



Proactive Release

The following documents have been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Minister for COVID-19 Response, Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall:

COVID-19 Response Weekly Reports – July 2022

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 1 July 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 8 July 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 15 July 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 22 July 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 29 July 2022

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

Key to redaction codes:

- Section 6(a), to protect the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;
- Section 6(b)(i), to protect the entrusting of information to the Government of New Zealand on a basis of confidence by the Government of any other country or any agency of such a Government;
- Section 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals;
- Section 9(2)(b)(ii), to protect the commercial position of the person who supplied the information, or who is the subject of the information; and
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials.

~~RESTRICTED~~



MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



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



Te Whatu Ora
Health New Zealand



NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
MANATŪ AORERE



BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD

COVID-19 Response Weekly Report




22 July 2022

~~RESTRICTED~~









Contents

1. Status Summary	2
2. Ministry of Health	5
2.1 Programme Update	5
3. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report	7
3.1 Transition and Readiness	7
3.2 Operational Update	7
3.3 Ombudsman Complaints	8
4. Border Executive Board Report	10
5.1 Items to Note/Update	10
5. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report	11
5.1 Items to Note/Updates	11
6. Advisory Groups, Forums, and Panels	12
7. Upcoming Cabinet Papers	13

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 Reopening and International Connections	Te Whatu Ora			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Maritime Border Order has been successfully published and gazetted online and will come into effect on 31 July to enable the reopening of the maritime border. Statutory interpretation of these changes has been prepared and published online, as well as being provided to all border agencies. Further guidance to PHUs is being circulated. Work is underway to support cruise ship reopening. Te Whatu Ora is working closely with the Ministry of Health to resolve how pratique and other Health Act requirements will work now that COVID-19 has become endemic. Detailed health responses are being drafted to enable appropriate responses if ships in New Zealand waters require clinical support.
	BEB			<p><i>Reconnecting New Zealanders: Air border implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The flow of applications for all work visas including the Accredited Employer Work Visa (AEWV) has been slow and steady, and the queue of applications to be processed is under control Readiness for Step 5 on 31 July is on track; visitor visa applications are open to Pacific Island Forum countries. Substantial numbers of applications are expected from the remaining student and non-visa waiver visitor visa categories. Between 11 and 17 July 2022 there was one vaccine certificate infringement.
	BEB			<p><i>Maritime border programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Frontline border agencies are ready to re-open the maritime pathway to foreign flagged vessels and cruise from 31 July 2022. 5-6 small recreational craft and one promotional cruise ship (with very few passengers) are expected to arrive in August. Agencies continue weekly meetings with the cruise industry leading up to re-opening. The Ministry of Health expects to provide clarity on the Pratique process for maritime arrivals before 31 July 2022, and is also on track to publish the form and content information that vessels will be required to provide before arriving. s9(2)(f)(iv)
Pacific Travel	MFAT			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niue: NZMAT completed its assignment in Niue and returned to New Zealand on 19 July. The deployment provided significant support across clinical training, isolation ward organisation, data management and community outreach, with public awareness visits to all 14 villages. Tonga: Commercial airline ticketing services resumed on 15 July. Air New Zealand expects to recommence its commercial flights from September. Requirements for MIQ in Tonga will be lifted in August. Tuvalu: Tuvalu has fully vaccinated 67 percent of its population (including children, adolescents and adults). The rollout of the second dose to 5-11 year olds has commenced. s6(a)

Isolation and Quarantine

Self-Isolation	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Managed Isolation	MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Decommissioning of Facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date a total of 29 facilities have been decommissioned and handed back. The 'make good' work on these facilities continues. The final three facilities (Waipuna, Jet Park Auckland and Holiday Inn) have now closed to guests and will be handed back on 29 July 2022. Decommissioning of the three regional offices is now also underway and on track to be completed by mid-August. <p><i>MIQ Readiness Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBIE remains on track to deliver Version 2 of the Readiness Plan by 29 July 2022.
	Te Whatu Ora	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Investigation and Tracing Centre is undertaking a monthly review of isolation and quarantine requirements in collaboration with Ministry of Health public health and science experts. Advice will be discussed by the COVID-19 Assessment Committee at the next COVID-19 Protection Framework Assessment scheduled for 27 July.

