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INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
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**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

24 September 2021

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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	
Two-way QFT with Australia	Testing and vaccination of border workforce	Border Measures	MoH	●	●	<p>Border Worker Testing Register</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 22 September 2021, there were 269 Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) covering 18,166 active workers in the BWTR. Two new PCBUs were added in the past week. 6,496 of the active workers are listed as working in MIQF facilities and 11,670 at the air or maritime borders. Of these, 96 percent have been compliant in meeting their mandatory testing requirements. Of the border workers currently active in the BWTR: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 91 percent have had two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine 6 percent have had one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine The remaining 4 percent represent workers in the BWTR who have not been vaccinated yet or have not been matched to their vaccination record due to the absence of NHI-matching in the CIR. All border worker monitoring and compliance activity has continued as usual during the heightened alert levels and response period. <p>Border Worker Saliva Testing National Rollout</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> As at 22 September 2021: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 1,327 border workers have opted into saliva testing. This number will fluctuate due to the dynamic nature of our border workforce. Of the 807 active workers who are undertaking saliva testing, 95 percent are compliant in meeting their testing requirements. 81 collection points at 35 sites are in place for saliva testing. <p>Forthcoming rapid antigen test (RAT) pilots</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> On September 15, 100,000 rapid antigen test kits purchased by the Ministry of Health arrived in the country. These will be used in two pilots. One is for the testing of patients arriving at Middlemore Hospital's Emergency Department. Samples for rapid antigen testing will be taken from people who are having swabs taken for laboratory-based PCR testing and who consent to an additional sample being taken to help assess the accuracy and usefulness of these tests in this setting. There will also be a pilot for people arriving at international airports. Details of this pilot are still being worked through. These tests are being piloted to work out how we best use them in future to help identify new infections, support outbreak investigations through screening and monitor disease trends.
			MBIE	●	●	<p>Staff Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compliance reporting is at 98%, (no change from last week), for staff who worked in the week of 13 - 19 September 2021. 2% of workers on site in the week of 13-19 September 2021 are showing in the BWTR as overdue (92 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 13-16 September 2021, 96.3% have had two doses of the vaccine, 1.6% had one dose and 2.1% have vaccination status 'unknown'. Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not find any incidents of breaches of the vaccination order. There were no vaccine exemptions granted last week.
			MBIE	●	●	<p>Saliva Testing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> At 20 September, 304 MIQ workers are opted-in to saliva testing in BWTR across the 16 sites that are currently operational at the time of reporting (Wellington, Rotorua, Hamilton, Christchurch, Auckland quarantine). We are working closely with the Ministry of Health on the proposed changes to the Required Testing Order in line with your expectations, and how these can be successfully rolled out from week commencing 4 October. We are working through the operational impacts of these testing changes and how we will manage communication and engagement with our workforce as well as the reporting and monitoring impacts arising as a result.
			MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> On 17 September 2021, it was announced that the suspension of QFT from Australia would be extended for a further eight weeks, with a review in mid/late November.

Border (continued)

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Two-way QFT Niue	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Given the ongoing Delta outbreak in Auckland, which remains the only port of air entry to Niue, a cautious approach is being taken to any new timeframe for commencement of two-way QFT. MFAT are preparing a joint Ministerial briefing to provide advice on the process and timeline for commencement of two-way quarantine-free travel between Niue and New Zealand. s7(b)(i), s7(b)(iii)
	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Following the technical mission's return, officials are preparing advice for the Minister for COVID-19 on next steps, with a forward work plan with Niue officials to address gaps. s7(b)(i), s7(b)(iii)
	MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Cook Islands are currently at Alert Level 2 until 28 September 2021.
Reopening new travel pathways - Pacific Islands	MFAT	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You are planning to bring a paper for Cabinet's consideration on 27 September, seeking agreement to commence QFT from Vanuatu from 4 October, and from Tonga and Samoa from 12 October. Subject to Cabinet decisions, planning is under way to announce commencement dates and Prime Ministers to sign the Arrangements in the week of 27 September. Tonga: Arrangement and repatriation plan texts have been agreed by Tonga's Cabinet. Border officials are comfortable Tonga will have in place the necessary border screening process by 12 October. s9(2)(ba)(ii) Vanuatu: Arrangement text likely to be agreed week of 20 September. Border officials are confident necessary border systems will be ready by 4 October. Air Vanuatu on track to meet health requirements for operation of QFT charter flights from 4 October. s6(a)

Managed Isolation and Quarantine and Return to the Community

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Place and conditions of stay	MBIE	●	●	<p>Ventilation Systems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ventilation remediation work has been completed for six facilities (26% of rooms across the entire portfolio). Four are nearing completion; and 15 more are underway. One additional remediation plan has been received in the last week, bringing the total number of received reports to date to 27 (87%). The ventilation upgrade programme is aiming for completion around the end of 2021, or early 2022. Ventilation remediation work continues with urgency for the remaining facilities. Four Points ventilation remediation and maintenance will go ahead, but with a revised start date of 1 October 2021 and is expected to be complete by 10 October. Remediation work for the Novotel Christchurch Airport has commenced in conjunction with fire damper work being carried out to obtain building code of compliance. Installation of air filtration units for common spaces has been completed for a further two facilities, with the last two facilities progressing between cohorts.
	MBIE	●	●	<p>Renewing Contracts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We are in the process of undertaking negotiations with the Quality Hotel Elms, Christchurch, concerning draft conditional Heads of Agreement. We now have signed the legal contract for 29 facilities, with two further contracts currently out for signing.

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

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Post-managed isolation processes MBIE	●	●	<p><i>Fees Collection</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The new backlog solution has been completed and is in production. The process to email returnees from August 2020 has begun with one week processed. We have started slowly to provide an opportunity to iron out any issues identified before ramping up at a later date. Due to the low quality of data from August 2020 most emails produced by the system do not have a known email address. We are working through options to obtain valid email addresses and responding to the first returnee email replies. We have identified two changes to the system which we are currently testing to manage the backlog before proceeding further. Ongoing invoicing has restarted after a system upgrade (release 8) was released two weeks ago. It includes the incorporation of critical worker and critical health worker data (currently identified manually) and NSW returnees on managed flights, plus improved data matching. Invoicing will be close to being up to date by the end of September. We are currently investigating the treatment of Afghanistan returnees, aircrew and pause jumpers. Aircrew invoicing is being tested currently. We are currently investigating whether the MIQ website or customer portal could be used to allow credit card payments. Once resource and an option is decided to move credit card payments forward a timeline will be put together. <p><i>Debt Recovery</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Of the now 446 invoices worth \$1.45m sent to a debt collection agency, \$122k (up \$9k, 8%) has been paid (or will be paid through instalment), \$181k is currently awaiting information from customers or has been credited due to an error, a further \$196k (this includes the no address/overseas category) requires more detailed tracing, \$16k has subsequently been credited and the remaining \$939k (includes the passive collection as they are still working on this as well) debt continues to be a work in progress. This indicator will remain amber while working through the backlog of invoices and while we continue to make progress on debt recovery.
	MBIE	●	●

Community Protection

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Case investigation, surveillance and testing MoH	●	●	<p>An update on the current community outbreak is available in other reporting.</p> <p><i>Alert Level Boundary Crossing Permitted workers</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Police have advised that the majority of people are adhering to requirements to show evidence of testing in the first weekend of compliance checking of permitted workers crossing the Alert Level boundary. Since 19 September, 1,656 heavy vehicles have been stopped and 125 of them have been turned around attempting to leave Tāmaki Makaurau. This is a compliance rate of 92.5 percent, which is a significant improvement from a compliance rate of 85.5 percent on the first day of compliance checking on 17 September. <p><i>Saliva testing at boundary</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> We continue to see a steady increase in the uptake of saliva testing. As of 22 September, 8,201 individuals and 666 employers had registered for saliva testing. There are sites at Waitomo Bombay and Te Hana service stations for the collection of saliva testing kits and to drop off samples. <p><i>Personal travel</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> From 11.59pm, Thursday 23 September people permitted to travel for personal reasons must carry a negative test result taken within 72 hours of travel, unless they are travelling to care for an animal or attend a health appointment. In these circumstances, people need to carry evidence of having had a test in the last 7 days. The test can be a nasopharyngeal or oropharyngeal with both nostrils PCR test. Saliva testing is not permitted for this purpose.

