



**MINISTRY OF BUSINESS,
INNOVATION & EMPLOYMENT**
HĪKINA WHAKATUTUKI



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



**MINISTRY OF
HEALTH**

MANATŪ HAUORA



**NEW ZEALAND
CUSTOMS SERVICE**
TE MANA ĀRAI O AOTEAROA



BORDER EXECUTIVE BOARD



**NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE**
MANATŪ AORERE



COVID-19 Response Weekly Report

23 June 2022

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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
Reconnecting New Zealanders	iHNZ	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The amended Maritime Border Order is expected to be provided to Minister Verrall in early July so changes can be gazetted ahead of 31 July. The amendments to the Maritime Border Order will be based on recent decisions made by Ministers, and post arrival testing and vaccination requirements will be clarified for maritime crew and travellers. The revocation of the Required Testing Order has been gazetted and is due to come into effect 30 June. This will remove the mandate from Border workers to undergo regular asymptomatic surveillance testing. Amendments to remove the Border Workforce from the Vaccination Order have not been gazetted yet but are planned to be in place by 30 June.
	BEB	●	<p><i>Air border implementation</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Pre-Departure Testing (PDT) was removed at 11.59pm on 30 June 2022 with no issues to report. Technical implementation of the change was completed with no reported issues. High media interest and social media activity in PDT continues. Paper New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD) submissions being monitored for potential increase.
	BEB	●	<p><i>Maritime border programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A first draft of the amended Maritime Border Order is expected to go for agency consultation this week. A draft order will be provided to Ministers with a summary of the operational implementation 1 July 2022. Operational readiness for the maritime passenger reopening on 31 July 2022 is on track. The proposed compliance approach to support reopening and the return of cruise in October 2022 has been endorsed by the BEB (22 June 2022) with industry engagement on the approach scheduled to begin 30 June 2022. s9(2)(f)(iv)
Pacific Travel	MFAT	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Officials continue to work closely with Niue and have confirmed practical ways to support preparations for re-opening QFT from New Zealand on 27 June, s6(a) Kiribati has removed the requirement for 3-day pre-departure quarantine in Nadi. On-arrival quarantine has also been reduced to three days, and from 1 August will be removed completely. A negative PCR test taken 24 hours prior and proof of vaccination will still be required. Community transmission was detected in Nauru on 16 June, with 337 cases identified so far and numbers likely to rise. International flights are suspended for at least two weeks, freight flights will continue. Officials are in touch with Nauru and Australian counterparts to determine whether New Zealand support is required. Pacific partners have responded positively to recent immigration developments which will result in greater reconnecting with the region. These are the likely reopening of the Pacific Access Category and Samoan Quota residency programme from the second half of 2022, and proposals to expand Pacific labour mobility under the immigration rebalance.

Isolation and Quarantine

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Self - Isolation	Managed Isolation	●	●	<p><i>Decommissioning of Facilities</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To date a total of 26 facilities have been decommissioned and handed back. The 'make good' work on these facilities continues. Of the remaining six: the Sudima Rotorua, Jet Park Hamilton and Commodore Hotel Christchurch have all closed to guests and will be decommissioned by the end of June. The final three currently in-use facilities (Waipuna, Jet Park Auckland and Holiday Inn) will close to guests by 27 June and will be decommissioned in July. Planning is also underway for the decommissioning of our three regional offices. MBIE will provide your office with further information once the project plan is confirmed. <p><i>MIQ Readiness Programme</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> MBIE remains on track to deliver Version 2 of the Readiness Plan by 29 July 2022.
				<p>IHNZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Update

