



Aide-Memoire

RECONNECTING NEW ZEALANDERS' READINESS FOR NEXT STEPS

To	Rt Hon. Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister Hon. Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response	Report No	DPMC-2021/22-2100
From	Cheryl Barnes, DCE, COVID-19 Group, DPMC	Date	4/05/2022

Purpose

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

Background

2. This report provides an update on readiness for: (1) Changes to enable unvaccinated resident class visa holders to travel to New Zealand from 11.59pm on 05 May; (2) All visa classes for Pacific Island Forum countries from 16 May; (3) Step 4 – Accredited Employer work visas and Work Visas from 04 July; and (4) Step 5 – Visitor / Education Visas from 31 July. Appendix A provides an overview summarising the Reconnecting New Zealanders (RNZ) steps, settings, and pathways.
3. Appendix B includes a readiness report dated 04 May 2022.

Traveller volumes and airline updates

Passenger numbers since step 1 of Reconnecting and comparisons:

4. The latest Reconnecting step, visa waiver countries, was successfully implemented on 01 May. This represents the largest cohort of potential travellers to date that we've connected with and enables an estimated 1.2m travellers per year to visit New Zealand.
5. On 02 May our 200,000th Reconnecting traveller arrived in New Zealand. We now welcome more travellers to New Zealand each day than in a week while travellers were required to go to MIQ.
6. Numbers of travellers since RNZ Step 1 (28 February to 03 May):
 - i. Total – 209,853
 - ii. Australia – 133,101
 - iii. Rest of the World – 76,752
7. We have seen a 16% increase in travellers in the past week, with the average daily total travellers at 5,450 up from the previous week's average of 4,688.
 - i. Australia - average of 1,527 per week for seven days from 28 February and 3,108 for the seven days from 13 April and 3,340 for the past seven days.

- ii. Rest of the world - average of 202 per week for the seven days from 28 February and 688 for the seven days from 13 April and 1,055 for the past seven days.

Key operational updates including readiness

7. This report has an overall **Green rating**, with activities remaining on track for the current steps included in the report.

8. s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted content]

[Redacted content]

b. s9(2)(g)(i), s9(2)(h)

[Redacted content]

c. s9(2)(g)(i)

[Redacted content]

9. As the system continues to evolve, the following updates are included here for awareness:

- a) Unvaccinated resident class visa holders will be eligible to enter New Zealand from 11.59pm on 05 May. Travellers will receive a conditional traveller passes until the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system is updated at 11.59pm on 12 May, at which time the traveller passes will be automated via NZTD.
- b) Overall arrival testing compliance is ~77% while overall positivity remains at 1.7%. Note, these figures do not include travellers who have not correctly completed the New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) e.g., those using paper passes etc. Work is underway to ensure that data is captured for these travellers.
- c) The question of an enduring home for a single source for border and international travel information is being considered by Officials. The Unite Against COVID-19 website currently provides this information for agencies, stakeholders, and the public, and we are looking at how to retain clear, consistent, and readily accessible information for travellers as we shift to a business-as-usual approach.



Appendix A: RNZ summary

Reconnecting New Zealanders: Policy Summary

Entry pathways

Travellers will enter using one of four entry pathways – only three of these are in use today:



Quarantine Free Travel – entry without quarantine or isolation for eligible travellers from some Pacific Countries



Testing on arrival – entry without quarantine or isolation for eligible travellers with testing before departure and after arrival (on day 0/1 and 5/6)
This is the main entry pathway to New Zealand.



Managed Isolation and Quarantine – full MIQ for other travellers – small number of exceptional travellers are allowed to use MIQ (e.g. refugees, Antarctic survey team, Air Crew). These individuals can leave MIQ at any time.



The **self-isolation pathway** is not currently in use.