Vaccination

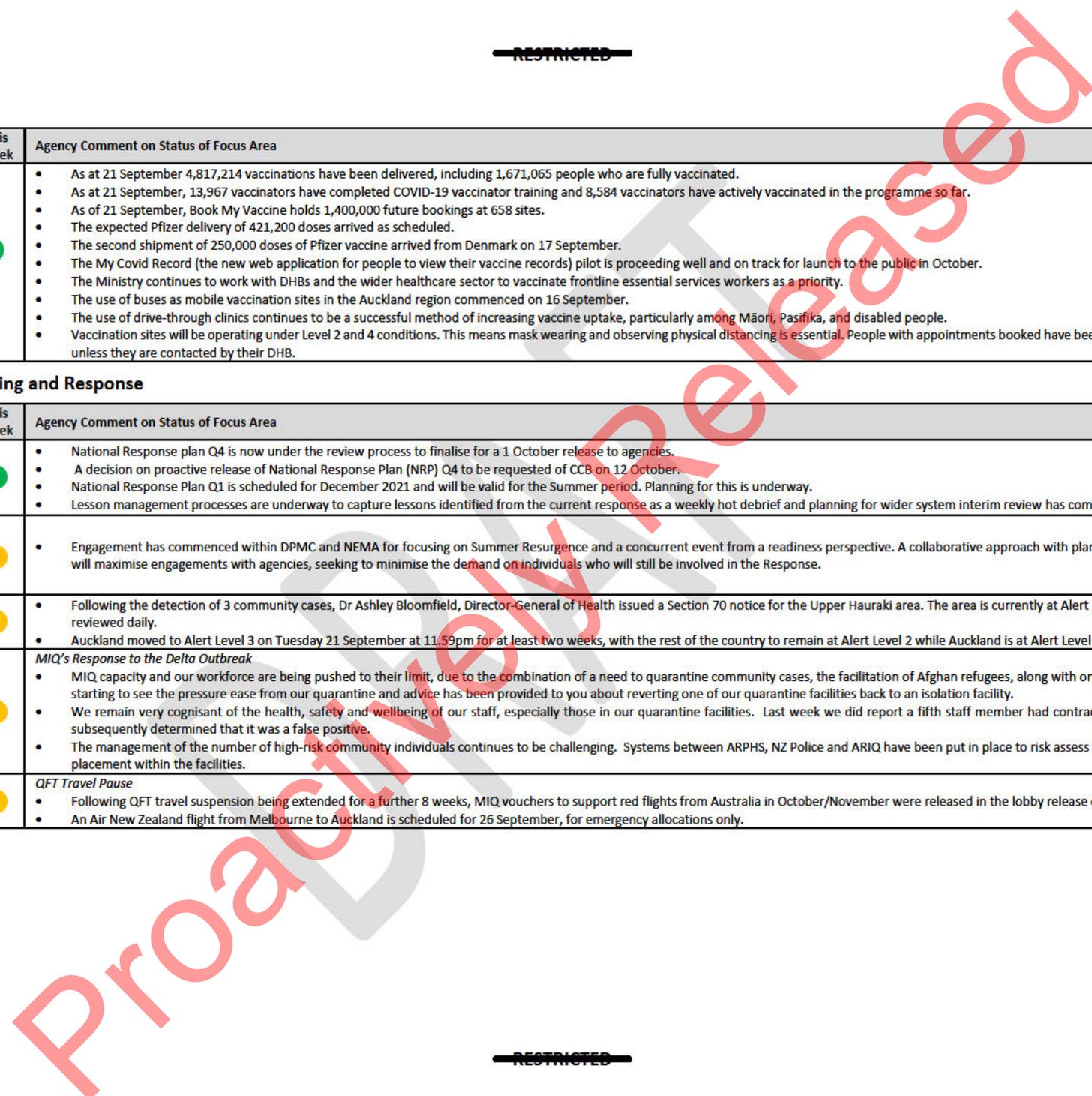
Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">As at 21 September 4,817,214 vaccinations have been delivered, including 1,671,065 people who are fully vaccinated.As at 21 September, 13,967 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 8,584 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.As of 21 September, Book My Vaccine holds 1,400,000 future bookings at 658 sites.The expected Pfizer delivery of 421,200 doses arrived as scheduled.The second shipment of 250,000 doses of Pfizer vaccine arrived from Denmark on 17 September.The My Covid Record (the new web application for people to view their vaccine records) pilot is proceeding well and on track for launch to the public in October.The Ministry continues to work with DHBs and the wider healthcare sector to vaccinate frontline essential services workers as a priority.The use of buses as mobile vaccination sites in the Auckland region commenced on 16 September.The use of drive-through clinics continues to be a successful method of increasing vaccine uptake, particularly among Māori, Pasifika, and disabled people.Vaccination sites will be operating under Level 2 and 4 conditions. This means mask wearing and observing physical distancing is essential. People with appointments booked have been advised to attend their appointments unless they are contacted by their DHB.

Implementation and operation

Resurgence Planning and Response

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">National Response plan Q4 is now under the review process to finalise for a 1 October release to agencies.A decision on proactive release of National Response Plan (NRP) Q4 to be requested of CCB on 12 October.National Response Plan Q1 is scheduled for December 2021 and will be valid for the Summer period. Planning for this is underway.Lesson management processes are underway to capture lessons identified from the current response as a weekly hot debrief and planning for wider system interim review has commenced.
DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Engagement has commenced within DPMC and NEMA for focusing on Summer Resurgence and a concurrent event from a readiness perspective. A collaborative approach with planning and readiness for these initiatives will maximise engagements with agencies, seeking to minimise the demand on individuals who will still be involved in the Response.
MoH	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Following the detection of 3 community cases, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, Director-General of Health issued a Section 70 notice for the Upper Hauraki area. The area is currently at Alert Level 3, with the situation being reviewed daily.Auckland moved to Alert Level 3 on Tuesday 21 September at 11.59pm for at least two weeks, with the rest of the country to remain at Alert Level 2 while Auckland is at Alert Level 3.
MBIE	●	●	<p><i>MIQ's Response to the Delta Outbreak</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">MIQ capacity and our workforce are being pushed to their limit, due to the combination of a need to quarantine community cases, the facilitation of Afghan refugees, along with ongoing border arrivals. However, we are starting to see the pressure ease from our quarantine and advice has been provided to you about reverting one of our quarantine facilities back to an isolation facility.We remain very cognisant of the health, safety and wellbeing of our staff, especially those in our quarantine facilities. Last week we did report a fifth staff member had contracted COVID, however public health has subsequently determined that it was a false positive.The management of the number of high-risk community individuals continues to be challenging. Systems between ARPHS, NZ Police and ARIQ have been put in place to risk assess the community cases to help decide on placement within the facilities.
MBIE	●	●	<p><i>QFT Travel Pause</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Following QFT travel suspension being extended for a further 8 weeks, MIQ vouchers to support red flights from Australia in October/November were released in the lobby release on 20 September.An Air New Zealand flight from Melbourne to Auckland is scheduled for 26 September, for emergency allocations only.

