



**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

29 October 2021

Contents

1. Status Summary 2

2. COVID-19 Insights 7

 2.1 Insight of Note Written by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet Section Heading 7

3. Ministry of Health 9

 3.1 Policy/Programme Updates 9

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report 13

 4.1 Top Items to Note 13

 4.2 Operational Update 15

 4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update 17

 4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities 19

 4.5 Emergency Allocation Applications 20

 4.6 Resolutions Update 21

5. Border Executive Board Report 22

 5.1 Key Issues Being Considered 22

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report 23

 6.1 Items to Note/Updates 23

7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board 24

 7.1 Items to Note/Updates 24

8. COVID-19 Independent Continuous Review, Improvement and Advice Group 24

 8.1 Items to Note/Updates 24

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group 24

 9.1 Items to Note/Updates 24

10. Business Leaders Forum 24

 10.1 Items to Note/Updates 24

11. Community Panel 24

 11.1 Items to Note/Updates 24

12. Government Modelling Group 24

 12.1 Items to Note/Updates 24

13. Upcoming Cabinet Papers 26

14. Appendix 27

1. Status Summary

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

Border

	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
Testing and vaccination of border	MoH	●	●	<p>Saliva testing at boundary</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 22,859 individuals and 1,407 businesses had registered with APHG, the saliva testing provider engaged by the Ministry for saliva testing to meet testing requirements to cross Alert Level boundaries. A total of 54,393 saliva tests for permitted workers crossing the boundary have been completed by APHG. <p>Boundary testing compliance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 19 October 2021, at the land border, a total of 772,879 vehicles have been stopped at the checkpoints on Auckland's northern and southern boundaries, with a total of 9,786 vehicles turned around (1.4 percent of total vehicles). On 19 October 2021, at the air border, 188 passengers attempted to travel out of Auckland. Of these, none were refused. <p>Border Worker Saliva Testing National Rollout</p> <p>As of 27 October 2021:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 2,497 border workers have opted into saliva testing. This number will fluctuate due to the dynamic nature of our border workforce. Of the 1,355 active workers who are undertaking saliva testing, about 89.6 percent are compliant in meeting their testing requirements. A total of 880 saliva tests have been completed by APHG for 440 RSE workers.
	MBIE	●	●	<p>Staff Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A MBIE security worker at the Grand Millennium facility had a test on 26 October and tested positive for COVID-19. They are fully vaccinated and had been tested regularly as required. In the last 14 days, since 13 October they had worked 6 days on the 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 26 of October. Investigation is underway as to how the worker became infected. Compliance reporting is at 97 percent, (down 1 percent from last week), for staff who worked in the week of 18-24 October 2021. 3% on site in the week of 18-24 October 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue (141 workers). The Workforce Testing and Vaccination team will be following up with those workers. <p>Vaccinations</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The BWTR shows, of the workforce on site for the week of 11-17 October 2021, 97.3 percent have had two doses of the vaccine, 0.8 percent had one dose and 2 percent have vaccination status 'unknown'. Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR did not identify any breaches of the Vaccination Order. There were no vaccine exemptions granted last week.
Testing and vaccination of border workforce	MBIE	●	●	<p>Saliva Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 24 October, 793 MIQ workers have opted-in to saliva testing. Saliva testing is currently operational across all active MIQF sites. As the Required Testing Order has now been signed, we are commencing engagement with our PCBUs and workers to support them in shifting to daily testing at quarantine facilities and twice weekly testing at isolation facilities from 11.59pm 8 November.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Australia reopened its borders to quarantine-free flights from New Zealand's South Island on 19 October 2021. All other QFT with Australia remains suspended.
Two-way QFT with Australia	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The existing QFT arrangements with the Cook Islands and Niue remain unchanged.
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand and Niuean officials met on 27 October to discuss readiness work, and to answer Niue's questions about New Zealand's new "traffic light" system. Niue also provided an update on its management of repatriation flights and expressed an interest in rolling out booster vaccinations when possible. On 19 October, the first repatriation flight carrying 23 Niueans stranded in Auckland arrived in Niue. They entered a 14 day quarantine.
Two-way QFT with Niue	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> New Zealand and Niuean officials met on 27 October to discuss readiness work, and to answer Niue's questions about New Zealand's new "traffic light" system. Niue also provided an update on its management of repatriation flights and expressed an interest in rolling out booster vaccinations when possible. On 19 October, the first repatriation flight carrying 23 Niueans stranded in Auckland arrived in Niue. They entered a 14 day quarantine.

Border (continued)

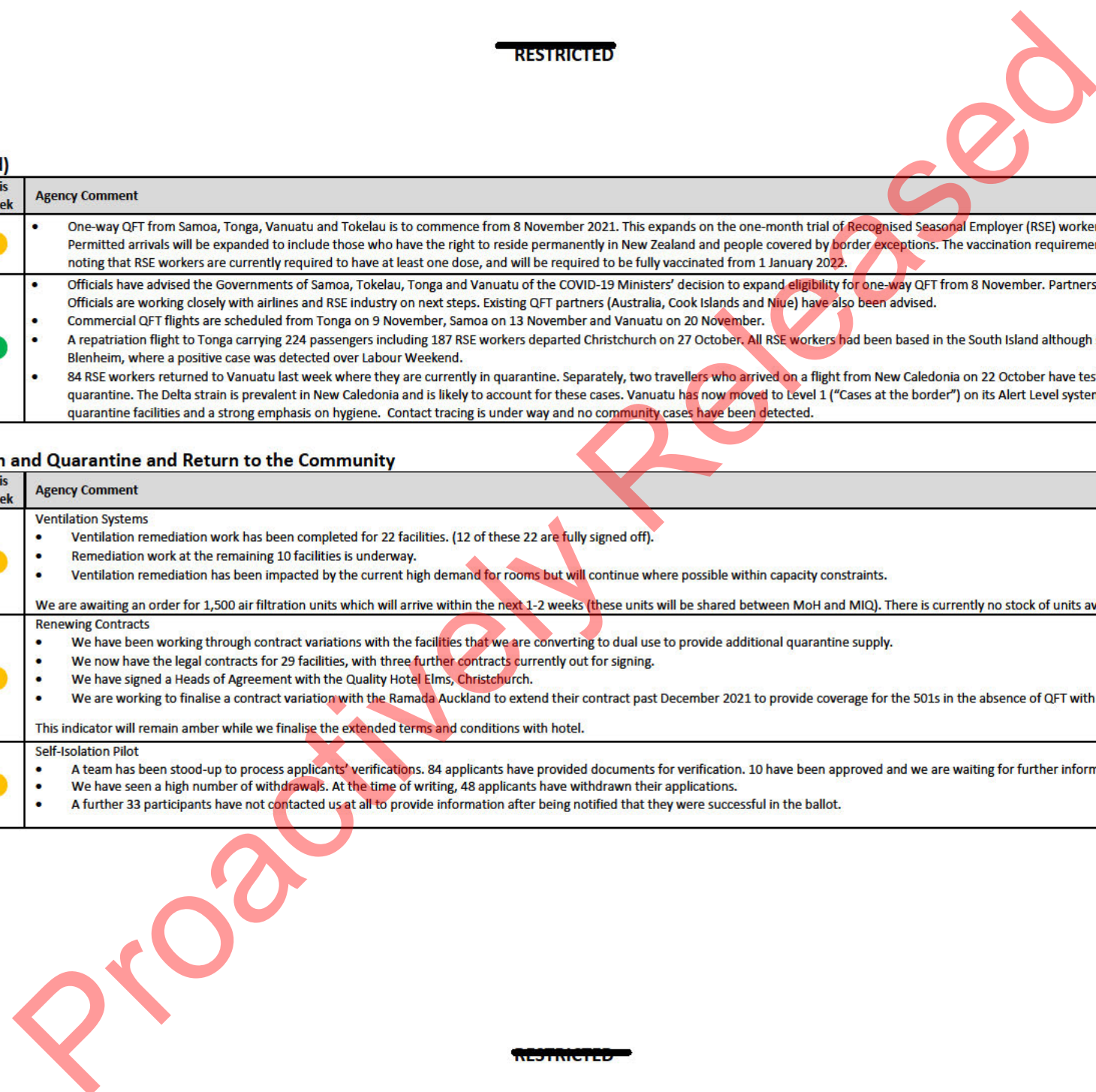
Reopening new travel pathways
- Pacific Islands