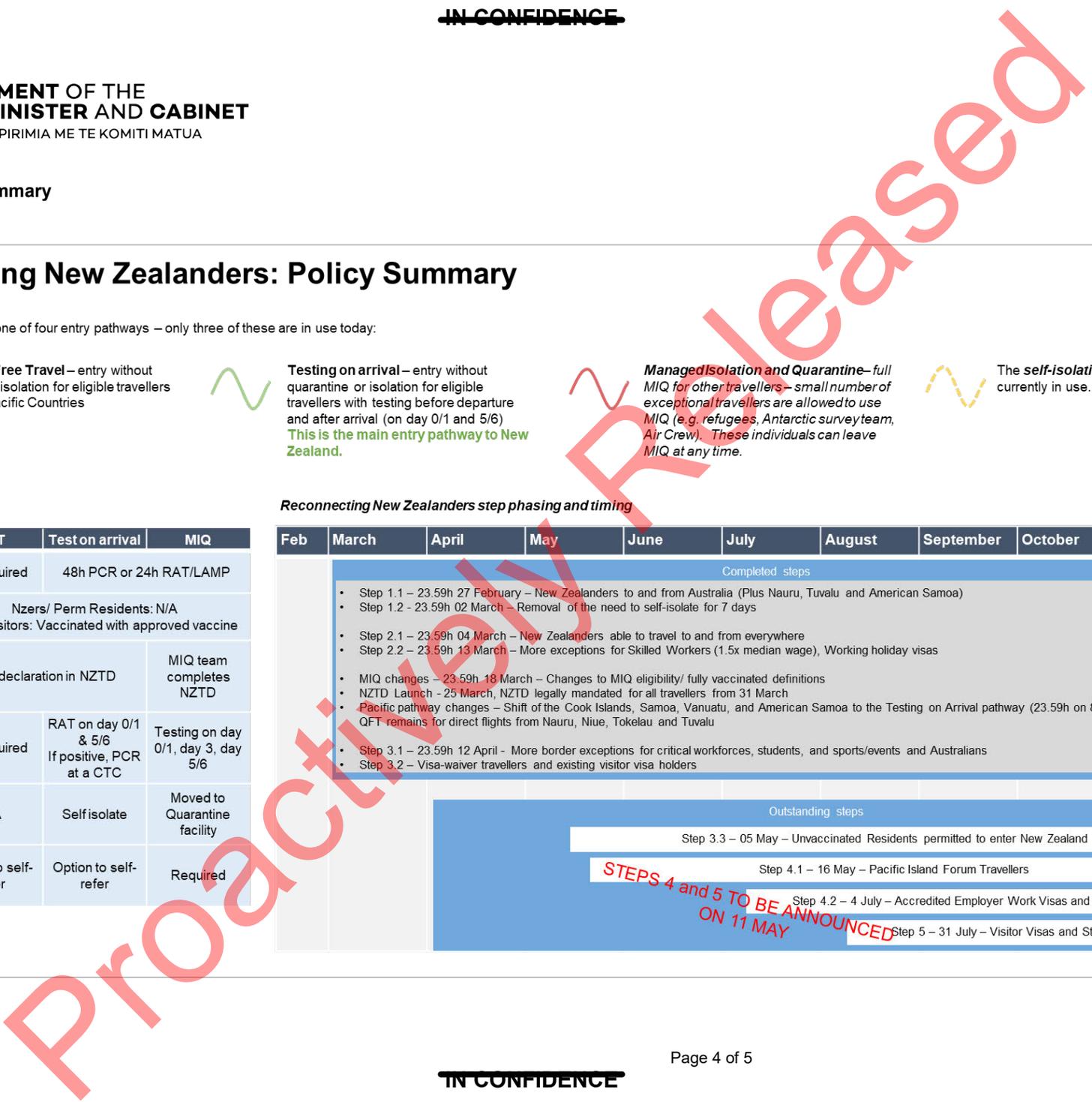
Key settings summary

Setting	QFT	Test on arrival	MIQ
PDT:	Not required	48h PCR or 24h RAT/LAMP	
Vaccinated	Nzers/ Perm Residents: N/A Other visitors: Vaccinated with approved vaccine		
Contact tracing info/ 14 day travel history	Self-declaration in NZTD		MIQ team completes NZTD
Testing	Not required	RAT on day 0/1 & 5/6 If positive, PCR at a CTC	Testing on day 0/1, day 3, day 5/6
Positive test	N/A	Selfisolate	Moved to Quarantine facility
Airport health screening	Option to self-refer	Option to self-refer	Required