Resurgence planning including
Readiness planning



2. COVID-19 Insights

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

2.1.1 COVID-19 False Information Reports to CERT NZ During the August/September Community Outbreak

Introduction

Since early 2021, CERT NZ has established a platform for receiving reports of false information related to COVID-19 from members of the public. CERT NZ is an agency that receives reports of cyber security problems. During the current community outbreak there have been over 430 reports of COVID-19 false information to CERT NZ, including material such as flyers, websites, magazines, behaviour, Facebook pages, and emails. False information can contribute to vaccine hesitancy and erode public willingness to get vaccinated.

An earlier report has been provided as an 'Insight of Note' titled '*COVID-19 Related Reports of False Information to CERT NZ*' on 11 August. This report is similar, covering the period of the August/September community outbreak. It is acknowledged that reports to CERT NZ are only part of the COVID-19 false information landscape.

Themes of Material Reported

There were 12 different themes¹ identified in the material reported to CERT NZ, with the top themes during the current community outbreak being:

- **Suspicion of the vaccine** (this ranges from assertions that COVID-19 vaccines cause death and negative side effects, through to the claims that vaccines do not meet all regulatory requirements.);
- **Mistrust of government** (this includes questions and criticisms of government messages, government responses to the virus, its origins, effects, and treatments.);
- **Alternative medicine** (this includes assertions that various drugs and treatments are effective at treating COVID-19, despite this not being supported by mainstream medical research);
- **Anti-Government** (this includes content which is explicitly opposed to the government, including likening the government to criminals, or killers, and some items which encourage violence towards politicians.); and
- **Suppression of truth** (this includes claims that governments and global corporations are suppressing the truth about COVID-19 to increase control over citizens and increase profits).

Themes Over Time

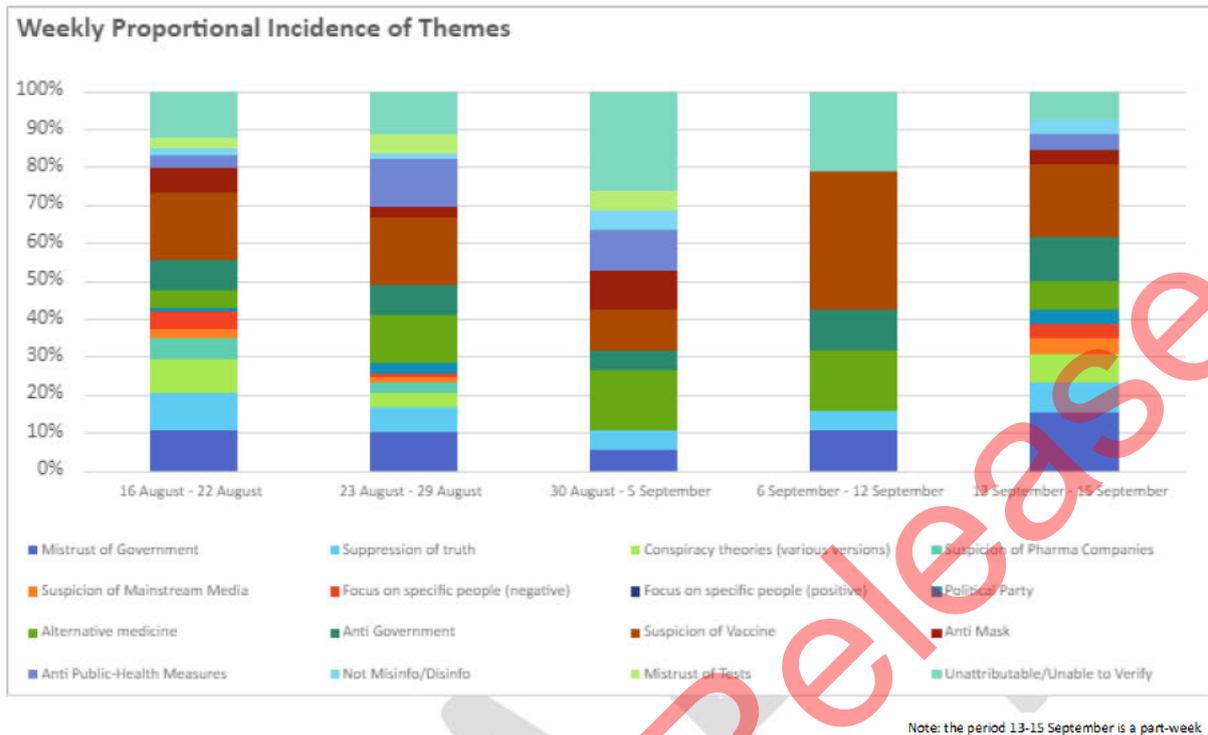
The chart below shows the prevalence of false information themes by week in the reports to CERT NZ for the period analysed.

The 'mistrust of government' theme has become more prominent and consistent since the previous report and when combined with the themes of 'anti-public-health', 'anti-mask' and the 'negative focus on individuals' (primarily members of the government) shows a noticeable consolidation of themes which are opposed to the government and its actions to combat the pandemic.

Another development has been an increase in the alarmist tone with reports noting items which were explicitly titled, such as '*Covid vaccinated dead in 3 years*' from **The White Rose**, or referred to people dying from the vaccine. This included the recent incorrect reporting that a teenage schoolgirl died as a result of being vaccinated.²

The prevalence of several themes dwindled over time, however themes such as 'suspicion of vaccine', 'mistrust of government' and 'anti-Government' appeared over all of the reported period.

Figure 1: Proportion of Reported Items by Theme by Week



Sources of Material Reported

Five sources were responsible for material that generated over 60% of all reports to CERT NZ. The most prolific source was **Voices for Freedom** with 22% of all material and the majority of this were their flyers which continue to be distributed across New Zealand. **The White Rose** was next with 15% of all reports, almost all located in Christchurch. **The Real News** and **NZDSOS** had 12% and 5% respectively, while **s9(2)(a)** was linked to 7% of all reports.

The level of reporting to CERT is likely to be a small proportion of false information material distributed in New Zealand. For example, the most prolific item reported to CERT NZ, was the **Voices for Freedom** flyers of which 1.7 million were distributed around New Zealand between April and September 2021, but these items generated less than 800 total reports to CERT NZ for that period.

Format of Material Reported

Half of the material reported to CERT NZ (50%) were forms of digital media. This included websites, links to videos, emails, Facebook and twitter posts and text messages. Much of the digital media was links to websites but Facebook posts and groups were also noted in the reports and was distributed by a wide range of actors.

The other half of items reported were physical media such as pamphlets/flyers and stickers associated mostly with **Voices for Freedom** and **The White Rose**.

In our previous report, physical media (flyers and pamphlets) from **Voices for Freedom**, **The Real News** and **Advance NZ** were dominant with over 70% of items reported. However, for the current period, there were equal amounts of digital media and physical media reported and is likely due to reduced distribution of pamphlets by **Voices for Freedom** during the higher alert level (they were the dominant distributor of media for the previous report).

