



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 - September 2022

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 2 September 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 9 September 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 16 September 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 23 September 2022

Title of paper: COVID-19 Response Weekly Report 30 September 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 9(2)(a), to protect the privacy of individuals;
- Section 9(2)(f)(iv), to maintain the confidentiality of advice tendered by or to Ministers and officials; and
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion.



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



2 September 2022

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Proactively Released

1. Status Summary – Amber and Red Updates

Key		
Symbol	Colour	Meaning
	Amber	Slow progression, some delays, some roadblocks present
	Red	Not progressing, on hold, significant delays

Border Workstreams

Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Border Reopening and International Connections BEB			Maritime border programme <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Maritime Border Programme Status is amber due to remaining legislative decisions required for implementation of New Zealand Traveller Declaration for this year's cruise season.
Pacific Travel MFAT			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Niue has reported new cases of COVID-19, linked to the border. All seven cases reported to date are isolating at home. There have been no hospitalisations. MFAT have been advised by Tokelau's National General Manager that Tokelau is now looking at amending its Health Rules and creating a new COVID-19 Rule, to address the question of the treatment of unvaccinated individuals in Tokelau. Both are expected to go forward to Tokelau's next General Fono, currently scheduled for the week of 30 October. American Sāmoa has extended its COVID State of Emergency through to 25 September continuing a conservative approach to COVID management as the number of active cases continue to fall to double figures as of 25 August. The current positivity rate has declined to an average of 2 percent. On 23 August, the Government of Tuvalu announced a plan to reduce its border restrictions over the next six to seven months. The plan indicates quarantine requirements (currently seven days in Fiji and 14 days in Tuvalu) will reduce gradually each month, eventually reaching only three days in Tuvalu by March 2023. Evidence of a booster vaccination will remain a requirement for entry.

Other Workstreams

All the other workstreams, including the other Border workstreams, Isolation and Quarantine, Community Protection, Vaccination, and System Readiness & Planning are on track with no significant delays anticipated.

*Note: last week MFAT reported the pacific travel status summary was green (on track, with no significant delays anticipated), however they have subsequently indicated it should have remained at amber. Accordingly, it is corrected above.

2. Ministry of Health

2.1 Programme Update

2.1.1 Technical Advisory Group update

CT TAG

The COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (CT TAG) met on Tuesday 23 August 2022 and discussed the following items:

- a memo update on point of care testing device criteria for serology test and multiplex test devices;
- regulatory review updates; and
- an update on device applications and approvals (non-RAT).

CT TAG has ceased to convene on a monthly schedule and has agreed to meet only when needed going forward.

2.1.2 Communications Issues and Activities

As at 30 August 2022

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
Week commencing 5 September	Proactive release of 14 reports into COVID-19 response by Behaviour and Insights team.	Manatū Hauora	News release and reactives	No
Week commencing 5 September	Announcement on researchers from across New Zealand being given funding from Manatū Hauora to undertake research into the ongoing impacts of COVID-19 and future pandemic responses.	Manatū Hauora	Press release and reactives	Minister Verrall

3. Te Whatu Ora

3.1 Items to Note/Updates

3.1.1 COVID-19 Vaccination Insights

As at 11.59pm 30 August, 503,560 second booster doses had been administered, with 30,825 administered in the last seven days. A further 6,235 doses booked are in BookMyVaccine.

Second Booster Uptake by Age Band and Ethnicity

Age Group	Māori	Uptake %	Pacific Peoples	Uptake %	Non-Māori / Non-Pacific	Uptake %	Total	Total uptake % ¹
12 to 17 ²	s9(2)(a)							
18 to 34	552		331		5,504		6,387	
35 to 49	1,573		1,107		14,740		17,420	
50 to 64	14,762	21.8%	6,912	19.8%	105,138	18.8%	126,812	19.1%
65 and over	17,864	41%	7,107	34.1%	327,965	51.9%	352,936	50.7%
Grand total	34,753		15,457		453,350		503,560	37.1%

Summary of Upcoming Expiry Dates of COVID Vaccine Batches, as of 29 August

Product	Expiry	Packs	Doses
Paediatric Pfizer BioNTech (10 pack -70)	31/10/22	1,260	126,200
Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 (Full Tray -70)	30/09/22	147	171,990
Pfizer BioNTech COVID-19 (Full Tray -70)	31/10/22	601	703,170
Novavax 10 pack (2-8)	31/10/22	2,202	220,200

Orders for a range of COVID-19 vaccines were placed in 2020 to ensure all New Zealanders had access to the most effective protection against the virus, however demand for COVID-19 vaccines has reduced from the peak in late-2021.

Based on Te Whatu Ora's assumptions, an estimated 519,706 doses of adult vaccine (both Novavax and Pfizer), and 96,807 doses of paediatric Pfizer are forecast to expire at the end of October. This takes into consideration the forecasted administration of 7,393 paediatric doses, 575,654 adult doses (primarily Pfizer) and a donation of 22,000 of paediatric doses to Fiji and Tuvalu between 24 August and 31 October.