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> One-way QFT from Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Tokelau is to commence from 8 November 2021. This expands on the one-month trial of Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) workers from Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Permitted arrivals will be expanded to include those who have the right to reside permanently in New Zealand and people covered by border exceptions. The vaccination requirement of non-New Zealanders will apply, noting that RSE workers are currently required to have at least one dose, and will be required to be fully vaccinated from 1 January 2022.
MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials have advised the Governments of Samoa, Tokelau, Tonga and Vanuatu of the COVID-19 Ministers' decision to expand eligibility for one-way QFT from 8 November. Partners have welcomed this development. Officials are working closely with airlines and RSE industry on next steps. Existing QFT partners (Australia, Cook Islands and Niue) have also been advised. Commercial QFT flights are scheduled from Tonga on 9 November, Samoa on 13 November and Vanuatu on 20 November. A repatriation flight to Tonga carrying 224 passengers including 187 RSE workers departed Christchurch on 27 October. All RSE workers had been based in the South Island although some had been working around Blenheim, where a positive case was detected over Labour Weekend. 84 RSE workers returned to Vanuatu last week where they are currently in quarantine. Separately, two travellers who arrived on a flight from New Caledonia on 22 October have tested positive for COVID-19 while in quarantine. The Delta strain is prevalent in New Caledonia and is likely to account for these cases. Vanuatu has now moved to Level 1 ("Cases at the border") on its Alert Level system, entailing enhanced measures at quarantine facilities and a strong emphasis on hygiene. Contact tracing is under way and no community cases have been detected.

Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community

Place and conditions of stay

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
MBIE	●	●	<p>Ventilation Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation remediation work has been completed for 22 facilities. (12 of these 22 are fully signed off). Remediation work at the remaining 10 facilities is underway. Ventilation remediation has been impacted by the current high demand for rooms but will continue where possible within capacity constraints. <p>We are awaiting an order for 1,500 air filtration units which will arrive within the next 1-2 weeks (these units will be shared between MoH and MIQ). There is currently no stock of units available in the country.</p>
MBIE	●	●	<p>Renewing Contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We have been working through contract variations with the facilities that we are converting to dual use to provide additional quarantine supply. We now have the legal contracts for 29 facilities, with three further contracts currently out for signing. We have signed a Heads of Agreement with the Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch. We are working to finalise a contract variation with the Ramada Auckland to extend their contract past December 2021 to provide coverage for the 501s in the absence of QFT with Australia resuming. <p>This indicator will remain amber while we finalise the extended terms and conditions with hotel.</p>
MBIE	●	●	<p>Self-Isolation Pilot</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A team has been stood-up to process applicants' verifications. 84 applicants have provided documents for verification. 10 have been approved and we are waiting for further information from a number of others. We have seen a high number of withdrawals. At the time of writing, 48 applicants have withdrawn their applications. A further 33 participants have not contacted us at all to provide information after being notified that they were successful in the ballot.



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

Post-managed isolation processes	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
	MBIE	●	●	<p>Fees collection:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Invoicing is now up to returnees leaving MIQ on 4 October. We are working to invoice returnees in the self-isolation trial, which will be manual until a longer-term process can be built. The new backlog solution has been completed and is in operation. 217 invoices have been sent so far valued at \$720k. We are sending letters to physical addresses where no email has been found. Once we have processed up to March 2021, we will review the remaining invoices that were not able to be sent. <p>Debt Recovery:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the now 925 invoices worth \$3.001m sent to a debt collection agency: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> \$376k (up \$127k, 12%) has been paid (or will be paid through instalment). \$441k is currently awaiting information from customers or has been credited due to an error. a further \$461k (this includes the Gone no address/overseas category) requires more detailed tracing. the remaining \$1,722k (includes the passive collection) debt continues to be a work in progress. 1,253 invoices worth \$4.12m have now been passed to MBIE's partner firm for active management. To the week ended 24/10/2021 \$278k has now been paid. This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices and while we continue to make progress on debt recovery.
	MBIE	●	●	<p>P2/N95 Mask Implementation</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> It is now mandatory for MIQ workers to wear a fit checked P2/N95 mask in defined areas of MIQFs. The Request for Quote (RFQ) has been released to market for fit testing services. Responses from potential suppliers are due the week of 26 October and the successful vendor(s) will be in place mid-November. MoH is sourcing a new P2/N95 as the primary model for workers at MIQFs. The new model is expected to be available in New Zealand in 1-2 weeks and fit testing will commence thereafter. Fit testing of workers in quarantine facilities continues independently of this project and is being undertaken as new quarantine sites are commissioned.

Community Protection

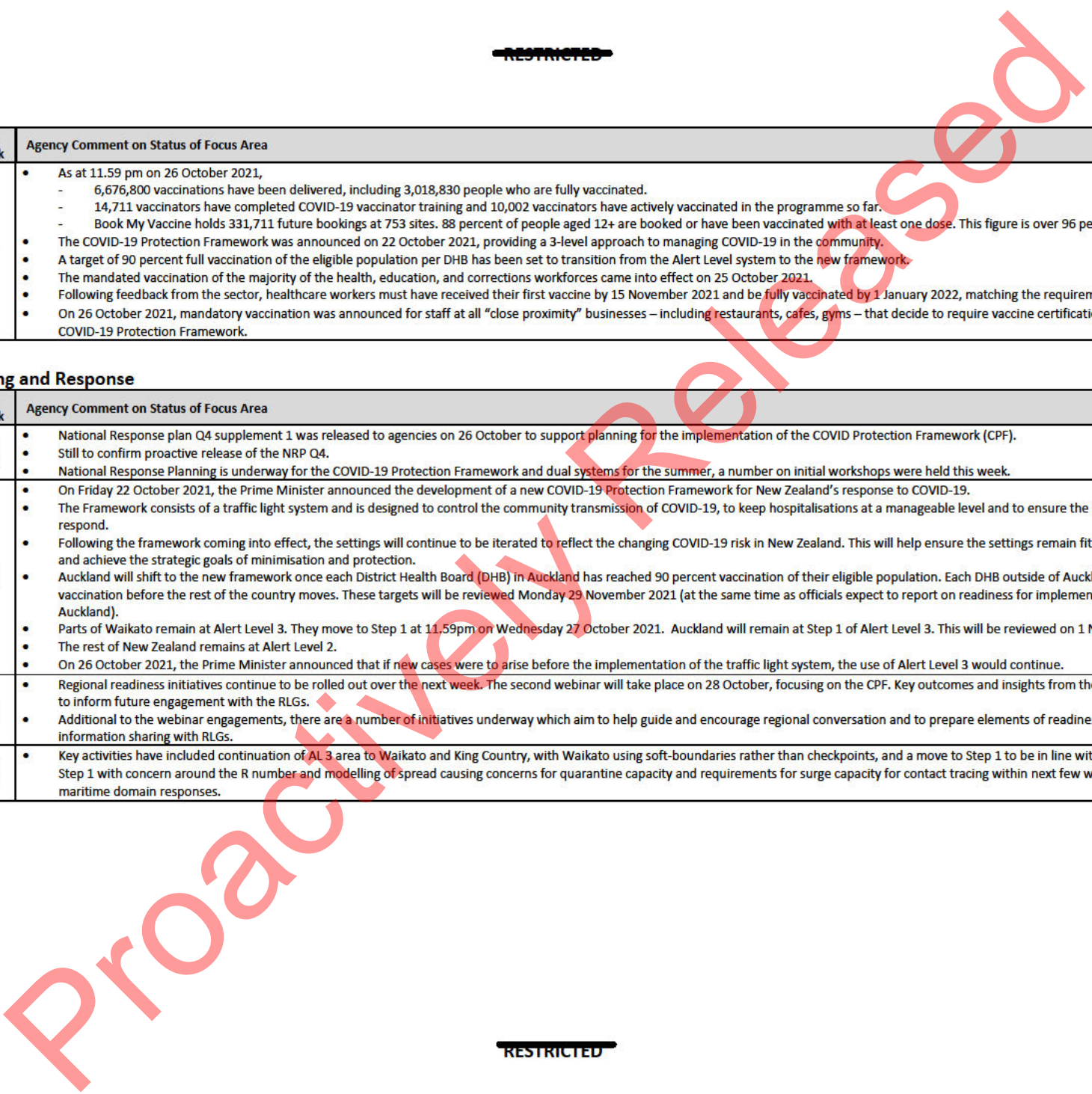
Case investigation, surveillance and testing	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 9.00am 27 October 2021, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> there have been 2,832 community cases associated with the Delta Community Outbreak. Of these, 1,280 are active cases, 1,550 are recovered and two deaths. there are 41 cases linked to the Auckland Community outbreak who are currently in hospital. there are 2,776 open contacts. Of these 170 are Close Plus contacts and 1,679 are Close contacts. As at 9.00am 13 October 2021 the testing sites in operation are as below: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are 20 community testing centres (CTCs) available across the Auckland Metro Area, including 6 regular CTCs and 14 Pop-Ups. There are 3 CTCs open across the Waikato region, including the regular CTC in Hamilton and 3 Pop-Ups. There are 10 CTCs available in Northland. Other testing is being undertaken by GPs. There are 3 CTCs open in the Wellington Region. There is 1 CTC open in the Nelson/Marlborough region. 17,536 tests were processed on 27 October 2021 with a rolling 7-day average of 23,322. Rapid Antigen Testing <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Ministry of Health has approved the extension of the use of RATs for additional groups of visitors and patients in the three Auckland metro DHBS. The Ministry of Health are currently reviewing the evaluation criteria for the approval of new RAT test kits.