Community Protection

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment
Surveillance and Testing	Contact Tracing	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Digital enhancements from 20 June link travellers' positive RAT results with PCR tests. These digital enhancements give a more integrated end-to-end view of testing-on-arrival reporting. This digital enhancement will allow for automatic tracking of PCR tests that are yet to be completed. Overseas acquired cases will then be emailed a reminder to get a PCR test after reporting a positive RAT and they will get a letter with instructions, including the laboratory order form for the PCR test. On 14 June, 3,385 PCR tests were processed, with a total of 22,709 tests completed over the last seven days before 20 June. The rolling seven-day average is 3,192. iHNZ is focused on closely monitoring the Whole Genome Sequencing (WGS) process – including COVID-19 border-related cases. The Institute of Environmental and Science Research's (ESR) sequencing capacity will increase from 850 to 1,500 samples per week by 1 July.
				<p>iHNZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Update
Technology Updates	Care in the Community	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> RAT catcher (a new app which supports point of care testing for multiple supervised RATs at the same time) is in pilot in its first Aged Residential Care facility as of 9 June 2022.
				<p>iHNZ</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Throughout the week ending 17 June, members of the Care in the Community team are visiting Community Care Hubs in the Northern region. These visits will aim to build relationships with the Community Care Hubs from face-to-face visits, as well as form a debrief regarding the successes in their work, enablers of success, and any ongoing pain points or issues. The Care in the Community COVID-19 pathway has been developed into a printable handout for disabled people. The handout brings all assisted channel information together in one printable pamphlet, and contains helpful phone numbers, email contacts and weblinks. It is intended for disabled people but will be useful for anyone who prefers information in non-digital formats.

Proactively Released

Vaccination

	Agency	Last Week	This Week	
Implementation and operation	iHNZ	●	●	<p><i>Outreach and achieving equity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> DHBs continue to work to increase uptake of COVID-19 vaccination for all cohorts, with targeted events continuing across the motu. Interim Health New Zealand is continuing work with Māori and Pacific communities across the motu to plan local winter campaigns that drive Flu and COVID-19 booster vaccinations. Uptake remains stable and iHNZ continue to deliver in excess of 5.5k booster doses per week. Weekend vaccination clinics continue to be the preferred time for whānau to receive both the flu and COVID-19 vaccinations Regional strategies continue to be progressed, focusing on population groups with lower uptake rates and those at greater risk of serious infection. Mā te Kōrero ka Eke (Kaupapa Māori education strategy) included a concert for 12–18-year-olds in Te Wai Pounamu supported by the Kura Kaupapa in Ō-Tautahi and was based on a holistic approach to wellbeing. The event offered all COVID-19 vaccinations, flu vaccinations and other hauora services in a safe and entertaining environment. On 15 June Māori health providers in the South Island commenced a series of innovative strategies to engage Māori aged 12-to-18-year-olds with a concert in Christchurch. The event offered all COVID-19 vaccinations, flu vaccinations and other hauora services in a safe and entertaining environment. Vaccination events in the South Island will continued week ending 17 June. On 16 June a panel reviewed applications for the development of a suite of social stories to support neurodiverse and disabled New Zealanders through the vaccination process. On 19 June Pacific Health Providers across Tāmaki worked in collaboration to leverage off the upcoming New Zealand vs Tonga league game by using game tickets as incentives. This proved successful and 344 COVID-19 vaccinations were delivered. <p><i>Fourth Dose</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The administering of second boosters is underway and three DHBs (Bay of Plenty, Capital and Coast and Hutt Valley) have implemented a vaccination with prescription model to ARC facilities. More DHBs will be rolling out the prescription model to ARC facilities this week, 20th June. Planning is underway to commence a wider rollout following the recent legislative changes. All operational elements are in place to implement this once an announcement is made. Focus remains on implementing the fourth dose for those most at risk of serious illness from COVID-19. Aged Residential Care facilities continue administering second boosters using the off-label prescription process ahead of the legislative change. The amendment to the Medicine’s Act to delegate the decision to allow off label use of COVID-19 vaccines to the Director-General of Health, has completed the Select Committee phase and was considered by the House on 21 June. <p><i>Novavax</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Medsafe has issued provisional approval for the use of Novavax as a booster. The Ministry will prepare advice on implementing this into the National Immunisation Programme and are expecting to have this operational by the start of July