Material in the Last Week

Over the 7 days between 9 September 2021 and 15 September 2021, there were 15 individual items (72 total reports) of false information sent to CERT NZ. This is a similar number of individual items to each other week of the current community outbreak. The themes of ‘suspicion of vaccine,’ ‘mistrust of Government,’ and ‘anti-Government,’ were particularly prevalent over the last 7 days, whilst a number of other themes such as ‘suppression of truth’ and ‘alternative medicine’ also appeared.

Responses to Material

An inter-agency response³ has been developed which seeks to raise public awareness and reporting of COVID-19 related false information to CERT NZ. CERT NZ triages all reports received before passing them onto the relevant agencies. Also, false information will be considered by the Media and Online content review that was initiated in July 2021 by DIA. This review will focus on creating a flexible and coherent regulatory framework for all form of harmful content, of which false information is a part.

Recent examples of responses to the distribution of COVID-19 false information include:

- Focused media coverage on what misinformation is and how to deal with it;^{4 5}
- Government agencies have begun to provide resources on how to recognise it and what to do about it; and ^{6 7 8}
- The Classification Office has released a report in June 2021 on Misinformation in New Zealand.⁹

Proactively Released

3. Ministry of Health



3.1 Items to Note/Updates

3.1.1 Managing COVID-19 Care in the Community programme

The Managing COVID-19 Care in the Community programme (the programme) has been established to support people who are COVID-19 positive to remain in the community, rather than requiring everyone to be supported in a managed isolation and quarantine facility (MIQF).

The programme is currently focused on the development of a National Service Model for providing care to COVID-19 positive people outside of managed quarantine facilities, should this be required or preferred.

It will be a clinically-driven model, led by primary and community care, and will encompass clinical pathways, welfare and wellbeing support, and connection to established MIQ and hospital care, as part of an equitable, safe, and sustainable public health approach.

The programme is already connecting with the work underway on self-isolation and quarantine, the northern region response, and with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment on future managed isolation and quarantine structures.

Next steps

The focus this week will be on confirmation of governance across the programme. This will include early discussions with leaders within the primary and community care sector.

A further focus over the coming week will be the development and circulation of a draft National Service Model.

We will provide updates on this programme of work as key milestones are achieved.

3.1.2 Health system readiness: COVID-19

Significant work is underway across the New Zealand health system to ensure that there are plans in place to manage any recurring community resurgences of COVID-19. This item informs you about the Ministry's health system readiness work programme (the programme), which is intended to co-ordinate activities that are required to manage responses in a sustainable way.

The programme spans:

- the immediate term – providing assurance that plans for a response are well developed, tested, and supported by an operating model that supports activation of regional or national responses when local capacity to manage is exceeded.
- the short term – tactical strategies to expand core health system capacity, including targeted investment for facilities and equipment, initiatives for growth and training development of the health workforce, and further development of models of care that optimise our collective system resources.
- the long term – embedding resilience into our system, through a future-focused plan that recognises the resources and operating frameworks needed to be prepared to other pandemic or escalated health scenarios.

The programme's three timeframes of focus are: immediate (supporting any outbreak recurrence over the next 12 weeks), short term (up to six months), and long term (two years).

The programme will:

- consider capacity and capability across care settings:
 - public health
 - primary and community care
 - hospital and critical care services

- take a functional view to make sure dependencies across care settings are identified and factored into planning. The functional aspects will include:
 - workforce training, development, expansion and deployment
 - physical environment, including equipment, facilities, and supplies
 - clinical pathways and models of care
 - other enablers, such as funding and data/digital
- engage with Māori and Pasifika to ensure our priority populations are planned for, and equity of access to services is a central consideration in planning activity.

Resilience planning work (short to long term) has already started in the northern region DHBs and the lessons learned from the current Auckland outbreak will support the planning approach used by all DHBs and inform the national work programme.

Next steps

We will provide a 'plan on a page' for you by 24 September, to show the key workstreams and governance arrangements for the programme.

We anticipate that an assurance update on the immediate term work will be provided to you in the week of 4 October.

We will provide regular updates on the progress of the work programme through the Weekly Report.

3.2 Policy/Programme Updates

COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme

As at 11:59 pm on 21 September, 4,817,214 vaccinations have been delivered, including 1,671,065 people who are fully vaccinated. Of those fully vaccinated, nine percent are Māori, six percent are Pasifika, and 17 percent are Asian.

298,008 Māori have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, which represents 9 percent of the total population who have received their first dose as at 21 September.

We have reached the milestone of 50 percent of the eligible Māori population having received at least one dose.

641 sites were active on 21 September.

Vaccinations under Alert Levels 2 and 4

Vaccination sites continue to operate under Alert Level 2 and 4 conditions. This means mask wearing and observing physical distancing is required. DHBs are continuing to work to ensure there is enough capacity for people to book their appointments.

People are also encouraged to make use of vaccination sites where no booking is necessary, particularly in the Auckland region.

People are encouraged to attend their booking unless contacted by their DHB.

Group 4 rollout

Everyone aged 12 and over is now eligible to book a vaccination appointment as of 1 September.

Driving vaccine uptake in Auckland is currently a major priority for the Programme. Steps have been taken to ensure that Auckland has all the supply it needs to continue to deliver at pace.

Equity

Work is underway to identify the demographic traits of the 'yet to engage' population. The variables being analysed (alongside ethnicity and age) include deprivation, rural/urban and access times. Engagement with Whakarongarau is also underway to understand what other metrics we might add to this dataset.

Vaccination buses in the Auckland region commenced on 16 September 2021. Deployment to locations with low site coverage and low vaccination rates is being prioritised and Māori and Pacific health providers are co-designing the operation with the DHBs. The buses are currently operating as mobile sites to ensure that Alert Level 4 social distancing requirements can be met. It is anticipated that within the next two weeks there will be 12 buses in operation, seven of which will be run by Māori providers and five will go to Pasifika providers.

The use of drive-through clinics continues to be used successfully by DHBs to support the vaccination of disabled people in higher alert levels. There has been good feedback from families with children who have autism that it is an effective delivery model.

DHBs are providing a range of services to meet the needs of disabled people within their areas. These include mobile vaccination services, residential disability services, and in some instances home visits. While not always possible under Alert Level 4 conditions, home vaccinations continue to be delivered across the majority of the country.

On 17 September, funding was announced to support local communication initiatives that will increase access, uptake, and support of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in ethnic communities. This funding is aimed towards removing or reducing obstacles and barriers currently preventing local ethnic populations from accessing the vaccine.

Vaccinations of essential workers

The Ministry of Health has contacted all the groups and organisations supporting essential workers in businesses/services with clients and customers in the workplace under Alert Level 4. Priority vaccinations for these groups is well underway.

As at 21 September more than 35,859 people have been vaccinated since 20 August, who have been identified in the COVID-19 Immunisation Register as essential workers.

Workplace vaccinations

The workplace (onsite) vaccination programme has started with the first three businesses, AFFCO, Waste Management New Zealand, and Meridian Energy preparing to vaccinate their workforce. Additionally, two new occupational health providers are in the process of being onboarded. The programme is poised to onboard numerous providers and workplaces in the coming weeks.

Workplace vaccinations are only commenced when staff return to the workplace in accordance with alert level instructions, therefore providers' delivery schedules have been revised to factor this in for some workplaces.

Workforce

As at 21 September, 13,967 vaccinators have completed COVID-19 vaccinator training and 8,584 vaccinators have actively vaccinated in the programme so far.

The pool of trained vaccinators is expected to continue to increase over the coming months. IMAC has advised that there has been a surge in the registrations and completion of vaccinator training.

The Hands Up database has over 16,000 registrations as at 21 September. The workforce team is developing guidance to support DHBs with a quick process for recruitment that reflects the need to recruit staff quickly and under various alert levels.