Vaccination

Implementation and operation	Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 11.59 pm on 26 October 2021, <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 6,676,800 vaccinations have been delivered, including 3,018,830 people who are fully vaccinated. 14,711 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 10,002 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far. Book My Vaccine holds 331,711 future bookings at 753 sites. 88 percent of people aged 12+ are booked or have been vaccinated with at least one dose. This figure is over 96 percent for the 65+ age group. The COVID-19 Protection Framework was announced on 22 October 2021, providing a 3-level approach to managing COVID-19 in the community. A target of 90 percent full vaccination of the eligible population per DHB has been set to transition from the Alert Level system to the new framework. The mandated vaccination of the majority of the health, education, and corrections workforces came into effect on 25 October 2021. Following feedback from the sector, healthcare workers must have received their first vaccine by 15 November 2021 and be fully vaccinated by 1 January 2022, matching the requirements for the education sector. On 26 October 2021, mandatory vaccination was announced for staff at all “close proximity” businesses – including restaurants, cafes, gyms – that decide to require vaccine certification for their customers under the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

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 Q4 supplement 1 was released to agencies on 26 October to support planning for the implementation of the COVID Protection Framework (CPF). Still to confirm proactive release of the NRP Q4. National Response Planning is underway for the COVID-19 Protection Framework and dual systems for the summer, a number on initial workshops were held this week.
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On Friday 22 October 2021, the Prime Minister announced the development of a new COVID-19 Protection Framework for New Zealand’s response to COVID-19. The Framework consists of a traffic light system and is designed to control the community transmission of COVID-19, to keep hospitalisations at a manageable level and to ensure the health system is ready and able to respond. Following the framework coming into effect, the settings will continue to be iterated to reflect the changing COVID-19 risk in New Zealand. This will help ensure the settings remain fit for purpose, coherent as a whole, and achieve the strategic goals of minimisation and protection. Auckland will shift to the new framework once each District Health Board (DHB) in Auckland has reached 90 percent vaccination of their eligible population. Each DHB outside of Auckland must also reach 90 percent vaccination before the rest of the country moves. These targets will be reviewed Monday 29 November 2021 (at the same time as officials expect to report on readiness for implementation of the new framework in Auckland). Parts of Waikato remain at Alert Level 3. They move to Step 1 at 11.59pm on Wednesday 27 October 2021. Auckland will remain at Step 1 of Alert Level 3. This will be reviewed on 1 November 2021. The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2. On 26 October 2021, the Prime Minister announced that if new cases were to arise before the implementation of the traffic light system, the use of Alert Level 3 would continue.
Readiness planning	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regional readiness initiatives continue to be rolled out over the next week. The second webinar will take place on 28 October, focusing on the CPF. Key outcomes and insights from the session will be captured and used to inform future engagement with the RLGs. Additional to the webinar engagements, there are a number of initiatives underway which aim to help guide and encourage regional conversation and to prepare elements of readiness, through forming connections and information sharing with RLGs.
CFT response	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Key activities have included continuation of AL 3 area to Waikato and King Country, with Waikato using soft-boundaries rather than checkpoints, and a move to Step 1 to be in line with Auckland. Auckland remains on Step 1 with concern around the R number and modelling of spread causing concerns for quarantine capacity and requirements for surge capacity for contact tracing within next few weeks. There is ongoing planning for maritime domain responses.



Resurgence Planning and Response (continued)

Agency	Last Week	→ This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
MBIE	●	●	<p>MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak: Community cases</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• There continues to be high demand for Quarantine rooms in Auckland, however this pressure has recently eased slightly, with more community cases self-isolating at home. Future demand is difficult to predict currently due to uncertainty about the percentage of forecast cases that will require MIQ into the future.• Amohia, a community Isolation and Quarantine facility in Hamilton, has continued as a quarantine facility only, with agreement given by the Maori King for Amohia to transition to a dual facility if required. There have been concerns about this transition due to the housing of generally low compliance and high needs individuals with isolating border returnees, and specifically the need to get them separated within IPC requirements.• We are continuing to consider options for increased quarantine capacity in Auckland, which are possible within our current system, however the options are very limited, and no further changes can be made without planned changes to the border being implemented.• Contingency planning across all regions where MIQ has facilities is also underway, so that MBIE is prepared should more quarantine rooms be required for community cases, noting that transition of any further isolation facilities to quarantine is not possible within the current border settings.• Serious incidents involving community cases and community close contacts are continuing to increase in both severity and volume, which is placing further pressure on staff in these facilities in both Auckland and Hamilton.

Proactively Released

2. COVID-19 Insights

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

Introduction

This insight gives a brief overview of some countries approaches to COVID-19 contact tracing and subsequent testing and isolation, particularly as case numbers increased. The countries analysed include the United Kingdom, Denmark, Ireland, Canada, Singapore, and Australia. This insight is intended to be brief, and further analysis is available if required.

Approaches to Contact Tracing as COVID-19 Cases Increased in Various Countries

Based on analysis of other countries approaches to contact tracing as COVID-19 case numbers increased, several points emerged, as set out below.

Adapting Contact Tracing to the Increase in COVID-19 Cases: Changes to the tracing, testing and isolation regimes were required to adapt to changing circumstances in countries such as Ireland, Denmark, Singapore, and the United Kingdom. For instance, in the United Kingdom, a situation known as the “pingdemic” arose, whereby people were informed by their phone app, “ping” that they were a close contact of a confirmed case, and therefore had to isolate. The amount of people isolating led to labour shortages, which in turn caused other issues, and to mitigate this, changes in the rules regarding isolation were made. Initially everyone who received a COVID-19 notice of contact had to isolate. This was changed to a process with exemptions to isolation for those who were fully vaccinated, and also those who worked in key sectors.^{1 2} Another example is Ireland, where contact tracing operations changed from tracing all close contacts to a new model with a risk assessment of particular clusters, before contact tracing.³

Altering Testing and Isolation Requirements for those who are Vaccinated: In order to limit the impact of isolation on essential services and businesses a number of countries have tailored the requirements for isolation. For example, in the United Kingdom, people who have been vaccinated are exempt from isolation requirements.^{4 5 6} Whilst, in Ireland and Denmark, vaccinated contacts are not required to isolate if they do not show symptoms.^{7 8} Singapore, whilst requiring isolation, has prioritised home isolation where possible.⁹ It should be noted that in the case of the United Kingdom, hospitalisations have risen from 6,382 on 16 August, when the exemption on isolation for vaccinated people to came into force, to 8,693 as of 25 October. This however remains well below the peak of 39,254 COVID19 patients in hospital recorded on 18 January.¹⁰

Adjusting Testing and Isolation Requirements for those In Essential Services: In order to limit the impact of isolation on essential services and businesses the United Kingdom, has exempt those in essential services from isolation, even if they are found to be a close contact, although they are required to take part in a daily COVID-19 testing system, and isolate if found to be positive.^{11 12 13} In Ireland, essential healthcare workers who are required to isolate are asked to contact their manager and occupational health department, who decide whether it is appropriate to return to work.¹⁴

Defining Who Is A Primary or Secondary Contact: In the countries analysed, close contacts are usually defined by using time and proximity criteria, integrated into contact tracing apps. Across our examples, the distance which determines a close contact is between 1 and 2 meters. In the United Kingdom, Ireland, and Canada a close contact is defined as anyone who was within 2 meters of a positive case for 15 minutes. In Australia and Denmark, the distance used is 1.5 meters and 1 meter respectively for 15 minutes.