Aged Residential Care Facilities

The next full update on the second booster roll-out to Aged Residential Care (ARC) facilities will be provided by the Health Districts on Friday 2 September. The Programme has received some out of cycle updates lifting the total facilities visited figure to 551 out of 676 facilities (82 percent).

Second Boosters

Activities to promote second boosters are focused on all people aged 50 years and older, prioritising uptake to those most at risk, such as Māori and Pacific peoples 50 years and older, and everyone aged 65 and over. The focus is to raise awareness and improve understanding regarding eligibility through communications and on the ground activities to provide vaccinations.

There are 700 COVID-19 vaccination sites open on any given day across the motu, as well as a range of community-based pop-up events on days and times that suit the community. There are 233 outreach events planned over the next two weeks, with further events being stood up over the coming month.

¹ Uptake percentage has not been captured for those under 50, as it cannot be determined who in those age groups are immunocompromised, and/or healthcare workers as this eligibility criteria cannot be captured in Te Whatu Ora's reporting systems.

² At times, an authorised prescriber considers the use of vaccine as a first or second booster for a 12-to-17-year-old at high risk of severe health outcomes from COVID-19. This is 'off-label' prescribing of a COVID-19 vaccine under section 25 of the Medicines Act 1981. It requires individual level risk-benefit decision between the individual, their caregiver and their authorised prescriber, with documentation of informed consent recommended and a prescription required to access the vaccine.

The programme has commenced engagement with the Retirement Villages sector. This is separate from the Aged Residential Care facility visits. The programme is also engaging with other residential facilities, such as Department of Corrections facilities.

The programme has re-engaged with business entities with nationwide presences, such as supermarket chains and freight companies, to understand what further support would encourage vaccination uptake for their workforces, including onsite vaccination clinics and updated collateral.

Māori providers will liaise with existing Kaumātua groups which are part of the provider and community business as usual and will work to either provide transport for Kaumātua to get their second boosters or use the mobile vaccination services to bring vaccination services to the kaumatua groups.

Communications and engagement

Communications over the coming month will be based on behavioural insights, highlighting the need to create awareness on eligibility considerations and benefits of post COVID-19 vaccinations.

The new promotional campaign to encourage booster uptake has expanded this week on television, radio, and other media, with new creative executions for Māori and Pasifika.

A new interactive digital tool to help people understand if they are up to date with COVID-19 vaccinations through targeted digital advertising has seen strong uptake. In its first day it had a 0.54 percent conversation rate, which is much higher than the click-through rate for a standard display banner (~0.07 percent average).

A range of assets including posters, flyers, email signatures, masthead, and screen saver will be available this week for stakeholders in a range of creative styles and languages (English, te reo Māori, Samoan and Tongan).

3.2 Equity

Māori

Māori health providers continue to run hauora events, where collective aspects of whānau hauora and wellbeing are the focus, of which vaccination is one part. These events provide on-site entertainment, and support in the form of kai vouchers, movie vouchers and winter wellness packs.

Events include:

- Te Whatu Ora Te Tai Tokerau ran a walk-in vaccination event in Whangarei, offering a range of vaccinations (flu, MMR, COVID-19) for whānau from six weeks to 65 years.
- A winter wellness clinic was held in Huntly. There were 214 vaccinations delivered including 108 COVID-19 vaccinations, 83 flu vaccinations, two Boostrix vaccinations and 21 MMR vaccinations.
- Te Ika Whenua Hauora in Bay of Plenty have been delivering mobile vaccination clinics to rural and geographically isolated communities such as Waiohau to ensure these communities have access to vaccination services.

Mā te korero ka eke (MTKKE)

The programme's Southern Equity Regional Account Managers (RAMs) have engaged with the National Te Kōhanga Reo representative to work with the 23 Kōhanga Reo across Te Waipounamu to implement the MTKKE strategy.

In Whanganui, a hui took place on 31 August with Māori Health Providers, Te Whatu Ora Whanganui and Kura Kaupapa Māori to discuss vaccination events at the national Kapa Haka event in Mid-September.

Pacific

Two Pacific providers delivered community-led vaccination events in South Auckland over the 27-28 August weekend:

- Pasefika Family Health Group hosted a walk-in vaccination event at the Pasefika Vibe Maketi at the Clendon Community Centre. This event was run in collaboration with the South Auckland Samoan community. All COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations were available.
- Tongan Health Society held a drive-through vaccination event at the Lotofale'ia Methodist Church in Māngere. This event specifically targeted the Tongan community with COVID-19, influenza, MMR and Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccinations were available. A combined 381 COVID-19 and influenza vaccinations were administered across these events, with booster doses comprising 85 percent of doses administered.