Proactively Released

System Readiness & Planning

		Agency	Last Week	This Week	Agency Comment on Status of Focus Area
System Readiness	Health Supply Chain	iHNZ	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Overall supply and distribution of RATs is very steady, with good volumes of RATs in stock and being distributed. Existing stock volumes are surge ready. As at 16 June, iHNZ had 44.9M RATs in stock on hand (34 weeks supply) and 46.3M RATs on order to 30 September. Approximately 1.3M RATs were sent from the warehouse in the last seven days from 16 June. There were 23,000 orders placed in the RAT Requestor system (representing 84,000 people). There were 42 delivery orders for those unable to collect RATs (covering 101 people), including Targeted Rural Service, immunocompromised, aged, and disability sectors. As at 16 June, Healthpoint shows 510 sites offering RATs collection and/or testing. This includes 351 community collection sites, 93 Community Testing Centres, and 107 providers supporting priority population groups. With the agreed community pharmacy changes from 10 June, 483 providers have ceased supervised RATs for travel and courts, although RATs can be purchased. Currently, 19 RAT devices are authorised by the Ministry of Health, plus five rapid molecular/NAAT POC (1 self-test) devices. In total, on 21 June, 28 POCT applications are open.
		DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> s9(2)(f)(iv) Fortnightly NRG meetings are in place to maintain oversight and integration across the AoG system.
Planning for Next Phase		iHNZ	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> As part of the ongoing preparedness work, a functional assessment checklist has been sent to the regional leads to assess the capability and capacity of the 52 Community Care Hubs. The checklist is aligned to the functional requirements detailed in the Care in the Community Framework. This work was commissioned by the Winter Resilience Taskforce and will provide a current view of the capability and capacity of Community Care Hubs within each of the health districts.
		DPMC	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The National Management Approach is being finalised for release and the next version is being planned in alignment with upcoming Cabinet decisions. s9(2)(f)(iv)
		iHNZ	●	●	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No Update

Proactively Prepared

2. Insight of Note by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet

2.1 Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Wellbeing in New Zealand

Key points

- The COVID-19 pandemic has likely had a negative impact on mental wellbeing outcomes in New Zealand through extended social isolation, economic uncertainty and impacts on health outcomes.
- While there are indications of the impacts of COVID-19 on mental wellbeing observed in various data sources, these must be considered in the context of much longer-term trends and cannot necessarily be attributed to the pandemic.
- Youth, women, people with disabilities, people already experiencing poor mental health and some ethnic groups have likely been exposed to a disproportionate burden of pandemic-related challenges to mental wellbeing. The pandemic therefore likely has the potential to significantly increase inequity in mental wellbeing outcomes across our population.
- While data shows that levels of mental wellbeing have been decreasing since the pandemic began, this is part of a wider trend of declining mental wellbeing outcomes over the last ten years. There are currently no mechanisms to identify what contribution the pandemic is making to this trend.
- Implications of the pandemic on mental wellbeing will likely be long lasting, particularly for youth. Monitoring mental health and wellbeing levels for youth over the long-term will be important as New Zealand continues to respond and adapt to the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Those living with a mental illness are more likely to face severe outcomes or death as a result of COVID-19 infection. COVID-19 infection and the experience of long-COVID may also increase the likelihood of developing a mental disorder.
- Some evidence suggests calls to crisis response services for mental wellbeing, and demand for digital and telehealth mental health services has increased over the course of the pandemic, though further analysis is required to confirm this trend.
- Since 2019, the Government has progressed a range of initiatives to grow a diverse mental health and addiction workforce, including cultural and peer support, and has significantly increased provision of primary mental health and addiction services.