Setting the Duration of the Isolation Requirement: Across all the examples analysed isolation periods varied between 10 to 14 days. In the United Kingdom, Denmark, and those who are vaccinated in Singapore, the isolation requirement is 10 days. In Ireland, Australia, and for those in Singapore who are unvaccinated, the isolation requirement is 14 days. In Canada the national government recommends an isolation period of 14 days, however the time period is set by the regional governments. In Ottawa for example, the isolation period is 10 days.^{15 16}

Ensuring Contacts Isolate in a Timely Manner: In order to ensure chains of transmission are disrupted, the time between identifying a case and informing their contacts to isolate needs to be as short as possible. This has been reported as an issue in the United Kingdom as the median between a case being identified and contacts being told to isolate was longer than required, at 121 hours in the first week of the year, which has subsequently fallen to 78 hours.^{17 18 19} In Canada it was noted that there was a lack of resources needed to follow up identified cases,²⁰ and some communities had a lack of access to resources such as the COVID-19 app which would support contact tracing.²¹ This has led to difficulties informing close contacts of COVID-19 cases with some cases not isolating as required. An example of how Canada responded to this issue came during a spike in cases in October 2020 which caused difficulties for contact tracing. Toronto Public Health decided to scale back its contact tracing efforts and focus more on tracing high-risk scenarios such as outbreaks in schools and care homes.²²

Gaining Public Cooperation: In order for a track and trace system to operate effectively, public cooperation is required, to ensure contact tracing is effective and also to ensure that potential contacts test and isolate. Issues with public cooperation were identified in countries such as the United Kingdom and Australia. In the United Kingdom it was noted that not enough people were getting tested or isolating early in the outbreak.²³ Although the reason for this lack of testing and isolation is not clear it suggests a least a partial lack of public cooperation. The United Kingdom's government's Scientific Advisory Group for Emergencies, recommended that self-isolation rates would be improved with increased financial support, help with practical needs, information and emotional support.²⁴ In England, those on low incomes having to isolate are able to access a £500 Test and Trace support payment, although it is unclear to what extent this has improved public cooperation.²⁵ Similarly, in Australia a lack of uptake of the COVID tracing app hampered tracing efforts.²⁶ Updates to Australia's COVIDSafe app have been aimed at improving it, including minimising battery consumption and making it more effective at tracking contacts.²⁷ As an alternative to relying on public cooperation, Singapore made contact tracing mandatory and has enforced it with a strict regime of fines and convictions.^{28 29}

Ensuring Across Border Interoperability of Tracing Apps: Issues of interoperability of tracing apps have been observed in different countries. In the United Kingdom issues between the compatibility of the test and trace app used in England and that used in Scotland, meant contact tracing for those who move across the border was hampered.³⁰ This was remedied in November 2020 after systems were put in place to share data.^{31 32} To avoid similar issues, the COVID-19 tracing app in Ireland is designed to be interoperable with apps in other countries in the European Union.³³

Thank you to the following teams that assisted with these insights: The Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade

3. Ministry of Health



3.1 Policy/Programme Updates

3.1.1 Health System Preparedness Programme: Update

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

The Programme Steering Group met recently for the fourth time and approved a first iteration of the preparedness work programme. The work programme has been developed based upon a synthesis of known activities and requirements. The overall work programme includes the four system functional areas, and (currently) 20 individual separate work programmes under these functional areas.

Expanding telehealth/virtual health capability through technology deployment and expanding virtual models of care were approved as new additions to the work programme. A key addition to the work programme structure includes responsible sector partners aligned to each functional area, tiers two and three delivery leads, and identified workstream lead subject-matter experts.

The Assurance Group met for the first time this week and received an overview of the programme and status to date. This update included the approach used to develop the regional resilience plans, and the current state of a national service model for care in the community.

Further detailed analysis has commenced of the known sector activities that are underway and their dependencies. This involves identifying key critical milestones and deliverables, as well as confirming key individuals responsible for delivery of activities and initiatives.

Next steps

The Steering Group considered all the regions' priorities with their accompanying business case/funding requirements on 28 October 2021. The regional priorities will be incorporated into a next iteration of the preparedness work programme.

The Steering Group also considered the first iteration of the detailed activities for each workstream on 28 October 2021.

The Steering Group and Assurance Group will onboard new Māori sector partners as an additional means of embedding equity into the programme.

3.1.2 COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As of 11.59 pm on 26 October 2021, 6,676,800 vaccinations have been delivered, including 3,018,830 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori and six percent are Pasifika.

397,304 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents 11 percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 26 October 2021.

770 sites were active on 26 October 2021.

On 26 October 2021, the Programme reached the significant milestone of three million people being fully vaccinated.

Group 4 rollout

More than 90 percent of the eligible population of Auckland has now received at least one dose of the vaccine, while 87 percent of the eligible population has received their first dose nationwide.

Equity

All DHBs are focused on vaccinating hesitant and under-vaccinated populations. Engagement with Māori health providers, iwi, and primary care providers is ongoing to identify and implement bespoke outreach strategies to encourage vaccination among more isolated or resistant groups. The onboarding of primary care and community pharmacies as vaccination sites continues to be an important part of this outreach. Mobile teams taking vaccinations to hard-to-reach areas continue to be effective and provide opportunities for events tailored to the needs of specific groups.

The new COVID-19 Protection Framework that was announced on 22 October 2021 will help to address regional equity issues. The target of 90 percent of the eligible population becoming fully vaccinated can only be reached through increased vaccination rates among low-uptake populations.

Third primary dose for immunocompromised people

Following the announcement of the eligibility for immunocompromised people to receive a third primary dose of vaccine, communications and guidance have commenced to support its implementation. All eligible consumers will be able to access a free consultation with their primary care provider or specialist and receive a script that will be accepted at all vaccination sites.

Mandatory vaccination of healthcare, education, and corrections workers

The requirement for the majority of health, education, and corrections workers to be vaccinated came into effect on 25 October 2021.

Following feedback from the sector, health and disability workers included in the Order must have received their first dose of vaccine by 15 November 2021, and their second dose by 1 January 2022. This now matches the requirements for teachers and support staff, including early childhood centre staff and home-based educators.

Corrections workers included in the Order must receive their first dose of vaccine by 6 November 2021 and their second dose by 8 December 2021.

Webinars have been planned for all sectors included in the Order to share information around the Order and address vaccine hesitancy. The first of these webinars took place with healthcare workers on 20 October 2021. Additional resources to support implementation of the Order are underway, including the establishment of a dedicated email address for affected workers and organisations to submit questions.

Mandatory vaccination for businesses

On 26 October 2021, mandatory vaccination was announced for all “close proximity” businesses – including restaurants, cafes, gyms – requiring vaccine certification for their customers. Under the new COVID-19 Protection Framework, businesses that require customers to be vaccinated will also have to ensure their employees are vaccinated.

