



Proactive Release

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

COVID-19 Briefings - August 2022

The following documents have been included in this release:

Title of paper: 01082022 Assurance of System readiness Work Underway to Respond to a Variant of Concern

Title of paper: 03082022 Insights from Recommendations across COVID-19 Response System Reviews

Title of paper: 05082022 Review of New Zealand's COVID-19 Protection Framework and self-isolation settings - 5 August

Title of paper: 05082022 Public awareness campaign to support people who are unable to wear masks

Title of paper: 08082022 Meeting with Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group 10 August 2022

Title of paper: 12082022 Preparation for Release of Haumaruru Briefing

Title of paper: 25082022 Meeting with Prof. Michael Plank

Title of paper: 26082022 All of Government COVID-19 System Readiness Exercise

Title of paper: 30082022 COVID-19 Community Panel, Chair's Report

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 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;
- Section 9(2)(g)(i), to maintain the effective conduct of public affairs through the free and frank expression of opinion; and
- Section 9(2)(h), to maintain legal professional privilege.



Aide-Mémoire

Meeting with Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group 10 August 2022

To:	Minister Verrall, COVID-19 Response		
From:	Amber Bill Head of System Assurance & Continuous Improvement	Date:	8/08/2022
Briefing Number:	DPMC-2022/23-1	Security Level:	In Confidence

Purpose

1. You are meeting with the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group on Wednesday 10 August, 12-12.30pm. This aide-memoire is to support you in that meeting and provides key points you may wish to discuss.

New membership

2. This meeting is an opportunity for you to welcome new members and acknowledge the ongoing commitment of reappointed members. It will be Nikki Turner's second meeting as Chair, and the first meeting where all newly appointed and re-confirmed members are attending.
3. It will be the first time that Associate Professor Matire Harwood has met the group, and the second meeting for Professor Patricia Priest. Brief biographies for each member are included in Attachment A. Note that Dr Matire Harwood has recently been awarded with a Community Service Medal from the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners.
4. Prior to you joining the meeting, the Group will have met with Andrew Old who is the newly appointed Ministry of Health observer on the Group, as well as having met with Jeremy Greenbrook-Held (DPMC) to discuss some of the latest modelling. The meeting agenda is included in Attachment B.

Commissioning

5. The last formal commissioning the Group responded to was in March 2022 when they reviewed the place of vaccine mandates for minimising harms caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, to health, society and the economy.
6. Since then, the Group have continued to meet regularly, monitoring the domestic situation and international trends, providing advice directly to agencies including the Ministry of

Business, Innovation and Employment on any future National Quarantine Service, and DPMC and Ministry of Health on the post-winter strategy and variants of concern.

- 7. More recently they have also engaged with the Ministry of Health to understand mortality from COVID-19, resulting in recommendations around further work on a continuing review of death at young ages from COVID-19, and a quality assurance approach to support incremental improvements including for serious non-fatal outcomes.
- 8. The current meeting is an opportunity to talk about areas of focus for the Group and any new commissioning you may have for the Group.

Next steps

- 9. The Group will continue to have fortnightly placeholders in their calendars but may choose to meet monthly depending on the work underway.
- 10. DPMC will continue to provide secretariat support for the Group and keep you updated on meetings via the weekly report.
- 11. We are working with your office on providing a media release about the updated membership of the Group and details on the Unite Against COVID-19 website will be updated at the same time as the media release.

 Amber Bill Head of System Assurance & Continuous Improvement COVID-19 8/9/2022 X	 Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Minister for COVID-19 Response 9/8/22 AV. 8/9/22
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Attachments:	
Attachment A:	Attachment A – Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group brief biographies
Attachment B:	Attachment B – Meeting agenda for 10 August 2022

Contact for telephone discussion			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Amber Bill	Head of System Assurance & Continuous Improvement	s9(2)(a)	✓

Aide Mémoire: Meeting with the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group, 10 August 2022	Briefing Number
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Attachment A: Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group brief biographies

Professor Nikki Turner appointed as Chair of the Group

Professor Turner is an academic and General Practitioner, specialising in immunisation, primary healthcare and preventative child health. Professor Turner is the Medical Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) and an honorary Professor in the Division of General Practice and Primary Health Care, University of Auckland. Dr Turner represents the Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners in child health issues and is a health spokesperson for the Child Poverty Action Group. She was a member of the World Health Organization Strategic Advisory Group of Experts on Immunization and Chair of the Measles and Rubella elimination subcommittee until 2020. She sits on several national committees including the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group, the Pharmac PITAG immunisation subcommittee and chairs the National measles and rubella verification committee (NVC).