Assessing the Impact of COVID-19 on Mental Wellbeing Factors

1. **The COVID-19 pandemic and response in New Zealand has likely had a negative impact on mental wellbeing outcomes through three primary forces: extended social isolation, economic disruption, and impacts on health outcomes.** The New Zealand Government's COVID-19 elimination strategy since March 2020 has protected the community from the mental wellbeing impacts of significant fatalities, which has enhanced protective factors for mental wellbeing. For example, many children's and young people's lives have been severely disrupted with the loss of parents and caregivers in countries that have experienced significantly higher numbers of COVID-19 deaths. However, the level of public health restrictions needed to eliminate and reduce the virus across various community outbreaks has increased factors known to contribute to poor mental wellbeing. Several lockdowns, closed international borders, non-essential business closures, disruption to education, capacity and gathering limits and the eventual introduction of COVID-19 into the community have exacerbated known contributors to mental distress. These include social isolation, loneliness, unemployment and job loss, long-term stress, bereavement, the prevalence of long-term health conditions, racism and discrimination, among others.¹
2. **Youth*, women, those with disabilities, people already experiencing poor mental health and addiction issues as well as some ethnic groups, have likely faced higher pandemic-related challenges**

* Ages 15-24.

to their mental wellbeing. Those with intersecting identities across several of these groups have likely been particularly impacted.

- **Youth** have faced significant impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic in New Zealand (and internationally), including disruptions to education, increased isolation from peers and social groups, and increased susceptibility to family violence.^{2 3} Youth are also more likely to face employment disruption or termination because of lockdowns and economic slowdowns, particularly given their high prevalence in low paying, casual roles.⁴
- **People already experiencing poor mental health and addiction issues** have faced impacts driven by reduced or changed access to services and other supports, including services needing to move much of their provision to online options, staff shortages created by illness and isolation requirements and some services being re-purposed to address COVID-19 imperatives. This group have also been impacted the social isolation and consequential limitations on access to usual social supports.
- **Women** in New Zealand were more likely to face job losses as a result of lockdowns, making up 90 percent of all redundancies in June 2020.⁵ Women are also overrepresented in sectors which were directly impacted by lockdowns, such as hospitality, sales and retail.^{6 7} Pre-existing gender wage gaps have left women more susceptible to economic hardships exacerbated by the pandemic.⁸ Preliminary data also shows that women are nearly twice as likely to suffer from long-COVID after initial infection, facing long-term issues such as trouble breathing, brain fog and fatigue.⁹
- **People with disabilities** faced significant issues across the pandemic, particularly with the introduction of the highly contagious Omicron variant into the community, placing disabled people at higher risk given they have an increased likelihood of severe outcomes or death as a result of COVID-19 infection.¹⁰ Disabled persons also experienced disruptions to critical support services, experienced longer levels of isolation, faced increased risk to health through potential COVID-19 infection, and often lacked resources to isolate safely.¹¹
- **Māori, Pasifika and Asian** groups faced significant impacts from the COVID-19 pandemic and response. Pasifika people faced high levels of employment disruption and were disproportionately employed in front-line and essential services which faced high risks of COVID-19 infection.^{12 13} This likely contributed to increased worry and stress levels. Māori and Pasifika people are also overrepresented as COVID-19 cases and are more likely than other groups to face severe outcomes due to COVID-19 infection, at younger ages.^{14 15 16 17} Restrictions on gatherings also prevented funerals and other culturally significant events from occurring likely impacting the collective mental wellbeing of Māori and Pasifika whānau.¹⁸ Across various points in the pandemic many ethnic groups, particularly Asian people, have also reported high levels of discrimination and racism, Māori and Pasifika groups have also reported higher levels of racism.^{19 20}

Measuring Mental Wellbeing across Aotearoa since 2020

3. **While data shows that levels of psychological distress[†] have been increasing since the pandemic began, this is part of a wider trend of declining mental wellbeing outcomes over the last ten years.** Data from the most recent New Zealand Health Survey (NZHS) for 2020/21 shows the percentage of adults experiencing high or very high levels of psychological distress in the last four weeks rose from 7.5 percent in 2019/20 to 9.6 in 2020/21.²¹ However, this increase follows a wider ten-year trend of distress levels increasing since 2011/12 and cannot necessarily be attributed solely to the wider pandemic.
4. **Consistent with long-term trends, Youth[‡] as well as those with a disability are more likely to report mental distress, as well as feelings associated with depression and anxiety.** Survey data from May 2022 shows that 64 percent of surveyed youth and 54 percent of those surveyed with a disability reported that the Omicron outbreak led to feeling down, depressed and hopeless, compared to 37 percent of the population overall.²² The survey also showed that youth and those with a disability are more likely to report feelings of heightened anxiety as a result of the Omicron community outbreak, as

[†] Psychological, or mental, distress (aged 15-plus years) refers to a person's experience of symptoms such as anxiety, psychological fatigue, or depression in the past four weeks.