Workforce

As at 26 October 2021, 14,711 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 10,002 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

Book My Vaccine

As of 26 October 2021, Book My Vaccine holds 331,711 future bookings at 753 sites. With increasing numbers of fully vaccinated people and the popularity of drive-through and walk-in vaccination clinics, reduction in booking numbers is to be expected.

Technology

The first phase of the My Covid Record web application, which allows people to view their vaccination records, went live on 12 October 2021, with more than 200,000 account registrations so far. The next

phase, showing the results of a person's most recent COVID-19 test, is expected to be rolled out in the near future.

Work continues at pace for the digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates to be available in late November 2021.

Supply

The Pfizer delivery of 1,519,830 doses arrived as expected.

Overall wastage is tracking well at around 0.27 percent, well below our own target of less than 2 percent. An effective immunisation programme recognises that some wastage is inevitable.

New Zealand support for vaccine rollout in the Pacific

The Cook Islands have completed their first dose rollout to their 12 to 15-year-old cohort on both Rarotonga and Aitutaki, their two largest islands, with an uptake of 85 percent across the two islands. Due to the remote nature of the outer islands, the rollout is expected to be completed by January 2022.

Niue has completed its first dose rollout to its 12 to 15-year-old age group, with final uptake numbers yet to be released.

We have indicated to Tokelau a vaccine delivery of November 2021. We continue to explore the best option for vaccine delivery to Tokelau, with early planning suggesting that we may be able to use a commercial option through Samoa, rather than the use of a New Zealand Defence Force asset.

Samoa and Tonga commenced rollout to their 12 to 17-year-old cohorts on 25 October 2021, using a school-based setting for vaccine administration. Tonga expects to complete its vaccine rollout by late November 2021. Samoa expects to complete its vaccine rollout by early December 2021.

Planning with Fiji continues, and it has indicated a rollout to its 12 to 14-year-olds commencing on 15 November 2021, which will require 100,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine.

3.1.3 Technical Advisory Group: Update

COVID-19 TAG

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on 22 October 2021 and discussed the following items:

- Risk assessment and categorisation of healthcare workers exposed to COVID-19
- Categorisation and management of contacts.

The next TAG meeting is scheduled for 12 November 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

CVTAG

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

- Supporting evidence for healthcare worker vaccination order
- Decision to use AstraZeneca
- Myocarditis update
- "Decision to Use" for vaccine in 5 to 11-year-olds.

The next CVTAG meeting is scheduled for 2 November 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

CTTAG

The COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (CTTAG) did not meet in the week commencing 18 October 2021. The next CTTAG meeting is scheduled for 28 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

Therapeutics TAG

The COVID-19 Therapeutics TAG did not meet in the week commencing 18 October 2021. The next Therapeutics TAG meeting is scheduled for 29 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

3.1.4 Communications Issues and Activities

As of 26 October 2021

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Communications material	Ministerial involvement
26 Oct 21 ongoing	Auckland outbreak: daily communications and support for the health sector and public, including cases in Waikato, Northland and Blenheim. Locations of interest and updated health advice.	Ministry of Health	Communications, key messages, website, stakeholder engagement	Optional
26 Oct 21	COVID vaccination requirements in the workplace.	MBIE/ Ministry of Health	Key messages, Q&A	No
26 Oct 21 ongoing	Pilots for rapid antigen testing at Middlemore Hospital emergency department, Auckland DHB NICU and Waitematā delivery suite are underway.	Ministry of Health	Talking points, operational communications, policy guidelines, web content	Optional
27 Oct 21	Announcement on shortened MIQ stays (seven + three days) .	MBIE/ Ministry of Health	Talking points, web content	Yes, announce
(TBC) 27 Oct 21	Announcement on expanded Pacific QFT.	MFAT/DPMC/ Ministry of Health	Talking points, web content	Yes, announce
TBC	Roche report released.	Ministry of Health /DPMC	Q&A	Optional

Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
Publication: Getting through Together	December 2021	The National Ethics Advisory Committee's publication Getting Through Together considers the ethical issues that may arise during any pandemic. The emphasis is on using shared ethical principles so people can care for themselves, their whānau and their neighbours, and make decisions. This is updated from the 2007 version.	Clare Perry, Deputy Director-General, Health System Improvement and Innovation, s9(2)(a)
Publication: HISO 10067:2021 COVID-19 Contact Tracing QR Code and NFC Tag Specification	9 November 2021	This document updates the COVID-19 Contact Tracing QR Code Specification to include NFC tags. This standard: defines the data and format to be included in NZ COVID Tracer QR codes and NFC tags specifies the standard quality and behaviour of NZ COVID Tracer NFC tags. The addition of NFC to the NZ COVID Tracer app is going through a trial and an engagement and feedback process with the community, including disability communities and student representative groups at Victoria University of Wellington.	Shayne Hunter, Deputy Director-General, Data and Digital, s9(2)(a)

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Top Items to Note

4.1.1 MIQ's Response to The Delta Outbreak

The volume of community cases coming into Auckland MIQ has been slowly decreasing this week, due to the increase in community cases assessed as able to self-isolate at home. In Hamilton, community cases entering Amohia have increased this week as cases continue to arise, despite a number of households also self-isolating in the region.

We are continuing to work on practical solutions to get more quarantine capacity to support community cases, particularly in Auckland, however our options within the current system are very limited due to the ongoing need to support border returnees. Planned system-wide changes, being decided this week, will be required to enable us to continue to support large numbers of ongoing community cases.

Contingency planning continues nationwide, in areas where MIQ has facilities, to ensure that we can fully support quarantine for community cases nationwide if required. Plans are now in place for converting one further isolation facility to quarantine in Auckland (which cannot be done within current settings), and plans are being completed this week for conversion of existing dual facilities in Christchurch to quarantine facilities if required. Each of these options will have an impact on isolation availability for border returnees and cannot be implemented without a return of MIQ contingency and reduced border arrivals.

Regular surveillance testing this week identified a MIQ worker at the Grand Millennium facility tested positive for COVID-19. The worker had a test on 26 October. They are fully vaccinated and had been tested regularly as required. In the last 14 days, since 13 October, they had worked 6 days on the 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 26 of October. Investigation is underway as to how the worker became infected.

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

4.1.2 Changes to Length of Stay in MIQ

Pending Ministerial agreement, MIQ is likely to move to 7-day managed isolation stays for border arrivals from 14 November. Preparation for this change is underway; once this change has been announced we will begin working at pace with hotels and other stakeholders to ensure the transition to 7-day stays is smooth. Policy is working with the Ministry of Health to establish the parameters for returnees' self-isolation following departure from MIQ; at this stage it appears only a small number of returnees will not be able to self-isolate. MBIE and Ministry of Health will provide more detailed advice on the testing regime and self-isolation parameters in the week of 1 November.

4.1.3 Managing Exemption Requests During the Transition to Shorter Stay MIQ

Pending Ministers agreement, we are likely to move MIQ to a 7-day stay on 14 November. While taking the time to move to the shortened stay can be justified at a system change level, it is not appropriate for individuals who meet urgent or exceptional circumstances. As such, officials are working to amend the Risk Assessment Tool used to establish eligibility for an exemption to depart MIQ early in exceptional circumstances to create an interim framework to reflect the updated public health position that 14-day MIQ is no longer proportionate or justifiable.

The interim tool will be applicable to individuals who meet exceptional circumstances (e.g. they have an immediate family member who is dying) to depart MIQ early as per the change in public health advice, prior to the system change on 14 November. The Risk Assessment Tool will be updated more permanently to reflect the shortened MIQ stay following implementation.

4.1.4 New Requirement for Non-NZ Citizens to be Vaccinated When Travelling to New Zealand

Customs is leading the operationalisation of policy decisions to mandate that all non-New Zealand citizens are fully vaccinated before travelling to New Zealand. This policy is due to take effect from 1 November. MBIE-

MIQ is responsible for adding a new self-declaration function to the MIAS registration form and, along with INZ and other agencies, for ensuring that those due to travel to New Zealand after 1 November are aware of the new requirements.

An email has been sent to MIQ voucher-holders explaining the new requirement and linking people to further information on the MIQ website. INZ has also emailed all visa holders informing them of the requirements. The Unite against COVID website has also been updated with detailed information for travellers.