Community Protection

Self-Isolation	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Surveillance and Testing	Te Whatu Ora	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Currently, 92.57 percent of PCR tests have a result turnaround time under 24 hours. As part of surveillance activity, Te Whatu Ora is closely monitoring the Whole Genome Sequencing process for positive PCR samples across the border, hospitals and community settings. Work is underway with ESR to identify community/regional targets to ensure there is good representation from all regions. The number of sites offering RAT collection and/or testing remains high.
	Te Whatu Ora	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> COVID-19 Care in the Community is working with Orbit and other accommodation providers to find additional Alternative Isolation Accommodation (AIA), due to an increase in COVID-19 cases and demand for AIA over the school holiday period. As cases increase over the coming weeks, the Risk Score for Call Prioritisation tool will be used to reach out to people at risk of hospitalisation due to COVID-19 to ensure that they receive the support they need. This is a new and innovative way of using the Risk Score. The oral COVID-19 antiviral medicines nirmatrelvir with ritonavir (Paxlovid™) and molnupiravir (Lagevrio®), are being reclassified as restricted medicines, enabling pharmacists to supply to those (without prescription) who meet Pharmac's eligibility criteria. This change will come into effect from 28 July. Training and guidance for pharmacists will be made available beforehand.

*No update was received on Contact Tracing or Technology Updates from Te Whatu Ora.

Vaccination

Implementation and operation	Agency	Last Week	This Week	
	Te Whatu Ora	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 11.59pm 18 July 2022, 191,349 second booster doses have been administered, with 68,026 administered in the last seven days. There are a further 11,708 doses booked in BookMyVaccine. Uptake of first boosters increased 7 percent in the week ending 18 July, with 6,072 administered. Paediatric second dose uptake continues to increase, with 2,590 administered in the previous seven days to 18 July. Initial results from the 8 July direct communications campaign to the second booster priority cohort has shown strong engagement with a 59.5 percent open rate, 18 percent response rate, and 19,500 vaccinations completed. Postal letters were sent Friday 15 July to people who did not provide email addresses or SMS details. Results will be tracked over the course of the next two weeks. The second booster roll out to Aged Residential Care (ARC) facilities continues with all Districts having commenced visits. The increase in COVID-19 cases continues to cause delays, with 30 percent of facilities scheduled for second booster clinics currently in lockdown. All visits, including follow ups for residents who are ineligible for booster two due to having recently contracted COVID-19, are expected to be completed by early October Local Māori Health Providers and the Health Districts are running various vaccination pop up events to reach tamariki and their whānau during school holidays, with seven pop-up vaccination clinics taking place in Hauraki, in the Waikato district. These clinics have been stood up in familiar settings such as marae, places of worship and community hubs. Although the focus of these clinics is COVID-19 vaccinations, other childhood immunisations are carried to administer opportunistically.