Book My Vaccine

As of 21 September, Book My Vaccine holds 1,400,000 future bookings at 658 sites.

A map of available capacity has been developed to support consumers prior to using Book my Vaccine to book their appointment. This map is now live on the Book My Vaccine website and provides filtering options to suit a variety of equity needs.

General practice and pharmacy rollout

Onboarding of primary care continues to progress well. There are now more than 700 active primary care sites, with the number of pharmacies in particular increasing considerably. There are now over 350 pharmacies onboarded to provide COVID-19 vaccinations across New Zealand.

Technology

A significant release of technology updates took place on 16 September. These updates were done across multiple systems and included improved efficiency for consumers arriving at sites, improvements to the post vaccine symptom check, and inventory enhancements for distribution centres.

Supply

The expected Pfizer delivery of 421,200 doses arrived as scheduled.

The agreements with Spain and Denmark to purchase additional doses of Pfizer vaccine have enabled the programme to continue vaccinating high numbers of people. The second shipment of 250,000 vaccines from Denmark arrived on 17 September.

The Ministry of Health is also working closely with DHBs to manage the existing stock on hand and the distribution of our weekly deliveries from Pfizer.

New Zealand support for vaccine roll-out in the Pacific

Planning is now underway with the Cook Islands and Niue counterparts for their rollout of the Pfizer vaccine for their 12–15-year-old cohorts. Niue is planning to commence its vaccine rollout in late September, while the Cook Islands will begin the rollout of the vaccine for their 12 to 15-year-old population group in early October.

Planning is underway with Samoa, Tonga, and Fiji on plans to vaccinate their 12 to 17-year-old cohorts using the Pfizer vaccine in early quarter four.

3.3 Technical Advisory Group: Update

The COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group (TAG) met on 17 September and discussed the Elimination Strategy/Reconnect Aotearoa New Zealand. The next TAG meeting is scheduled for 15 October 2021 and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

The COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CVTAG) met on 14 September and discussed:

- science updates for New Zealand's vaccines
- other COVID-19 vaccines that New Zealand could recognise for people arriving in New Zealand
- third dose for immunocompromised.

CVTAG is next meeting on 21 September and an update will be provided in a future Weekly Report.

3.4 Upcoming and Recent Communications Issues and Activities

As at 21/09/21

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
21 Sept 21	Section 70 issued for upper Hauraki residents / workers / visited, until 11.59am on 24 September 2021.	Ministry of Health	Website	Optional
21 Sept 21	All Auckland-based QR code poster holders will be emailed this week with messaging about mandatory record keeping and the new QR poster designs.	Ministry of Health	Message for poster holders	No
21 Sept 21 ongoing	Auckland outbreak: daily communications and support for the health sector and public. Locations of interest and updated health advice, including outreach to new cases in Hauraki community.	Ministry of Health	Communications, key messages, website, stakeholder engagement	Optional
23 Sept 21	Travel across boundaries remain limited. As of 11.59pm on 23, September 2021, people wishing to travel across the Alert Level 3/2 boundary for personal reasons will need to have evidence of a negative test result taken within 72 hours. This includes those with an exemption. Essential workers still require proof of test taken within seven days.	Ministry of Health / DPMC	Collateral, stakeholder engagement, website	Optional
24 Sept 21	Longer quarantine requirements being implemented now in Auckland, in line with rest of country.	Ministry of Health	Stakeholder and reactive media	Optional

3.5 Upcoming Publications

Title	Date	Context	ELT contact
Publication: Getting through Together	TBC	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)

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Top Items to Note

MIQ's response to the Delta outbreak

MIQ is continuing to actively support the response to the community outbreak whenever we can.

Three quarantine facilities are in place in Auckland however we have provided advice on reverting one of these back to an isolation facility to ensure we can continue to support general returnees alongside our continued support for the community outbreak.

The management of the number of high-risk community individuals continues to be challenging. Systems between ARPHS, NZ Police and ARIQ have been put in place to risk assess the community cases to help decide on placement within the facilities. Approximately 5% of people coming across the border usually warrant a high-risk flag but approximate 50% of the community case currently are.

The health, wellbeing and safety of our staff remains front-of-mind, and we know that staff are worried about working in these new environments. NZ Police have provided some training for our staff on dealing with these sorts of cohorts (de-escalation techniques, etc).

Managing the cumulative events of the community outbreak, Afghanistan arrivals and general returnees is pushing our system and our staff. The health, wellbeing and safety of our staff is front-of-mind, and we know that staff are worried about working in these new environments. Last week we reported a fifth staff member tested positive, however public health has determined this was a false positive.

We continue to make operational decisions to respond to this situation, and are keeping your Office updated on these changes as they occur.

MIQ Lobby Release

The new lobby feature in MIAS went live on Monday 20 September. The lobby opened at 7.45am, 15 minutes ahead of the announced 8am start, to ensure that the 2500 people who had already started to enter the site could be managed without any system overload. Those who entered the lobby early did not gain any advantage. Participants were asked to register in advance and check the "flight checker" on the MIAS website to confirm in advance the dates on which flights from their country of origin were available.

During the room release, the lobby held just over 31,000 people. The queue was randomly formed at 9am and all 3232 rooms were taken by 11.30am. 5364 people from 117 countries reserved MIQ spaces. They have 48 hours to confirm their flights in the system, at which time they will be issued with an MIQ voucher. December spaces were taken first (before 10am) with November, October and September being less popular. The last rooms remaining were for 'close in' dates in September which were less viable for travel for most people overseas.

We have confirmed our intention to do a second major release next Tuesday at 6pm.

Support for Pacific communities in MIQ

This week started a two-week MIQ communications campaign working with the Pacific media on messages to the community on what to expect should they test positive for Covid-19 and go into a MIQ facility to isolate. The campaign features Pacific community and church leaders in nine Pacific languages.

The partnership with Pasifika Futures provides care packages for Pacific families and individuals in MIQ. Care packages include food, baby essentials such as nappies, baby formula and bottles, sanitary items and medication, including those needing appropriate health and cultural support. To date, Pasifika Futures have received 583 referrals from ARPHS, provided support to 419 Pacific individuals in MIQ and 2,716 Pacific people in MIQ and self-isolation.

MIQ's role in Afghan repatriation

The table below shows the MIQ status of the Afghan repatriation programme as at 4PM Tuesday 21 Sep:

Place	Category	Number	Notes
Naumi MIF	Evacuees	7	There is also a baby born after arrival, not included in the 7
Waipuna MIF	NZDF	12	
TOTAL Returnees in MI		19	Total Departed MI: Afghan Nationals 392, NZ National 1, AOG Staff 77

A total of 400 evacuees have arrived in New Zealand and all but one of the all-of-government team that deployed in support of the repatriation operation have returned to their place of origin. The final (NZDF) member is expected to arrive in Auckland on 23 September. Of the 400 evacuees, 316 are currently in the Nesuto Hotel (transition accommodation) in the care of Refugee & Migrant Services, 75 have left managed isolation direct to the community, one remains in Waikato hospital, and 7 remain in the Naumi MIF (plus a baby born after arrival).

The last of the Afghan Nationals currently in managed isolation will depart on 24 September.