The Air Border Order changes were gazetted on Saturday 23 October. The exemptions process is now in place with information about eligibility on the Ministry of Health and Unite against COVID websites.

MIQ considers that there may be a very small number of people who will not have time to seek an exemption prior to travel. Where there is a legitimate case, we will seek to help people move their vouchers to a later date if practicable. We would only do this for the first 2-3 weeks following implementation; and it is not our intention to publicise this particular mechanism.

4.1.5 Self-Isolation Pilot

A team has been stood-up to process applicant verifications for the self-isolation pilot. 84 applicants have provided documents for verification. 10 have been approved and we are waiting for further information from a number of others.

We have seen a high number of withdrawals. At the time of writing, 48 applicants have withdrawn their applications.

A further 33 participants have not contacted us to provide information after being notified that they were successful in the ballot.


We consider that with news of MIQ settings changing to a 7-day stay, and the difficulties people are experiencing complying with the pilot conditions and arranging travel in a short window, participation in the pilot is now less attractive.

Our first confirmed participants will be arriving in Christchurch on 1 November. We will provide reporting on the number of arrivals next week.

4.1.6 Current Judicial Review Cases

A number of judicial review cases have been filed against MIQ recently. In the Sami case, involving a pregnant woman, described in the table below, the barrister Mr Tudor Clee, attempted to continue the case despite a voucher having been issued to Mr Spears in light of new evidence. He argued that there are a large number of pregnant women who have been declined emergency allocations and that continuing the case would provide guidance for how these cases are dealt with in future. The court rejected that approach noting each case is dependent on its own facts.

s9(2)(f)(iv)



Judicial review cases being managed by MIQ currently include:

Case	Update
Grounded Kiwis	This is a complex case challenging the legitimacy of the MIQ system and has been set down for hearing on 25/26 January 2022. MIQ's statement of defence was filed 26 October.
Sami/Spears	Mr Spears s9(2)(a) was declined an emergency allocation to return to New Zealand to support his wife through a higher risk pregnancy (due to her age, 40). The allocation application was approved due to new evidence being provided by the applicant and the case struck out by the court on Tuesday 26 October. The court declined to permit Mr Cleo to substitute another pregnancy case in the allocated case slot.
Espedido/Ghosh	Mr Ghosh (in Canada, s9(2)(a)) was initially declined an emergency allocation to return to New Zealand. Hearing is set for 29 October but the court documents have foreshadowed additional evidence that can be provided that may meet the threshold for an emergency allocation. We expect this case will also be struck out if the additional evidence is sufficient to meet the emergency threshold.
Bolton	Mr Bolton applied for special circumstances and health exemptions to allow him to fly into NZ on a private jet and self-isolate at home, which have been declined. His lawyer's letter advances health arguments for not going into MIQ s9(2)(a). Mr Bolton applied unsuccessfully to obtain a place on the self-isolation pilot. The court has decided that MBIE will need to evaluate his application again using the same legislation.

4.1.7 MIQ's Role in Afghanistan Evacuation

A total of 475 evacuees from Afghanistan have arrived in New Zealand. The table below shows the MIQ status of the Afghanistan evacuation programme as of 10 AM 27 October:

Place	Category	Number	Notes
Naumi MIF	Evacuees	49	
Waipuna MIF	Evacuees	2	
Jet Park QF	Evacuees	0	
TOTAL Returnees in MI		51	Total Departed MI: Afghan Nationals 428 (excludes births after arrival), NZ National 1, AOG Staff 90

A further 91 Afghanistan evacuees (requiring 51 MIQ rooms) are forecast to arrive in New Zealand in the next 14 days. With the onset of winter imminent in Afghanistan and the consequent cessation of most commercial flights and border crossings, it is expected that at least 120 further eligible evacuees will attempt to travel in coming weeks.

4.2 Operational Update

4.2.1 Capacity and Room Release Update – As of 28 October

As of 28 October, a total of 46,926 rooms have been released for the period of June through to the end of January 2022.

From early March to present, 139,552 returnees have secured a date to return home during the period of March through to the end of January 2022.

Returnees from over 180 countries have successfully secured a voucher to travel during this period.

As of 9am 28 October 2021, there is currently no room availability on MIAS.

The next Lobby room release is planned for Tuesday 2 November and the provisional release numbers are:

- December – 1,000
- January – 1,000
- February – 1,500

4.2.2 Ventilation

Remediation has been completed for 22 facilities, with 12 of 22 having been fully signed off (final signoff was obtained for four facilities in the last week Ramada, Naumi, Amohia Hamilton and Sudima Auckland).

Final re-test results for a further nine facilities are being analysed by our HVAC engineer to determine if MIQ preferred conditions have been met.

Access to rooms to undertake ventilation remediation work has been impacted by the current high demand. Ventilation remediation will continue around room availability.

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

4.2.3 Air Filtration Units

In the last week the installation of air filtration units in common spaces at the Ramada Auckland (with the exception of lifts that are awaiting the installation of power) was completed. 10 units were installed in additional quarantine rooms at Distinction Hamilton and 143 units were installed in potential new quarantine rooms at Sudima Auckland.

An order for 1,500 units is due to arrive within the next 1-2 weeks (these units will be shared between MoH and MIQ). There is no further stock of air filtration units available within the country.

4.2.4 Vaccination of Frontline Staff

For workers on site for the week 18-24 October 2021, BWTR shows that 97.3 percent had two doses of the vaccine, 0.8 percent had one dose and the remaining 2 percent (97 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 97 workers with an 'unknown' vaccination status, 80 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing Team is investigating the remaining 17 workers, to confirm vaccination status.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR have not identified any breaches of the Vaccination Order.

Of the 24 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 11-17 October 2021 weekly report:

- 20 have been confirmed as being compliant with the vaccine order (this includes one worker identified as a breach last week but who has subsequently had one dose of the vaccine);
- 1 is compliant, but has been passed to MoH for investigation as potential NHI issues;
- 1 is fully vaccinated with Pfizer but was vaccinated overseas, waiting for BWTR to be updated; and
- 2 have a Ministerial exemption (vaccinated overseas).

4.2.5 Staff Testing

An MBIE security worker at the Grand Millennium facility had a test on 26 October and tested positive for COVID-19. They are fully vaccinated and had been tested regularly as required. In the last 14 days, since 13 October they had worked 6 days on the 18, 19, 20, 24, 25 and 26 of October. Investigation is underway as to how the worker became infected.

Reporting from BWTR shows that 4,880 people undertook work in our facilities last week, and the table below shows how many of those workers were compliant with the Testing Order, were overdue for a test or still needed to be NHI-matched.

Compliance decreased by 1 percent to 97 percent.

Workers on site 18-24 Oct 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,659	97%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	141	3%
Need NHI-match	80	
Workers on site	4,880	

Of the 141 overdue workers, 88 of those are less than 4 days overdue, 49 are 4-10 days overdue and 4 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 80 that still need an NHI-match, all were created in BWTR in the last 7 days.

5 workers were previously reported as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 11-17 October 2021. They are all now showing compliant in the BWTR.

4.2.6 Saliva Testing

As of 24 October, 793 MIQ workers opted-in to saliva testing.

Saliva testing is currently operational across all active MIQF sites. The Ramada Auckland and The Elms Christchurch will have saliva testing made available once they are operating as MIQ sites. As the Required Testing Order has now been signed, we are commencing engagement with our PCBUs and workers to support them in shifting to daily testing at quarantine facilities and twice weekly testing at isolation facilities.

4.2.7 Ombudsman and OPCAT Update

We received a request for information regarding an EAR investigation under category 2b (critical health worker). We are following up two provisional opinions, regarding a fee waiver and an EAR. We have received a final opinion in MBIE's favour, about a fee waiver/MIF.

We have received the provisional OPCAT report for the Crowne Plaza Christchurch. We have received the final OPCAT report for the Naumi Hotel Auckland Airport with our response due 1 November. The OPCAT team have requested more information as a part of the follow up for the Novotel Christchurch. We are still working to provide the requested information.