System Readiness & Planning

Health Supply Chain	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
	Te Whatu Ora	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall supply and distribution of RATs is very steady, with good volumes of RATs in stock and being distributed. Existing stock volumes are surge ready. Approximately 2 3M RATs were sent from the warehouse in the week ending 14 July, reflecting substantially increased demand. Additional trucks have been contracted in the Northern region to mitigate workforce pressure in the distribution network. An increased order is expected due to surge and widened eligibility criteria.
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Updates to the catalogue of response measures to ensure alignment of the potential change S9(2)(f)(iv). Work is ongoing in coordinating a transition workshop for the week of August 8, to test the systems' readiness to transition the COVID-19 lead agency function to Health NZ. Fortnightly NRG meetings remain in place to maintain oversight and integration across the AoG system, however this may reduce to monthly dependent on assessed need. Ad-hoc working groups and meetings will be called as necessary to resolve system problems.
	DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Management Approach Q2 has been released and distributed. Commissioning of the planning for the Q3 National Management Plan has been done and initial working group notification has been made.
	Te Whatu Ora	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 14 July the COVID-19 Protection Framework Assessment Committee met to consider a rapid review of the measures within the Red setting and mask requirements across Orange and Red settings of the COVID-19 Protection Framework. The Committee recommended that based on the available evidence, no changes should be made to the public health measures within the Red setting and no changes should be made to mask requirements at Orange or Red. The next COVID-19 Protection Framework Assessment Committee will occur on 27 July to consider whether a change in colour setting is required and to gauge the early impact of S9(2)(f)(iv).

*No update was received on System Readiness from Te Whatu Ora.

2. Ministry of Health

2.1 Programme Update

This item updates you on Manatū Hauora's Long COVID work programme. Progress since the last update includes the following:

- After receiving feedback from the Long COVID Expert Advisory Group that its members did not adequately represent Pacific peoples, disabled persons, and young people, the Director-General has approved the addition of three members to the group to represent these communities. These members joined the group for the second meeting held on 13 July 2022.
- A second draft of the clinical guidelines for Long COVID rehabilitation have been prepared (based on Expert Advisory Group comment). It is expected this will be finalised and published in August 2022.
- Manatū Hauora published the clinical guidelines for acute COVID-19 and case definitions for Long COVID on the Manatū Hauora website.
- Manatū Hauora has undertaken international engagement to discuss approaches for Long COVID rehabilitation and support service delivery. Recently this has included engagement with C-Support, a national clinic in the Netherlands funded by the Dutch Ministry of Health, Welfare and Sport to support individuals with ongoing symptoms from COVID-19.
- Work continues to implement clinical codes in primary and secondary care patient management systems. These codes are used to differentiate between acute COVID-19, ongoing symptomatic COVID-19 and Long COVID for data collection, analysis, and reporting, and are important for an accurate representation of the prevalence of Long COVID in the population.

Next steps

Upcoming milestones for the Long COVID work programme include:

- Continued engagement with communities and the national Te Whatu Ora leads for Long COVID, and additional international engagement with other jurisdictions to discuss approaches and learnings from Long COVID service delivery.
- Publication of the Clinical Guidelines for Long COVID Rehabilitation in Aotearoa New Zealand. A process is underway to make the content available through Health Pathways, and the Awhina app.
- Ongoing development of clinical resources for Long COVID for inclusion in Health Navigator, Health Pathways and the Awhina app.
- Development and delivery of a community of practice and primary care webinar on Long COVID, to be available by early August 2022.

2.1.1 Technical Advisory Group: update

COVID-19 TAG

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (COVID-19 TAG) met on 15 July 2022 and discussed the following items:

- Update on the pandemic response;
- s9(2)(f)(iv)
- Variants of concern threat assessment.

The next COVID-19 TAG meeting is scheduled for 12 August 2022.

CV TAG

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) met on 19 July 2022. Updates from this meeting will be provided in next week's report.

Therapeutics TAG

The COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group (Therapeutics TAG) did not meet this week, with the next meeting is scheduled for 5 August 2022.

CT TAG

The COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (CT TAG) met on 12 July 2022 and discussed the following items.

- Seroprevalence survey update
- WGS surveillance update
- Airfinity update | horizon scanning
- Update on Manatū Hauora new structure

The next CT TAG meeting is scheduled for 26 July 2022.