[‡] Aged 18 to 24.

compared to the general population⁵.²³ The 2020/21 NZHS also shows that youth between 18 and 24 reported the highest percentage (20.7 percent) of high or very high mental distress in the four weeks prior compared to any other age cohort^{**}. The NZHS also found that adults with a disability were 4.5 times more likely to report feelings of mental distress than non-disabled adults.²⁴ This is consistent with longer-term trends related to mental distress.

5. **Māori, Pasifika, those living in areas with the highest levels of deprivation and women were more likely to experience mental distress, when compared with other groups.** The 2020/21 NZHS survey found that Māori were 1.6 times more likely to report feelings mental distress in the prior four weeks, as compared to non-Māori groups.²⁵ Pasifika people were 1.4 times more likely than non-Pasifika people to report mental distress.²⁶ Those living in neighbourhoods with the lowest levels of deprivation were 2.2 times less likely to report mental distress than those in areas with the highest deprivation.²⁷ Men were also less likely to report levels of mental distress as compared to women.²⁸ This is consistent with longer-term trends related to mental distress.
6. **Female youth (aged 10 to 24) have seen a rise in the number of self-harm hospitalisations in the first year of the pandemic, which is expected to continue increase across 2021.** Data shows that the level of youth hospitalised for self-harm increased by 9 percent, rising from 5,186 in January 2020 to 5,652 in January 2021. This represents the largest increase in the number self-harm hospitalisations in nearly five years, though this number has steadily increased since 2016.²⁹ This is consistent with Australian data, analysis of emergency department data regarding presentations of young women there showed this group was more likely to be young women experiencing distress from low deprivation communities and that this did not translate into higher rates of suicide amongst that group.

Additional Considerations & Resource Demand

7. **People living with mental illness, particularly young people, are more likely to suffer severe disease or death as a result of COVID-19 infection.** Evidence indicates that COVID-19 related hospitalisation and mortality risk increase for those with mental health disorders, with the risk increasing with younger age and disorder severity.³⁰ Overseas studies have shown that the risk of death from COVID-19 went up by 50 percent for those with a history of mental illness, compared to those with no history.³¹ This is potentially a greater risk for Māori and Pasifika groups who have a significantly younger age structure to their populations.³²
8. **Preliminary evidence suggests a link between COVID-19 infection/long COVID with poor mental wellbeing outcomes.** Research indicates those infected with COVID-19 are at an increased risk of developing a mental health disorder.³³ Chronic physical health conditions have also been linked to poor mental wellbeing outcomes, with preliminary research showing that as many as 25 percent of those who experience long COVID develop a mental health issue.^{34 35} The impact of long COVID on quality of life or ability to work are believed to be key contributors to negative mental health and wellbeing outcomes.³⁶ affect quality of life or ability to work which can lead to negative mental health outcomes.³⁷
9. **Some evidence suggests calls to crisis response services for mental wellbeing, and demand for digital and telehealth mental health services have increased since the start of the pandemic, however further analysis is required to confirm this trend.** St. John Ambulance reported a 30 percent increase in mental health related calls in 2021 as compared to those received in 2020.³⁸ Police records have also reported an 87 percent rise in calls around threatened and attempted suicides, and a 66 percent increase in the number of mental health related calls overall.³⁹ Several digital and phone-based platforms that offer mental health related services have also seen increases in use, during and following various lockdowns. By the end of 2021, calls and texts to helpline Lifeline Aotearoa increased by 88 percent compared to 2019 levels, receiving more than 10,000 calls and text messages per week during the September 2021 lockdown.⁴⁰ There has also been an increase in demand for private specialist mental health services and psychiatrists, with surveys showing an marked increase in demand

⁵ 72 percent of youth surveyed reported feeling nervous, anxious or on edge, compared to 50 percent of the general population. 61 percent of youth and 52 percent of those with disability reported not being able to stop or control worrying, compared to 41 percent of the general population.