4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 27 October 2021 (to December 2021):

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
RSE Workers	4 Nov 2021 (Flight 7)	150	116 (150pax) tbc	RSE flight seven will be from the Solomon Islands. This will be the final RSE flight to enter MIQ.
Construction Sector Accord	Oct 2021	60	57 (75 pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month.
	Nov 2021	60	14 (21 pax)	Cohort 1 for travel 1-15 November. Arrivals for second half November confirmed early November.
	Dec 2021	60	tbc	
Refugee Intakes	27 Oct	7	4 (7 pax)	Refugees will resume arrival into New Zealand with Intake 3 consisting of 45 pax to begin arriving 27 October.
	28 Oct	16	9 (16 pax)	
	5 Nov	22	15 (22 pax) tbc	Planning with Mangere Refugee Resettlement Centre will take place late next week to discuss an operational plan moving forward for future arrivals.
	Mid Nov	60	44 (60 pax) tbc	
	Early Jan 2022	60	44 (60 pax) tbc	
Feb-Jun 2022	145 per intake	105 (145 pax) per intake tbc		
Afghanistan Evacuees	14 Oct 2021		2 (6 pax)	Arrivals on 21 October (6 pax) did not make their flight to and will arrive on 30 October instead. Planning continues with MFAT to confirm batching of arrivals to align with MIQ room availability.
	18 Oct 2021		2 (5 pax)	
	19 Oct 2021		2 (3 pax)	
	23 Oct 2021		9 (15 pax)	
	26 Oct 2021		10 (21 pax)	
	28 Oct 2021		1 (1 pax)	
	30 Oct 2021		27 (49 pax)	
tbc		150 pax tbc		

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
Mariners	26 Oct 2021	100	97 (97 pax)	Positive cases are still less than 2%. No significant behavioural events have occurred.
	9 Nov 2021	67	67 tbc	
	21 Nov 2021	1	1	
	Late Nov 2021	Up to 15 (pers deferred from earlier flights)	Up to 15	
NZTE	Nov 2021	25	7 (7 pax)	Vouchers have been issued for the first half of November. Arrivals for second half November confirmed early November.
	Dec 2021	25	tbc	
EXPO	25 Oct 2021	72	20 (21 pax)	
	22 Nov 2021	80	tbc	
	27 Jan 2022	16	tbc	
	29 Jan 2022	44	tbc	
	3 Feb 2022	45	tbc	
	5 Feb 2022	75	tbc	
26 Feb 2022	44	tbc		
Mountain biking: Crankworx	Oct 2021	70	40 (47 Pax)	All have arrived.
Rugby: All Blacks	Late Nov 2021	65	tbc	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Rugby: Black Ferns	Late Nov 2021	65	tbc	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Cricket: BlackCaps	24 Nov 2021	20	tbc	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Cricket: BlackCaps	9 Dec 2021	33	tbc	<p>This cohort of BlackCaps will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC and MoH has begun to plan for their arrival and training.</p> <p>Some of this allocation will be used for inbound media who are critical to the delivery of the Summer Series of Cricket, and a player's wife and child (who will share the player's room). These individuals will not have any exemptions or special arrangements.</p> <p>Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train.</p>
NZDF	20 Oct 2021	16	15 (16 pax)	
	21 Oct 2021	50	17	
	3 Dec 2021	76	76 tbc	
	20 Jan 2022	60	tbc	
	25 Feb 2022	80	tbc	
Cricket: Bangladesh	10 Dec 2021	35	tbc	<p>Bangladesh will be seeking a training exemption. Engagement with NZC and MoH has begun to plan for their arrival and training. Given changes in the current MIQ environment, the MIF is still being finalised.</p> <p>Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train.</p>
Antarctic Programme	13 Oct 2021	13	13	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German and Korean programme.
	18 Oct 2021	42	42	
	25 Oct 2021	20	20	
	3 Nov 2021	22	22 tbc	
	12 Nov 2021	7	tbc	
	15 Nov 2021	138	tbc	
	19 Nov 2021	42	tbc	
	20 Nov 2021	19	tbc	
	20 Dec 2021	65	tbc	
	10 Jan 2022	170	tbc	
	19 Jan 2022	36	tbc	
	Feb (date tbc)	25	tbc	
7 Feb 2022	25	tbc		
Cricket: South Africa	Feb 2022	35	tbc	

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
Ministerial Travel	Oct 2021	20	2 (2 pax)	In November, Ministerial travel will be split between this group allocation, Time Sensitive Travel (approx. 10 pax) and self-isolation (approx. 4 pax).
	Nov 2021	20	20 tbc	
	Dec 2021	20	tbc	
	Jan 2022	20	tbc	
	Feb 2022	20	tbc	
Critical health workers	Late Nov	80	tbc	
	Dec 2021	300	tbc	
	Jan 2022	300	tbc	
	Feb 2022	300	tbc	
Women's Cricket World Cup				
Officials	Jan/Feb 22	26	tbc	All teams will be seeking a training exemption. Planning has commenced and arrival dates tbc. Working through implications of a shortened MIQ stay on inbound teams and the opportunity to train.
India	25 Jan 2022	31	tbc	
South Africa	Feb 2022	31	tbc	
Qualifier team 1	Feb 2022	31	tbc	
Qualifier team 2	Feb 2022	31	tbc	
Qualifier team 3	Feb 2022	31	tbc	

Time Sensitive Travel (TST)

Time Sensitive Travel window for arrivals in November/December 2021 closed on 14 September 2021. Applications were received for approximately 679 people (including at least 116 family members). On 8 October, Decision Makers approved 441 workers, plus 104 accompanying family members. This number has reduced due to withdrawals – as of 27 October, 227 rooms have been allocated for 287 people. Note these stats will continue to change and numbers will be updated once arrivals are confirmed in early December (for November arrivals) and early January (for December arrivals).

The Time Sensitive travel window for arrivals in January/February 2022 opened on 22 October 2021.

4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

4.4.1 As of 26 October 2021:

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
26/27 October	MIQ length of stays - part of a wider package	PM/Minister	Reactive	Y
27 October	Summary of Self Isolation Pilot	MIQ	Reactive	N
1 November	Non-NZ citizens required to be fully vaccinated before arrival into NZ		Reactive	N
2 November	Ramada to reopen as MIF for deportees	MIQ/Police	Reactive comms	N
November	Report on 4 MIF transmissions during community outbreak	MoH	Joint MoH and MIQ proactive comms	N
Late Oct / November	Release of the Rapid Review of Border Testing by the Border Executive Board	Customs	Reactive	N
8 November TBC	Transition of facility from isolation to quarantine in Auckland	MIQ	Proactive	N
Late-November	New MIF in Christchurch operationalised	MIQ	Proactive communications	TBC

4.4.2 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to 24 October 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).

Please note that for all arrivals from the 20 August 2021, all invoicing had payment terms of 30 days except for sports groups under Crown Service Agreements who have 10 days.

Grouping	Invoices issued (net of credit notes)	Paid	Issued not due	Issued over due	Invoices issued (\$)	Paid (\$)	Issued not due (\$)	Issued overdue (\$)	90+ days over due	90+ days overdue (\$)
Groups /Temp Visa	5,326	2,465	1773	1,088	\$52,635,613	34,008,816	12,652,460	5,974,337	1	\$3,100
Maritime	505	338	129	38	\$2,628,331	\$1,727,760	\$751,196	\$149,374	16	\$41,286
Aircrew	230	209	12	9	\$2,184,285	\$1,661,236	\$414,527	\$108,522	9	\$108,522
Other	26,213	15185	4504	6525	\$89,528,938	\$54,422,449	\$13,873,738	\$21,232,750	2389	\$7,754,775
Total	32,274	18,197	6,418	7,660	\$146,977,167	\$91,820,261	\$27,691,922	\$27,464,984	2,415	\$7,907,684

*Groups has only previously included sports groups, critical workers and critical Health Workers. However, going forward this now includes temporary visa holders as this aligns more to the categorisation of Critical Workers i.e. same fee charging structure.