Associate Professor Matire Harwood appointed as a member of the Group

Professor Harwood (MBCChB, PhD) is a hauora Māori academic and GP dividing her time across the Department of General Practice and Primary Care at Auckland medical school and Papakura Marae Health Clinic in South Auckland. She is a member of the COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group, was a member of the COVID-19 Vaccine Science and Technical Advisory Group and as a member of the Steering Group, recently appointed the Board members for the Māori Health Authority. In 2017 she was awarded the L'Oréal UNESCO New Zealand 'For Women in Science Fellowship' for research in Indigenous health and in 2019 she received the Health Research Council's Te Tohu Rapuora award for leadership in research to improve Māori health.

Professor Patricia Priest appointed as a member of the Group

Professor Priest works in the Department of Preventive and Social medicine at the University of Otago with a focus on infectious disease epidemiology. Her research interests lie in infectious disease epidemiology, prevention and control, screening, and public health and epidemiology. Professor Priest was previously a member of the Ministry of Health's (MoH) COVID-19 Technical Advisory Group and is a current member of the COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group. Her work as Chief Clinical Advisor, Epidemiology gives her insight into the pandemic response activities in MoH and into the operation and interpretation of COVID-19 modelling.

Dr Maia Brewerton reappointed as a member of the Group

Dr Brewerton is a specialist in allergy, clinical immunology and immunopathology and works in the Department of Clinical Immunology and Allergy at Auckland Hospital. She also heads the immunology laboratory at Waitemata DHB. Dr Brewerton is the Clinical Immunology and Allergic Diseases Team Leader at the Malaghan Institute of Medical Research and joined their Trust Board in 2021.

Dr Ella Iosua reappointed as a member of the Group

Dr Ella Iosua is a Senior Research Fellow (Biostatistician) in the Biostatistics Centre at the University of Otago, providing expertise to Health Sciences researchers. Dr Iosua collaborates with and provides biostatistical advice to researchers from diverse academic disciplines with diverse levels of statistical literacy at optimally all stages of the research process, including research question articulation, study design, analysis, and inference.

Professor David Murdoch reappointed as a member of the Group

Professor Murdoch is Vice-Chancellor of the University of Otago. His background is in infectious diseases, clinical microbiology, epidemiology, and vaccinology. He is the co-leader of The Infection Group, the co-founder of One Health Aotearoa, a Senior Associate in the Department of International Health at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Honorary Professor of One Health at Massey University, and was, until recently, a clinical microbiologist at Canterbury Health Laboratories. Professor Murdoch's main research interests are the epidemiology, diagnosis and prevention of respiratory tract infections.

Proactively Released

Attachment B: Meeting Agenda, Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group, 10 August 2022

Strategic Covid-19 Public Health Advisory Group	
Agenda	10 August 2022
<i>This document contains information for the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group and must be treated in confidence.</i>	

Meeting date	Wednesday 10 August 2022
Time	10:30 AM – 12:30 PM
Venue	Zoom: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/81670377509
Apologies	

10:30AM: Welcome from the Chair
Standing item: Conflicts of interest arising

10:45AM: Discussion around Public Health Agency COVID-19 priorities
Attendees: Andrew Old Deputy Director-General, Public Health Agency, Ministry of Health

11:15AM: Update on modelling
Attendees: Jeremy Greenbrook-Held, DPMC

11:45AM: Open discussion on key issues

12:00PM: Minister Verrall to welcome new members and discuss priorities

12:30PM: Meeting closes

Aide Mémoire: Meeting with the Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group, 10 August 2022

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