^{**} The second highest age group were 15-17 at 15.6 percent, with the third highest age group were 24-34 at 11.6 percent.

and overall complexity of cases.⁴¹ Increased calls for service, however, do not necessarily translate to increased levels of aggregate population distress.

- 10. The Government is increasing provision of primary mental health and addiction services and a range of other supports, while existing mental health services have maintained existing service provision.** Since 2019 the Government has increased provision of primary care for people with mild-to-moderate levels of mental distress, through the Budget 2019 Access and Choice programme^{††}. This programme is rolling out primary mental health and addiction services nationally, which are delivered in a range of settings, including general practice and Kaupapa Māori, Pacific and youth settings. Integrated mental health and addiction services delivered in general practice alone (excluding services provided in Māori, Pacific and youth settings) are now available at no cost to an enrolled population around 2.2 million. Combined, as of 30 April 2022, the Access and Choice programme has delivered over 400,000 sessions to people since the rollout began. Regarding specialist mental health and addiction services, the Mental Health and Wellbeing Commission has recently reported that the public specialist mental health system has been able to maintain service provision during the pandemic.⁴²

Thank you to the following teams which contributed to this insight: the Ministry of Health and the New Zealand Police.

^{††} This program is currently halfway through its five-year rollout.

3. Ministry of Health

This section is temporarily shortened while the COVID-19 Response Directorate from Ministry of Health is being transferred to interim Health New Zealand (iHNZ).

3.1 Technical Advisory Group: update

Therapeutics TAG

The COVID-19 Therapeutics Technical Advisory Group (Therapeutics TAG) did not meet in the week commencing 6 June 2022. The next Therapeutics TAG meeting is scheduled for early July 2022 (TBC).

3.2 Upcoming communications issues and activities

As 14 June 2022:

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement
Week commencing 20 June, probably 22 June	Variants of Concern announcement – Minister Verrall Full communications plan being drafted. This is likely to be in the form of a technical media briefing.	MoH	Full communications plan	Minister Verrall
W/C 20 June – TBC	Reinfection advice – full communications being drafted	MoH	Full communications plan	Minister Verrall
Late June – probably week commencing 20 June	Border worker testing and removal of border workers from the Vaccinations Order, and removal of pre-departure test requirements. NB stakeholder comms to go the day before to PCBUs, public sector agencies – MBIE, WorkSafe, Customs, Aviation Security Service, MPI, Police Media statement and reactives/Ministerial announcement.	MoH	Stakeholder engagement only	No
W/C 20 June	Review of CPF settings – TBC	TBC	TBC	TBC
Ongoing	Lollisponge PCR test trial – Testing team is trialling the Lollisponge PCR test with two Māori disability community providers for usability. The Lollisponge collects a saliva sample with a sponge and is less invasive than nasal and nasopharyngeal sample methods. A small communications trial will also be undertaken with one provider, who will make a video for their stakeholders based on MoH guidance. Easy to read instructions and a video on how to take the test are being created	MoH	Social media video	No.
Ongoing	Testing – who to test / where to test/ record results on My Covid Record/Traveller requirements messaging	MoH DPMC MBIE	Key messages, website, stakeholder communications	No

4. Managed Isolation and Quarantine Weekly Report

4.1 Transition and Readiness

4.1.1 Workforce

The formal change process for the remaining facilities, and our regional and national offices is on-going. The decision for the new operating model was announced on June 15 and following the expression of interest process, people will be appointed into positions by mid-July with the new operating model in place by 1 August.

4.1.2 Decommissioning of Facilities

A total of 26 facilities have been decommissioned and handed back. Of the remaining six, the Sudima Rotorua, Jet Park Hamilton and Commodore Hotel Christchurch have all closed to guests and will be decommissioned by the end of June. The final three in-use facilities (The Waipuna, Jet Park Auckland and Holiday Inn) will close to guests by 27 June and will be decommissioned in July.