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

4.4.3 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	4,151,421
2-4 weeks	4,636,840
5-8 weeks	2,974,259
9+ weeks	1,941,060

4.4.4 Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 24 October 2021. The numbers below relate to all waiver applications; waivers can be applied for before, during and after an individual has stayed in managed isolation.

Waiver Applications	In Progress	Total Completed	Completed Financial Hardship Applications	Completed Special Circumstances Applications	Approved Waiver Applications		Declined Waiver Applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
10748	4285	6463	833	5630	87	4820	746	810

4.5 Emergency Allocation Applications

6,820 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020. 390 applications were received in the week ending 24 October 2021 and 267 applications were processed. Of the 267 applications processed in the week ending 24 October 2021, 75% were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 18 October to 24 October	Year to Date Totals 30 October 2020 – 24 October 2021
Approved	199	3797
Declined	68	3023
Applications processed	267	6820

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

Total Rooms Approved Under Emergency Allocation from 18 October to 24 October	207
Rooms allocated in MIAS	166
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	41

We continue to receive significant numbers of emergency applications. This causes significant pressures on the Operations teams as they assess each application and are increasingly declining applications. We are making inroads into the backlog, with the average time taken from assessment to decision being 3.3 d.

4.6 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 19 October to 25 October.

Week 19 – 25 October	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	227	62	239
Improvements	1	0	1
Compliments	2	0	3
Queries	9	0	9
Ombudsman/OPCAT	1	7	2
Parliamentary/OIA	1	1	1
Other	0	0	1
Total	241	70	256

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 144. For the last 4 weeks the case average is 261 per week.

This week we received 241 new cases and have resolved 256. This is a decrease from the 255 cases received last week.

MIAS cases represented 31% of all cases received, similar to 29% last week.

Proactively Released

5. Border Executive Board Report



5.1 Key Issues Being Considered

5.1.1 Border Executive Board

The Board did not meet this week. Its next meeting is scheduled for 3 November.

5.1.2 Reconnecting New Zealanders: Early Steps

Customs is leading cross-government collaboration on implementing the requirement that non-New Zealand citizens need to be fully vaccinated before travelling to New Zealand by air. This requirement commences next week, on Monday 1 November 2021.

Whilst agencies are working through some remaining issues, they are confident that arrangements will be in place by 1 November to support the new requirement. Customs Officers will sight the vaccination documentation of all incoming international passengers. Airlines are also required to take reasonable steps to only carry travellers who are legally permitted to enter New Zealand.

Proactively Released

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Maritime

Customs has created a short-term Iwi Liaison role in Te Tai Tokerau to strengthen relationships with iwi in relation to the arrival of private vessels into Ōpua. As well as deploying operationally, the Iwi Liaison will engage with and inform whānau, marae, and hapū on the safety of the Ōpua port. They will also develop a comprehensive engagement plan, advise and support Customs staff in their engagement with iwi and hapū in the region and develop clear messaging and platforms for communicating these messages effectively for Māori audiences.

As at 27 October 2021, there are six small craft in port at Ōpua. Crew from four of the small craft are isolating on board while the crew from the two remaining small craft have been transferred to an Auckland Managed Isolation Facility.

There has been media and social media coverage about the arrival of a NZ registered catamaran (Uis Gabeatha) that sailed from Australia to New Zealand arriving in Ōpua on 22 October 2021. The thrust of the media coverage was how to circumvent managed isolation requirements by sailing by small craft. Due to a crew member injury, the vessel arrived earlier than intended; all crew members are now in a Managed Isolation Facility finishing the remainder of their quarantine period.

Customs and Maritime New Zealand are following up on the vessel not adhering to maritime regulations.

The Ministry of Health is considering if changes to the Maritime Border Order to prohibit NZ flagged passenger ships arriving with New Zealand citizens may be needed (this is a slightly different situation to the Uis Gabeatha case above, which claimed that all on board were crew).

14 small craft with a total of 42 crew aboard are inbound to Ōpua. They are expected to arrive between 27 October 2021 and 15 November 2021.

6.1.2 Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 18 October 2021 to 24 October 2021, there was one warning issued.

- 20 October 2021 – A child arriving from the United Kingdom via Seoul had no PDT documentation and a warning was issued to the parent.

Red flights

	Date	18 Oct	19 Oct	20 Oct	21 Oct	22 Oct	23 Oct	24 Oct	Week Total	%
	Passengers subject to PDT	410	201	214	350	185	282	216	1858	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	393	189	203	333	182	264	209	1773	95.4
	Exemption verified	14	7	10	12	1	16	3	58	3.1
	Referred to Secondary Area	3	5	1	5	2	2	4	27	1.5
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	3	5	0	5	2	2	4	26	96
	Warned	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	4.0
	Infringement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

7.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives Board (CCB) held its most recent meeting on 28 October 2021. Participants were updated on progress of the COVID-19 response, the capacity of the public health system, and the status of the vaccination programme. Subsequent discussions centred on how to better coordinate efforts across ministries, to support the delivery of the CCB's core mandate of providing assurance to Ministers. The medium-term role of isolation and social support arrangements also figured prominently, in light of the shift toward the COVID-19 Protection Framework and Reconnecting New Zealanders.

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 and are next scheduled to meet on 2 November 2021.

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group did not meet this week and are next scheduled to meet on 3 November 2021.

10. Business Leaders Forum

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum did not meet this week. The next meeting for the Forum is yet to be confirmed

11. Community Panel

11.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Community Panel did not meet this week. A paper was provided to the CCB for its meeting on 28 October 2021, which included context and insights from previous Panel meetings. The next meeting for the Panel will be on 3 November 2021.

12. Government Modelling Group

12.1 Items to Note/Updates

Officials continue to engage with Te Punaha Matatini on scenario projections for medium-term transmission dynamics. We are also progressing modelling relating to the future application of the COVID Protection Framework and will report back to Ministers on that in due course. Additionally, we expect to receive SEIR modelling results from Wigram Capital analysts in the near future, which will be compared and contrasted with previous outputs from TPM and ESR with key results and any implications highlighted for Ministers.

Traveller risk modelling tools are reaching a state of maturity and are being deployed in consideration of the future entry pathways and decision points for Reconnecting New Zealanders.

Proactively Released

14. Appendix

	Audit summary	Audit high-risk findings, and actions taken to remedy
Managed isolation and quarantine facilities (MIQFs)	<p>A further four Auckland MIFs were IPC-audited this week. No high-risk findings were identified. A total of 28 low risk findings with recommendations were reported.</p> <p>Findings centred around zone signage for transition from red (returnee facing) and green (staff only) areas. Poor IPC processes continue to be identified with transport.</p> <p>Progress reporting for updates on corrective actions against recommendations is ongoing. The audit finding for requisite P2/N95 masks fit testing remains a work in progress with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment national project extended use of P2/N95 implementation.</p> <p>Six Auckland facilities are scheduled for their quarterly IPC audits in the week commencing 26 October 2021, including the three quarantine facilities.</p>	-
Airports	<p>Auckland International Airport quarterly IPC review of the red zone was completed against the updated air border IPC guidance. No high-risk findings were identified. Continued use of non-medical masks by returnees was observed. Compliance with this requirement remains an ongoing issue.</p>	<p>As part of the scheduled review cycle of the IPC guidance for the air border, request for feedback on current version 1.3. was sent to aviation stakeholders. Feedback was due by 27 October 2021. Current version 1.3 is published on the Ministry of Health's website.</p>
Maritime/Ports	<p>No new updates.</p>	<p>The current PPE guidance for pilots and workers undertaking a necessary task on an affected ship is published on Maritime NZ's website.</p> <p>As part of the continued engagement with the sector, the IPC team developed further detailed guidance on how to wear the appropriate PPE; the drafted document was shared with Maritime NZ via the Ministry of Health's Border Operations team to collate feedback from the sector.</p> <p>Maritime NZ has asked to meet with the Ministry of Health Border Operations team to discuss the PPE guidance. This meeting will take place next week.</p> <p>The Ministry of Health's Border Operations team is also engaging with the New Zealand Customs Service and Maritime NZ in establishing ownership of action points in response to the findings in the latest IPC assurance visits at the ports. This work is ongoing at this stage.</p>

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