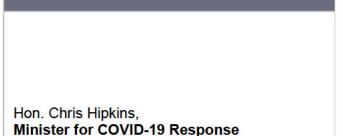
11. It is recommended that you note the contents of this aide-memoire.

Ruth Fairhall
Deputy Chief Executive
COVID-19 Group

Date: 18/05/2022

Rt Hon. Jacinda Ardern
Prime Minister

Date: / /



Date: / /

NOTED

¹ The total number of testing on arrival travellers is under-reported as travellers who have not correctly completed the New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) are not added into the National Border System (NBS) (the system utilised to record this data).
NB: This Aide Memoire is Cc'd to: COVID-19 Chief Executives Board (with regular meeting papers); and the COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group.

IN CONFIDENCE



Appendix A: RNZ summary

IN CONFIDENCE

Reconnecting New Zealanders: Policy Summary

Key settings summary

Setting	Test on arrival requirements		
PDT	48h PCR or 24h RAT/LAMP		
Vaccinations	Nzers/ Perm Residents: N/A Other visitors: Vaccinated with approved vaccine		
Declaration	Contact tracing info/ 14 day travel history self-declaration in NZTD		
Testing	RAT on day 0/1 & 5/6 If positive, PCR at a CTC		
Positive test	Self isolate		

Reconnecting New Zealanders step phasing and timing

eb	March	April	May	June	July		August	September	October	November
	0	00 501 07			Comple					
	 Step 1.2 Step 2.1 Step 2.2 MIQ cha NZTD L Pacific p 	2 - 23.59h 02 l 1 - 23.59h 04 2 - 23.59h 13 anges - 23.59 aunch - 25 Ma bathway chang	March – Remova March – New Ze March – More ex th 18 March – Ch arch, NZTD legal ges – Shift of the	al of the need to stall anders able to ceptions for Skill anges to MIQ elily mandated for Cook Islands, S	elf-isolate for travel to and led Workers (gibility/ fully v all travellers fi amoa, Vanua	7 days from ev 1.5x me accinat rom 31 tu, and	verywhere edian wage), V led definitions March American San	alu and American S Vorking holiday visa	is	way (23.59h on 8
	• Step 3.1 • Step 3.2 • Setting	1 – 23.59h 12. 2 – 23.59h 01 changes – 23.	April - More bor May – Visa-waiv .59h 05 May – U	et flights from Na der exceptions fo er travellers and nvaccinated Res Pacific Island Fo	or critical work existing visito idents permitt	forces, or visa h ed to e	students, and nolders nter New Zeal:		Australians	

Outstanding steps

Step 4.2 - 4 July - Accredited Employer Work Visas and Work Visas

Step 5 - 31 July - Visitor Visas and Student Visas

Appendix B: RNZ Readiness summary

Reconnecting New Zealanders Readiness Report – Status as at 18 May 2022

Overall status GREEN

Ref	Lead agency	Group of activities	Step 4 – Accredited Employer work visas and Work Visas t 04 July	from Step 5 – Visitor / Education visas from 31 July
1	МоН	Regulatory		
2	МоН	Border Health Updates		
3	Customs	Border Agencies	Review Staffing Update SOPs and processes Update staff training Update Immigration Regulations Update Safe Travel Advisory	 ≠ Review Staffing ≠ Update SOPs and processes ≠ Update staff training ≠ Update Immigration Regulations ≠ Update Safe Travel Advisory
4		Aviation sector	 Update FAQ for aviation Update sector advice/ websites 	≠ Update FAQ for aviation≠ Update sector advice/ websites
5	мвіє	ALOs / Immigration	Update Training for Offshore airports	≠ Update Training for Offshore airports
6	DPMC	Communications	 Update UAC and websites across government Update 'Re-educate the traveller project' continuing 	 Update UAC and websites across government Update 'Re-educate the traveller project' continuing

≠ Not started

Work in-progressComplete