2.1.2 Communications Issues and Activities

As at 20 July 2022

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
Week commencing 25 July	Possible announcement regarding the reopening of the maritime border (Maritime Border Order signed and gazetted 11 July 2022; original announcement for the same day was postponed). Also planning stakeholder communications on this.	Manatū Hauora	Communications support with media release and reactives.	Minister Verrall
For information	Getting some queries on whether or not travellers will get COVID treatment if they get sick and are/aren't from a country with reciprocal agreement.	FYI	FYI	FYI

2.1.3 Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
NEAC consultation on its draft publication on pandemic ethics	After 22 July 2022	The National Ethics Advisory Committee (NEAC) has drafted a publication on pandemic ethics for New Zealand. This publication was previously called <i>Getting Through Together</i> and has been renamed <i>Ethical Guidance for a Pandemic</i> . NEAC will consult with the public on their proposed ethical principles and approach.	Clare Perry, Deputy Director-General, Regulatory Services s9(2)(a)

* No content has been received from the other Health entities for this week, however consideration is being given to content for future reports.

3. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

3.1 Transition and Readiness

3.1.1 Workforce

The formal change process for the remaining facilities, as well as regional and national offices continues. The decision for the new operating model was announced on June 15 and following the expression of interest the Leadership team has been appointed and MBIE are now appointing people into the wider team. The new operating model is expected to be in place by 1 August.

3.1.2 Decommissioning of Facilities

A total of 29 facilities have been decommissioned and handed back.

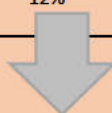
The final three in-use facilities (The Waipuna, Jet Park Auckland and Holiday Inn) closed to guests on 27 June and will be handed back on the 29 of July.

Decommissioning of the three regional offices is also underway and on track. The Central office will be decommissioned on 31 July, the Auckland office on 12 August, and the Christchurch office on 15 August.

3.2 Operational Update

3.2.1 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to 19 July 2022.

INVOICES ISSUED	INVOICES PAID	INVOICES ISSUED - NOT YET DUE	INVOICES OVERDUE	INVOICES WRITTEN OFF
56,975	43,085 (75% of invoices issued)	95 (0.1% of invoices issued)	10,844 (19% of invoices issued)	2951 invoices (5%)
TOTAL VALUE OF INVOICES ISSUED	PAID (BY VALUE)	ISSUED - NOT YET DUE (BY VALUE)	INVOICES OVERDUE (BY VALUE)	INVOICES WRITTEN OFF (BY VALUE)
\$217M	\$180M 83%	\$241K 0.1%	\$26M 12%	\$10.5M 4.8%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> With invoicing up to date, MBIE are investigating the 'unmatched data' for the period 25 March 2021 to 28 February 2022 to determine their liability. There are 11,659 of these unmatched records in the database that need to have their liability determined before invoicing. 2,951 invoices (5%) worth \$10,506,426 (4.8%) have been written off. 			 90+ days overdue 5,246 invoices \$15.7M (by value) 7% (by value of all invoices issued)	