Small numbers of eligible Afghan Nationals, including some NZ citizens, are continuing to leave Afghanistan and are engaged with MFAT to coordinate travel to New Zealand. MFAT/INZ reporting suggests that there may be around 1,000 Afghanistan nationals who are eligible to enter NZ:

- 100 (approx) are NZ passport holders
- 100 (approx) are dependants of NZ passport holders
- 800 (approx) are critical purpose visa holders
- Many of these are people who supported the NZ mission in Afghanistan (NZDF PRT, OP BURHAM) and approved family members

An interagency task force (Task Force GOLF) has been stood up in response to continuing Afghan evacuations. MBIE (MIQ, INZ), NZDF and MFAT are collaborating to develop a border policy and an operational plan for managing subsequent Afghan arrivals, noting that non-NZ Citizens and Residents are currently not normally eligible for MIQ Emergency Allocations.

4.2 Operational Update

Capacity Update

As at 21st September, a total of 34,439 rooms since early March have been released for the period of June through to the end of December.

From early March to present, 117,745 returnees have secured a date to return home during the period of March through to the end of December. Returnees from over 180 countries have successfully secured a voucher to travel during this period.

As at 4pm 21st September, there is currently no availability on MIAS.

Ventilation

Ventilation remediation work continues with urgency for the remaining facilities, in parallel with the deployment of air filtration units for the remaining four facilities' common spaces and the Jet Park Auckland quarantine rooms.

The ventilation remediation at Four Points will go ahead, but with a revised start date of 1 October. The work is expected to be completed by 10 October.

The delivery and installation of air filtration units into quarantine rooms at Jet Park Auckland continues at the rate of 10 units per day, with approximately 50% of total units needed now installed. Deliveries and installations will continue daily with all units expected to be installed by 10 October.

The number of air filtration units required for the Ramada and the new Elms facility in Christchurch have been determined. We are awaiting confirmation from the project team commissioning the sites as to when they will be ready for the units to be installed.

Installation of air filtration units for common spaces has been completed for a further two facilities, with the last two sites (Sebel Manukau and Rydges Auckland) in progress. The work at remaining facilities is being progressed between cohorts.

Sites where remediation work is completed and signed off remains at six (26% of rooms across the entire portfolio), noting that obtaining the Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group's endorsement for the completion of the remediation work for Holiday Inn Auckland is in progress.

A remediation plan was received for Novotel Christchurch Airport last week, bringing the total plans received to date to 27 (87%). The Ventilation Remediation Advisory Group (VRAG) endorsement of the plan is in progress, noting that the work is already underway in conjunction with completing fire damper work to obtain building code of compliance.

Remediation work has now been completed for IBIS Rotorua and Jet Park Hamilton and the results are being analysed by our independent HVAC engineer.

Remediation work for Grand Mercure (Wellington) continues on track to be completed in early October.

Vaccination of Frontline Staff

For workers on site for the week 13-19 September, BWTR shows that 96.3% had two doses of the vaccine, 1.6% had one dose and the remaining 2.1% (105 workers) had vaccine status 'unknown'.

Of the 105 workers with an 'unknown' vaccination status, 24 still require an NHI match. The Workforce Testing Team is investigating the remaining 81 workers, to confirm vaccination status.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not find any instances of breaches of the vaccination order.

Of the 48 workers who were NHI-matched but showing vaccination status 'unknown' in the 6-12 September weekly report:

- 33 have been confirmed as being compliant with the vaccine order;
- 15 are compliant, but have been passed to MoH for investigation as potential NHI issues.

Vaccination assurance follow-ups for those with an 'unknown' status in BWTR in the previous week did not find any incidents of breaches of the vaccination order.

Staff Testing

Reporting from BWTR shows that 4,999 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.

This week we saw a continued high level of compliance at 98% of staff.

Workers on site 23 –29 August 2021	Total	Percentage of total NHI-matched workers on site
Compliant NHI-matched workers	4,883	98%
Overdue NHI-matched workers	92	2%
Need NHI-match	24	
Workers on site	4,999	

Of the 92 overdue, 68 of those are less than 4 days overdue, 16 are 4-10 days overdue and 8 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 24 that still need an NHI-match, 15 were created in BWTR in the last 7 days.

4 workers were previously reported as '11+ days overdue' in the report for the week 6-12 September. We have confirmed they are compliant but have been referred to MOH due to a possible NHI-matching issue.

Saliva Testing

As at 20 September, 304 MIQ workers are opted-in across the 16 sites that are currently operational at the time of reporting (Wellington, Rotorua, Hamilton, Christchurch, Auckland quarantine).

MIQ workers at the three Auckland quarantine facilities have been invited to opt-in to the saliva testing regime. Following advice from Ministry of Health, we are strongly encouraging these workers to opt-in and provide daily saliva samples while at work during this current outbreak.

MIQ workers at the remaining Auckland facilities continue to be progressively invited to opt-in to the saliva testing regime. We expect saliva testing to become operational in the remaining 16 isolation sites over the next two weeks.

MIQ workers at the Wellington, Rotorua and Christchurch facilities are now able to do saliva testing.

MIQ workers at two of the three Hamilton facilities are now able to do saliva testing. Workers at the remaining facility (Distinction Hamilton) will be invited to opt-in this week (Wednesday) following the facility being re-designated as an MIQ facility.

We are working closely with the Ministry of Health on the proposed changes to the Required Testing Order in line with your expectations, and how these can be successfully rolled out from week commencing 4 October. We are working through the operational impacts of these testing changes and how we will manage communication and engagement with our workforce as well as the reporting and monitoring impacts arising as a result.

Ombudsman Update

We have received two Ombudsman notifications this week. One is concerning a fee waiver investigation and the other relates to emergency allocations.

As of 20 September, we have one open case, and two open actions.

We met with the Ombudsman office on 21 September and they commented that the themes we experienced regarding the lobby matched the many complaints received by their office on 20 September.

We issued one response to an OPCAT notification on 10 September, concerning the Bay Plaza Wellington. A response to an OPCAT notification is due on 1 October, concerning the Jet Park Hamilton.

4.3 Large Group Arrivals Update

Summary of approved group arrivals as at 22 September 2021 (to December 2021)

Group	Date of Arrival	Allocation Approved	Final number of rooms allocated	Comments
RSE	27 Sept 2021 (Flight 6)	150	0	RSE flight six was deferred with the understanding that this flight will now become a QFT flight at a later date.
	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 Accord	Sept 2021	60	40 (45 pax)	Arrivals are spread across the whole month. An additional 7 pax were scheduled to travel from Australia – while they were offered priority for flights and vouchers they declined and 2 have pulled out.
	Oct 2021	60	TBC	
	Nov 2021	60	TBC	
	Dec 2021	60	TBC	
Refugee Intakes	30 Sept 2021	8	2 (8 pax)	s9(2)(a) [redacted] Discussion is underway to plan the next steps for future refugee intakes which were deferred due to lockdown and Afghanistan evacuees.