Disability

Applications for the second round of funding for the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Peer Support fund opened on 23 August. An invitation to apply for funding was sent to a broad range of NGOs, including several Māori NGOs in the mental health and AOD sector. Applications will close on 8 September.

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4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Operational Update

4.1.1 Transition

The workforce change process and transition to the new MIQ operating model is now complete. MIQ is now a small team of 34 people within the Labour, Science and Enterprise (LSE) group of MBIE.

The team will be focused on the Programme Business Case (PBC) for a National Quarantine Capability (NQC), maintaining the Quarantine and Isolation Readiness Plan and managing ongoing statutory obligations.

4.1.2 Invoicing

The table below shows the number of invoices issued as at 28 August 2022.

Invoices have various repayment terms depending on whether they are a sports group (10 days), critical worker (30 days) or standard returnee/maritime crew/aircrew (90 days).

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

INVOICES ISSUED	INVOICES PAID	INVOICES ISSUED - NOT YET DUE	INVOICES OVERDUE	INVOICES WRITTEN OFF
56,313	44,587 (79% of invoices issued)	109 (0.1% of invoices issued)	8,666 (15% of invoices issued)	2,951 invoices (5%)
TOTAL VALUE OF INVOICES ISSUED \$215M	PAID (BY VALUE) \$183M 85%	ISSUED - NOT YET DUE (BY VALUE) \$341K 0.1%	INVOICES OVERDUE (BY VALUE) \$21M 10%	INVOICES WRITTEN OFF (BY VALUE) \$10.5M 4.8%
MBIE has now completed work on manually matching the 6,697 unmatched records after 25 March 2021. Of these 6,696 records, liability could only be established for 49 records (0.73 percent). This represents an estimated \$150,000 in invoicing revenue. The remainder of records were found not to be liable or to have already paid under consolidated invoicing (usually aircrew or maritime arrivals). A briefing (2223-0794) will be provided to your office this week with further detail on MBIEs approach to MIQ invoicing and debt write off.			90+ days overdue 6,436 invoices \$18M (by value) 8% (by value of all invoices issued)	

4.1.3 Debt Recovery

The debt recovery percentage remains at 85 percent, which is against our nominal target recovery of 90 percent.

As of 28 August, 15,173 invoices worth \$45.7m have been passed to our debt partner. In addition:

- \$18.7m has now been paid (an increase of \$287k).
- A further \$498k of debt is under instalment and is expected to be converted to payments over coming weeks.
- There are 521 active fee waiver requests, while applications are processed, they are recorded as outstanding debt.

4.2 Ombudsman Complaints

As at 28 August there are 8 active investigations:

- one is on policy advice;
- three are on emergency allocations;
- one is on exemptions from managed isolation;

- one is a declined undue financial hardship fee waiver application;
- one is about facilities; and
- one is the Chief Ombudsman's self-initiated investigation.

To date, 256 investigations have been closed, with the Chief Ombudsman issuing 123 opinions in MBIE's favour and eight final opinions against MBIE.

There are 84 preliminary enquiries. Preliminary enquiries are cases where the Ombudsman requests the file to assess the complaint and determine next steps.

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5. Border Executive Board Report

This update is provided to you as the responsible Minister for the Border Executive Board.

5.1 Items to Note/Update

5.1.1 Border Executive Board Meeting

The Board met on 31 August 2022 and will shortly send you a briefing on the approach to managing a potential COVID-19 or other health event on a cruise ship instead of the briefing on port infrastructure (which is about supply chain issues, climate change impacts on ports, worker safety, etc.) The port infrastructure briefing has been superseded and the issues will be managed by Te Manatū Waka / Ministry of Transport through the New Zealand Freight and Supply Chain Strategy.

5.1.2 Maritime Border Programme Update

Officials are preparing for upcoming decisions about the COVID-19 Protection Framework and their application to the maritime border. The current requirements include the following: vaccination for cruise and recreational passengers; on-arrival testing for cargo/commercial crew; and self-isolation on board for positive and household (sharing same cabin) cases. The Board expect in the event of the removal of those requirements, the maritime sector will likely focus on whether the New Zealand Traveller Declaration will be required for maritime passengers. Te Manatū Waka / Ministry of Transport and Maritime New Zealand will lead engagement with marine industry stakeholders, which will happen after the public announcement.

6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report



6.1 Items to Note/Updates

6.1.1 Australia Border Force and Department for Home Affairs visit

On 23-25 August 2022, officials from the Australian Border Force (ABF) and the Department for Home Affairs (DHA) had their first in person visit to New Zealand in nearly three years to meet New Zealand Customs Service and Immigration New Zealand counterparts. Officials from these agencies worked closely but virtually to support border re-opening and the traveller experience. This meeting focussed on opportunities for future travel collaboration across aviation and maritime travel corridors.

7. Upcoming Cabinet Papers

s9(2)(f)(iv)



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