Facility decommissioning status

Facility (by region)	Tranche	Current occupancy	Current phase	Hand-back date	Facility RAG status
Jet Park Auckland	Core facility	Occupied (9pax)	N/A core facility	N/A	N/A
Holiday Inn	Core facility	Occupied (9 pax)	N/A core facility	N/A	N/A
Waipuna Auckland	Core facility	Occupied (3 pax)	N/A core facility	N/A	N/A
Totals:		21			

4.2 Operational Update

4.2.1 Current Occupancy

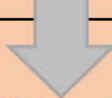
MIQ has three facilities in Auckland that are designated as Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities.

As of 21 June 2022, there were 21 people in Managed Isolation and Quarantine.

Facility	Total People in Facility	People in Quarantine	Community Cases	Mariners/Air Crew:	Evacuees/ Refugees:
Holiday Inn	9	8	4	1	0
JetPark	9	5	5	0	4
Waipuna	3	0	0	0	3
Total	21	13	9	1	7

4.2.2 Invoicing

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

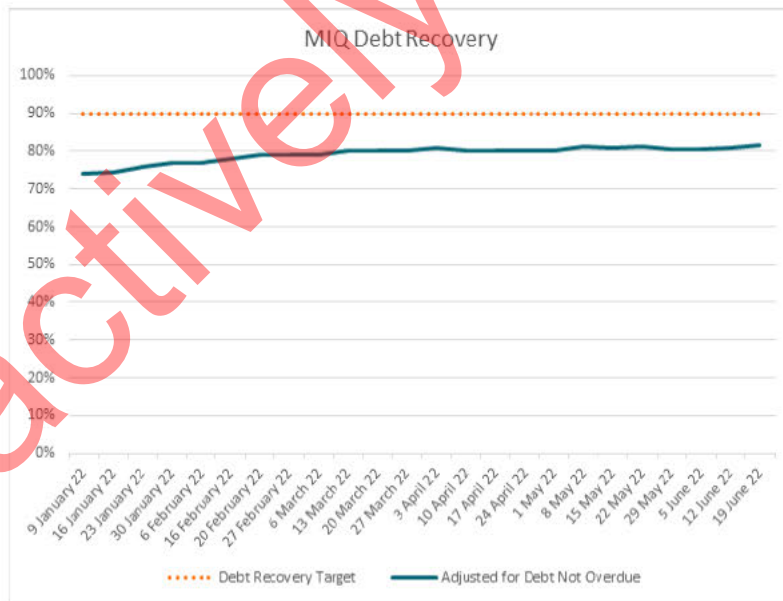
INVOICES ISSUED 57,439	INVOICES PAID 41,756 (72% of invoices issued)	INVOICES ISSUED - NOT YET DUE 2,718 (6% of invoices issued)	INVOICES OVERDUE 14,023 (22% of invoices issued)
TOTAL VALUE OF INVOICES ISSUED \$218.1	PAID (BY VALUE) \$175M 80%	ISSUED - NOT YET DUE (BY VALUE) \$5.6M 2%	INVOICES OVERDUE (BY VALUE) \$39M 18%
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Automated and manual invoice batches are up to date, and we are working through the ad hoc invoices. With invoicing up to date, MBIE are investigating the 'unmatched data' for the period 25 March 2021 to 28 February 2022 to determine their liability. There are 11,659 of these unmatched records in the database that need to have their liability determined before invoicing. 			 90+ days overdue 7,437 invoices \$25.4M (by value) 11.7% (by value of all invoices issued)

4.2.3 Debt Recovery

The debt recovery percentage remains at 81 percent (against our nominal target recovery of 90 percent).

As of 19 June, 12,071 invoices worth \$38.6m have been passed to our debt partner. In addition:

- \$13.8m has now been paid (an increase of \$257k).
- A further \$475k of debt is under instalment and is expected to be converted to payments over coming weeks.
- Of the invoices sent, 236 customers worth \$691k have now submitted waiver applications. While applications are processed, they are recorded as outstanding debt.