Afghanistan Evacuees	07 Sept 2021	1	1	<p>To date, a total of 400 evacuees have arrived in New Zealand as a part of the Afghanistan Evacuee Operations. 392 evacuees have departed from managed isolation - 316 to temporary accommodation, and 75 to the community, and 1 to Waikato Hospital.</p> <p>There are 15 known individuals and families yet to arrive in New Zealand and a further 800-1,100 Afghan Nationals who are eligible entrants to New Zealand.</p> <p>A process is under development between MIQ, INZ, NZDF, and MFAT to determine a sustainable way to bring in future Evacuees s6(a), s6(b)(i)</p>
	10 Sept 2021	1	6	
	16 Sep 2021	3	1	
	27 Sep 2021	1	1	
Cricket White Ferns	30 Sep 2021	30	22 (25 pax)	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
International Mariners	21 Sep 2021	100	99	<p>The first tranche of 55 arrived 14 September. INZ were able to process all but 1 of the 100 arriving 21 Sep.</p> <p>Significant measures are in place to support this complex groups, based on the learnings from the first tranche of mariners in late 2020:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> pre-departure testing is required for all travellers. All rooms are single occupancy Smokers – especially heavy smokers- are allocated smoking rooms as far as practicable to reduce in-MIF movement, and additional outdoor smoking space (separate from other returnees) is provided. additional supplies of consumables in rooms to reduce mariner-staff interactions most mariners have already been vaccinated significant interpreter support is provided in MIF collateral has been translated pre-arrival information pack has been dispatched, to be read before commencing travel formal compliance escalation path with company established, backed by a code of conduct which – among other things – prohibits alcohol consumption while in MIF <p>Since the first tranche there has been a steady stream of mariner arrivals into NZ – including a large tranche in Jan 2021 – with additional management similar to the above. There have been no significant issues since these measures were put in place.</p>
	4 Oct 2021	62	TBC	
	5 Oct 2021	30	TBC	
	6 Oct 2021	30	TBC	
	26 Oct 2021	100	TBC	
	9 Nov 2021	67	TBC	
	21 Nov 2021	1	TBC	
	Late Nov 2021	Up to 15 (catch up of pers deferred from earlier flights)	TBC)	
NZTE administered allocation	Early Nov	25	TBC	Trial monthly allocation for exporter, administered by NZTE.
	Early Dec	25	TBC	
EXPO	7 Oct	72	22 TBC	
	25 Oct		20 TBC	
	22 Nov	80	80 TBC	
Mountain biking: Crankworx	October	70	50 TBC	
Rugby: All Blacks	Late Nov	65	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Rugby: Black Ferns	Late Nov	65	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
Cricket: Black Caps	22 Sep 2021	24	24	Black Caps returning from Pakistan – bought forward from 7 October due to Emergency situation. Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
	24 Nov 2021	20	TBC	Standard returnees – not requiring training exemption.
	9 Dec 2021	33	TBC	This cohort of Black Caps will be seeking a training exemption.
NZDF	4 Oct	5	TBC	
	11 Oct	15	12	
	20 Oct	16	15	
	21 Oct	50	TBC	
	Early Dec	76	TBC	
Cricket: Bangladesh	Early Dec	35	TBC	Bangladesh will be seeking a training exemption.
Antarctic Programme	17 Sep	200	186 (200 pax)	These arrivals are for the combined US Antarctic Programme (USAP) as well as the Italian, French, German and Korean programme.
	18 Sep	39	39	
	21 Sep	1	1	
	27 Sep	145	139 TBC	
	28 Sep	27	TBC	
	6 Oct	17	TBC	

	9 Oct	10	TBC
	10 Oct	13	TBC
	11 Oct	201	TBC
	18 Oct	42	TBC
	25 Oct	20	TBC
	29 Oct	3	TBC
	3 Nov	22	TBC
	12 Nov	7	TBC
	15 Nov	138	TBC
	19 Nov	42	TBC
	20 Nov	19	TBC
	20 Dec	65	TBC

Time Sensitive Travel (TST)

The Time Sensitive Travel window for arrivals in Nov/Dec closed on 14 September. Applications were received for approximately 559 people, including at least 72 family members. Applications are currently being assessed and it is anticipated approx. 470 - 490 rooms will be required. This will be confirmed after the decision meeting on 8 October.

Applications include four ministerial delegations for 34 people and 34 rooms, as follows:

- s6(a)
- Minister Shaw / Climate Change s6(a)
- Minister Mahuta / Foreign Affairs s6(a)
- Minister O'Connor / Trade and Export Growth s6(a)

s9(2)(g)(i)

4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As at 23 September 2021

Date	Activity	Lead Agency	Comms Material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
26 September	Red flight arriving from Australia		Reactive comms	
28 September	Voucher release: 5PM – 6PM Tuesday for 3000 rooms Oct-Dec.	MIQ	Proactive comms	N
29 September	New MIF in Christchurch	MIQ	Proactive communications	N
30 September	EOI going live for self-isolation pilot	MIQ	Proactive comms	Y – 29 Sept announcement

4.5 Fees

Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued up to the 19th of September.

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 20th of August, 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	4,124	1,499	2,050	575	\$42,524,836	\$26,869,628	\$12,163,360	\$3,491,847	0	\$0
Maritime	457	306	125	26	\$2,291,092	\$1,504,779	\$706,911	\$79,402	16	\$41,286

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 (\$)
Aircrew	204	145	0	59	\$1,088,205	\$818,039	\$0	\$270,166	53	\$231,637
Other	23,355	13,031	5,289	5,036	\$79,804,388	\$47,222,919	\$16,655,735	\$15,925,734	1786	\$5,811,121
Total	28,140	14,981	7,464	5,696	\$125,708,520	\$76,415,365	\$29,526,006	\$19,767,149	1,855	\$6,084,045

*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.

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	3,668,366
2-4 weeks	2,877,122
5-8 weeks	1,840,842
9+ weeks	1,918,134

Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 19 September 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 received	In progress	Total completed	Total financial hardship applications	Total special circumstances applications	Approved waiver applications		Declined waiver applications	
					Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances
9803	3351	6452	831	5621	87	4814	744	807

4.6 Emergency Allocation Applications

5,625 applications have been processed since 30 October 2020. 435 applications were received in the week ending 19 September 2021, and 225 applications were processed.

From the applications processed in the week ending 19 September, 50% were approved.

Emergency Allocation Applications	Weekly Totals 13 September – 19 September	Year to Date Totals 30 October 2020 – 19 September 2021
Approved	113	3008
Declined	112	2617
Applications processed	225	5625

* 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 13 Sept to 19 Sept	106
Rooms allocated in MIAS	86
Awaiting flight details or MIAS registrations from the applicants to complete the room allocation process	26

4.7 Resolutions Update

Data from the Complaints and Feedback Customer Management System for the week 14 September to 20 September is as follows:

Week 14 September – 20 September	Received	Active Cases	Resolved
Complaints	277	83	241
Improvements	15	1	14
Compliments	7	0	7
Queries	13	2	11
Ombudsman	4	3	4
Parliamentary/OIA	2	0	2
Other	1	1	1
Total	319	90	280

The average number of complaints received each week since the start of MIQ is 136. For the last four weeks, the average is 213 per week.

This week we have received 319 new cases, and have resolved 280 cases.

Proactively Released

5. Border Executive Board Report



5.1 Key Issues Being Considered

5.1.1 Border Executive Board Meeting

The Border Executive Board met on 22 September.

The Board discussed progress in relation to the Vaccinations Order. Vaccination rates are high amongst border workers, with 98% of government and 95% of privately employed workers recorded as having at least one dose. Effort is being put into confirming the vaccination status of the remaining 5% of the privately employed border workers required to have had at least one dose by 30 September 2021. PCBUs have been reminded of the exemption process and timeframes. The responsibility for ensuring compliance sits with the PCBU. The Board raised the risk to supply chains if availability of air crew or workforce was reduced. Your Office has received advice on alternative vaccines for the border workforce.

The Board were advised of positive progress with Project Paheko which relates to the future infrastructure plan for Auckland International Airport. The Monthly Aeronautical Capital Plan Airline Consultation (MACPAC) group met on 21 September and was comfortable with progress. Border agencies continue to refine their needs and ensure a longer-term perspective.

The Board received an update on the Future Border Sprint work based on the update you have received. The Board raised the capacity constraints of the border sector's ability to participate in multiple trials in and noted the need to allow time to integrate the findings from trials before they operate at volume. Positive progress is being made with the MIQ self-isolation trial.