Reconnecting New Zealanders step phasing and timing

Feb	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November
Completed steps									
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Step 1.1 – 23.59h 27 February – New Zealanders to and from Australia (Plus Nauru, Tuvalu and American Samoa) Step 1.2 – 23.59h 02 March – Removal of the need to self-isolate for 7 days Step 2.1 – 23.59h 04 March – New Zealanders able to travel to and from everywhere Step 2.2 – 23.59h 13 March – More exceptions for Skilled Workers (1.5x median wage), Working holiday visas MIQ changes – 23.59h 18 March – Changes to MIQ eligibility/ fully vaccinated definitions NZTD Launch – 25 March, NZTD legally mandated for all travellers from 31 March Pacific pathway changes – Shift of the Cook Islands, Samoa, Vanuatu, and American Samoa to the Testing on Arrival pathway (23.59h on 8 April) – therefore QFT remains for direct flights from Nauru, Niue, Tokelau and Tuvalu Step 3.1 – 23.59h 12 April – More border exceptions for critical workforces, students, and sports/events and Australians Step 3.2 – Visa-waiver travellers and existing visitor visa holders 									
Outstanding steps									
Step 3.3 – 05 May – Unvaccinated Residents permitted to enter New Zealand									
Step 4.1 – 16 May – Pacific Island Forum Travellers									
Step 4.2 – 4 July – Accredited Employer Work Visas and Work Visas									
Step 5 – 31 July – Visitor Visas and Student Visas									

STEPS 4 and 5 TO BE ANNOUNCED ON 11 MAY



Appendix B: RNZ Readiness summary

Reconnecting New Zealanders Readiness Report – Status as at 04 May 2022

Overall status
GREEN

Ref	Lead agency	Group of activities	Unvaccinated resident class visa holders from 5 May	All visa classes for Pacific Islands from 16 May	Step 4 – Accredited Employer work visas and Work Visas from 04 July	Step 5 – Visitor / Education visas – from 31 July
1	MoH	Regulatory	✓ DG exemption notice (signed 03 May)			
2	MoH	Border Health Updates				
3	Customs	Border Agencies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Review Staffing ○ Update SOPs and processes ○ Update staff training ○ Update Safe Travel Advisory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Review Staffing ≠ Update SOPs and processes ≠ Update staff training ≠ Update Immigration Regulations ≠ Update Safe Travel Advisory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Review Staffing ≠ Update SOPs and processes ≠ Update staff training ≠ Update Immigration Regulations ≠ Update Safe Travel Advisory 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Review Staffing ≠ Update SOPs and processes ≠ Update staff training ≠ Update Immigration Regulations ≠ Update Safe Travel Advisory
4	Customs	Aviation sector	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update FAQ for aviation ○ Update sector advice/ websites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update FAQ for aviation ≠ Update sector advice/ websites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update FAQ for aviation ≠ Update sector advice/ websites 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update FAQ for aviation ≠ Update sector advice/ websites
5	MBIE	ALOs / Immigration	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update Training for Offshore airports ○ Update Immigration Regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update Training for Offshore airports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update Training for Offshore airports 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update Training for Offshore airports
6	DPMC	Communications	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Update UAC and websites across government 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update UAC and websites across government ○ Update 'Re-educate the traveller project' continuing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update UAC and websites across government ○ Update 'Re-educate the traveller project' continuing 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ≠ Update UAC and websites across government ○ Update 'Re-educate the traveller project' continuing

Legend: ≠ Not started
○ Work in-progress
✓ Complete

Proactively Released