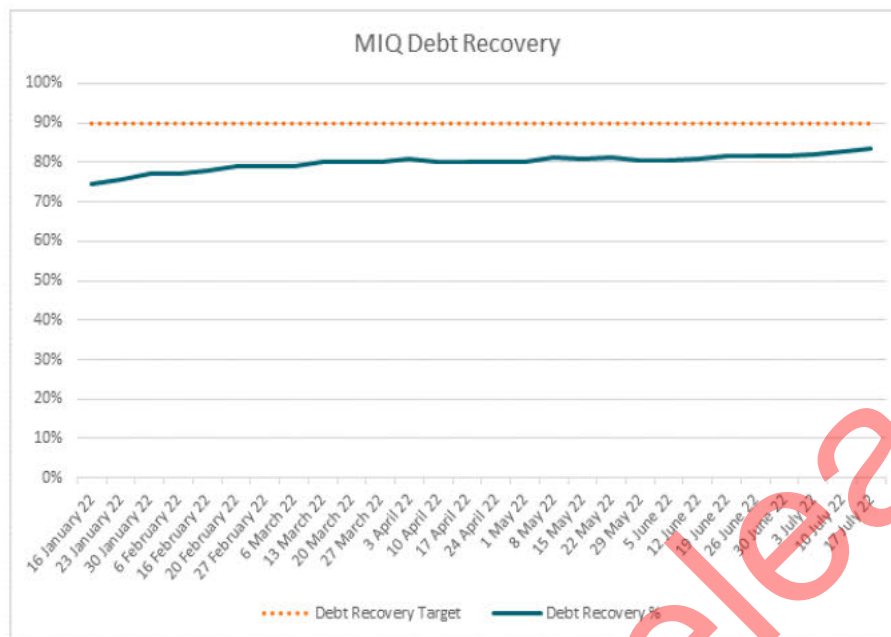
3.2.2 Debt Recovery

The debt recovery percentage remains at 83 percent (against the nominal target recovery of 90 percent).

As of 17 July, 14,215 invoices worth \$43m have been passed to MBIE's debt partner.

- \$16.2m has now been paid (an increase of \$610k).
- A further \$608k of debt is under instalment and is expected to be converted to payments over coming weeks.
- Of the invoices sent, 475 customers worth \$1.1m have now submitted waiver applications. While applications are processed, they are recorded as outstanding debt.

The following chart shows the weekly MIQ debt recovery percentage since 9 January compared against MBIE's nominal recovery target.



3.2.3 Fee Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 17 July 2022. The numbers below relate to all waiver applications; waivers can be applied for before, during and after an individual has stayed in managed isolation.

All Waiver Applications Received	Received and not progressed	Total Completed	Approved Waiver Applications			Declined Waiver Applications		
			Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	BOTH	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	BOTH
19,275	3,410	15,484	103	9,879	115	2,023	2,825	530
			Overall Approved 66.5% (of completed applications)			Overall Declined 33.5% (of completed applications)		

3.2.4 Reducing the Fee Waiver backlog

The table below shows the total number of backlogs for Fee Waivers, comparing numbers from the current week with the week prior.

	Fee Waiver Backlog as at 17 July 2022	Fee Waiver Backlog as at 10 July 2022
Total Fee Waiver backlog	381	382
Fee Waiver processing or to be processed	319	306
Waiting for customer	62	76

3.3 Ombudsman Complaints

As at 11 July there are 11 active investigations:

- one is on policy advice;
- four are on emergency allocations;
- two are on exemptions from managed isolation;
- two relate to declined fee waiver decisions;

- one is about facilities; and
- one is the Chief Ombudsman's self-initiated investigation.

There are 66 preliminary enquiries. Preliminary enquiries are cases where the Ombudsman requests the file to assess the complaint and determine next steps.

Proactively Released

5.1 Items to Note/Update

The Board met on 20 July 2022.

The Board received an update on the Infrastructure at Airports initiative which is engaging with New Zealand's six largest airports on the regulatory requirements and infrastructure needs of border agencies at these airports. The airports are Auckland, Christchurch, Wellington, Queenstown, Dunedin, and Invercargill.

The programme of work is in the early stages and is progressing well with positive engagement from the airport companies. Reflecting the health presence at airports, the Ministry of Health is involved with identifying and scoping requirements. The Board will receive an update from the Chief Executive of Auckland International Airport Limited at the 27 July 2022 meeting about changes in Auckland, s9(2)(f)(iv)

The Board received its regular monthly update on the New Zealand Traveller Declaration programme s9(2)(f)(iv)

Your Office has been contacted to discuss the possibility of you meeting Board members at the 10 August 2022 meeting.

The next meeting is 27 July 2022.

5. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report

5.1 Items to Note/Updates

s9(2)(f)(iv)



5.1.2 Compliance Checking at the Air Border

This information will now be reported monthly with the next update on 5 August 2022.


6. Advisory Groups, Forums, and Panels

There are no updates from the COVID-19 Chief Executive Board; Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group; or the Business Leaders Forum this week.

Proactively Released

7. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

s9(2)(f)(iv)



Proactively Released