5.1.2 Future Border Sprint process

Led by Customs, the Future Border project continues to work at pace to consider operational aspects of the Reconnecting New Zealanders risk-based travel approach at the air border. The project considers both government and regulatory requirements as well as commercial sector drivers. This week, the Chief Executive Sponsor Group held its third showcase for the eight-week sprint.

The showcase focussed on the team's current direction s9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted content]

A progress report is being prepared for the Reconnecting New Zealanders Ministers' meeting on 28 September.

5.1.3 Supply Chain Exemptions

The Ministry of Transport has received a second application for a supply chain exemption from the Vaccinations Order. Once a cross-agency panel has assessed this against the criteria previously agreed by you, the Chair of the Border Executive Board will provide advice to you, as the decision maker. The Vaccinations Order requires affected persons to have received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine before the close of Thursday 30 September (next week) and their second dose no later than 35 days after their first injection.

Proactively Released

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

Maritime

Vessel Portland Bay

Portland Bay is a Hong Kong flagged bulk carrier vessel that arrived in Tauranga at anchor on 20 September.

On 19 September, Toi Te Ora DHB advised the New Zealand Customs Service that a crew member aboard on the vessel was feverish and a quarantinable disease could not be ruled out based on the information available. Pratique for the ship was therefore withheld.

An all of government operational response was stood up for the vessel's arrival to prioritise the following:

- Understand what needs to occur to ensure the health and wellbeing of those on the vessel
- Start the development of a plan to work the vessel if it is to remain under quarantine

The vessel berthed at Tauranga Port on 21 September, where a health team boarded it and undertook a health assessment of the ill mariner including taking samples for COVID-19 testing. The mariner was assessed at the time as being well enough to remain on board. The COVID-19 test was undertaken under urgency, with a negative result returned on the same evening.

As a result of the test, the local Medical Officer of Health granted pratique to the vessel and it was scheduled to unload its cargo of salt on 23 September and then be loaded with a consignment of logs for export.

Small Craft Arrival Season

- On 22 September 2021, the New Zealand Customs Service led a cross-agency review of the operational plan used to manage small craft arrivals into Opuā. This review has identified minor improvements which are now being implemented.
- As part of community engagement, including with local iwi, s9(2)(a) Customs' Pouwhakahaere Kaupapa Māori, is meeting informally with iwi representatives in Te Tai Tokerau on 23 and 24 September 2021. This will help ensure the partnership continues to build, especially in relation to community concerns about the risk of introducing the Delta variant to the Te Tai Tokerau community through small craft arriving in Opuā. Some of these will be arriving from Fiji which is considered a very high risk country.
- Customs will lead an operational walkthrough with representatives from the Far North District Council, Ministry of Health/Northland DHB, and Police at the Opuā Marina on 28 September 2021. This will provide the Ministry of Health/Northland DHB an opportunity to review some of the current standards such as the partitioning in the marina's sterile laneway, and quarantine berth distancing, to make sure they are in line with Delta protocols.
- Customs is also developing a communications plan aimed at small craft intending to arrive at Opuā. Social media and publications are expected to go out next week.

Small Craft Arrivals – Opuā

- One vessel arrived on 14 September and its crew remain in a MIF.
- Two vessels arrived on 21 September and the crew from both are isolating on board their respective yachts.
- The next vessel due to arrive is on 29 September from French Polynesia.

Pre-Departure Testing

For the period 13 September to 19 September, there was one warning issued:

- 15 September– A passenger arriving from Australia was unable to provide evidence of PDT which was on their phone.

Red flights

	Date	13 Sep	14 Sep	15 Sep	16 Sep	17 Sep	18 Sep	19 Sep	Week Total	%
	Passengers subject to PDT	226	238	263	217	415	170	128	1657	
Primary Actions (Passport Control)	Test Certificate Verified	218	226	251	205	408	164	123	1595	96.3%
	Exemption verified	6	9	11	6	11	5	2	42	2.5%
	Referred to Secondary Area	2	3	1	6	2	1	3	20	1.2%
Secondary Area Actions	Compliant	2	3	0	6	2	1	3	19	95.0%
	Warned	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1	5.0%
	Infringement	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Prosecution	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

Passenger Numbers – Cook Islands

The Cooks Islands Government’s suspension of inbound passenger travel from New Zealand remains in effect until at least 28 September or when there are no new community cases in New Zealand.



7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

7.1 Items to Note/Updates

The COVID-19 Chief Executives' Board (CCB) did not meet this week. The next meeting for the CCB will be on 28 September.

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 met on 21 September. Members of DPMC's Policy team attended part of the meeting to present and receive initial feedback on scenario options they are developing for Reconnecting New Zealanders. This work is in the early stages and is focussed on the options for the COVID-19 'steady state' (the long-term management of COVID-19 in New Zealand). David Murdoch attended for the second agenda item of the meeting in his capacity as Chair of the Testing Advisory Group. Tania Ott from Te Kawa Mataaho – Public Service Commission also provided her monthly update to the Group. The remainder of the meeting was focused on the finalisation of advice to you based on observations from the current Delta outbreak.

9. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

9.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Group held its most recent meeting on 22 September. The Group discussed the current outbreak and ongoing response, the progress of the vaccine rollout, emerging lessons from international case studies of Israel and Singapore, and key updates on the work proceeding in the Testing Advisory Group. The next round of commissioning was received yesterday, and the Group will consult across its membership on its structure and content throughout the next week.

10. Business Leaders Forum

10.1 Items to Note/Updates

The Business Leaders' Forum did not meet this week. The date for 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. Sarah Sparks, Chair for the Panel, met with Brook Barrington on 22 September to discuss the current work programme for the Panel and outline some of the major equity issues within the COVID-19 system. Information about the Community Panel and its membership will be published on the Unite Against COVID-19 website within the next week. The next meeting for the Panel will be on 6 October, this will be over Zoom.

12. Government Modelling Group

12.1 Items to Note/Updates

Section

TPM has published a preliminary result from an ongoing modelling study of future COVID-19 strategies. From the media release:

The results suggest that a combination of high levels of vaccination within the community, a strong test-trace-isolate-quarantine system (assuming case numbers are kept sufficiently low) and moderate public health measures may be enough to attain population immunity, greatly reducing the need for strong public health measures, such as stay-at-home orders and workplace closures.

From here, more detailed work more detailed modelling work will be undertaken which will explore:

- the precise nature of restrictions that would be necessary to result in R_{eff} being as close to, or below 1, in different vaccination scenarios;
- the relationship between prevalence, domestic restrictions, and the performance of test, trace, isolate and quarantine levers (crucial to us understanding under what conditions our ongoing response can be stable and sustainable);
- the dynamics of COVID-19 management in different scenarios, including the basis on which “Red” restrictions would be necessary and the expected durations for life under the different levels of the new framework;
- the distribution of outcomes, beneath the national level, critical to our understanding of the risks facing different communities of our strategic choices.

The Modelling Group has received a final draft of a TPM study on the relative effectiveness of different border restrictions. This relates to the potential traveller entry pathways of the future, and the Reconnecting New Zealanders work. The next steps for this piece are to conduct a public health review process, and discuss the material with the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group. From there, we will share the modelling study to Ministers with a short cover note regarding potential policy implications.

ESR recently published their vaccination modelling study in the Lancet Western Pacific, and have set up a public online dashboard which allows users to explore transmission and health impact outcomes at different levels of vaccination coverage.