4.2.4 Fee Waivers

The table below breaks down the waiver application information between 11 August 2020 and 19 June 2022. The numbers below relate to all waiver applications; waivers can be applied for before, during and after an individual has stayed in managed isolation.

All Waiver Applications Received	Received and not progressed	Total Completed	Approved Waiver Applications			Declined Waiver Applications		
			Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	BOTH	Financial Hardship	Special Circumstances	BOTH
18,909	3,330	15,149	103	9,661	111	1,990	2,779	505
			Overall Approved 66.5% (of completed applications)			Overall Declined 33.5% (of completed applications)		

4.2.5 Reducing the Fee Waiver backlog

		Last week (at 12 June)
TOTAL BACKLOG AT 19 June 2022:		502
Made up of:	i) Processing or to be processed	345
	ii) Waiting for Customer	157
		430

4.3 Ombudsman Complaints

There are 13 active investigations:

- one is on policy advice;
- three are on emergency allocations;
- two are on exemptions from managed isolation;
- five relate to declined fee waiver decisions;
- one is about facilities and;
- and one is the Chief Ombudsman's self-initiated investigation.

4.4 Upcoming Communications Issues and Activities

As of 21 June 2022:

Date	Activity	Lead agency	Comms material	Ministerial Involvement Y/N
June (TBC)	Ombudsman Self-Initiated Investigation findings	MIQ	Reactive comms	Y
June (TBC)	Grounded Kiwis judicial review - final declaratory statement	MIQ/Crown Law	TBC	TBC



5. Border Executive Board Report

5.1 Border Executive Board Meeting 22 June 2022

The Board met on 22 June 2022. The main agenda items are noted below.

Port Infrastructure

The Board considered the existing port infrastructure for cruise vessels and the levers available to influence change, acknowledging the dispersed ownership model of port companies. No ports have dedicated passenger processing facilities with agencies setting up temporary processing areas for the season. These areas are often in multi-use spaces to enable the port to be flexible with their limited footprint.

The Board noted that the overall direction for longer-term opportunities is via the New Zealand Freight and Supply Chain Strategy, led by Te Manatū Waka Ministry of Transport. The Board recognised change was needed in a shorter time period to support the return of cruise vessels and passengers. The main avenue will be discussions with Ports as part of the readiness for the return of cruise vessels and passengers.

The Board agreed to share advice on the issue with the Minister for Transport. The Board requested a proposed paper come to a board meeting in about four weeks for consideration.

Maritime Pathway – Operational Readiness

The Board received its regular update on readiness to ensure successful reopening of the maritime border from 11.59pm, 31 July 2022. No issues were raised for the Board to address.

The Board approved the high trust compliance approach for checking vaccination requirements of maritime arrivals. The next step is to consult with industry and provide you with advice to support changes needed to the Maritime Border Order.

New Zealand Traveller Declaration Programme – Monthly Update

The Board received its regular update on the New Zealand Traveller Declaration, as the overall governance body for the Programme. No issues were raised for the Board to address.

The Board sought assurance that the Programme was able to support the reopening of the maritime pathway. The Programme is carrying out analysis to confirm capability and compliance requirements to support use by maritime passengers. Once complete, the availability date will then be confirmed.

Border Agency Testing and Vaccination Plans

The Board received an overview of the approach by border agencies to testing and vaccination requirements once these are no longer mandated. The Required Testing Order will be revoked and is due to come into effect from 11.59pm on 30 June 2022.

The item follows on from earlier conversations where the Board indicated its preference to have health and safety practices aligned where staff from multiple border agencies share the same work environment. Overall, the agencies are comfortable with the approach with a preference to use N95 masks for front-line workers.

The next Board meeting is 29 June 2022.

Reconnecting New Zealanders Programme

The requirement to complete a pre-departure Test was removed at 11.59pm on Monday 20 June 2022. Early feedback on the removal of PDT has been positive from both passengers and operational staff with no issues to report.

The Boarder Executive Board will update you on the remaining two steps closer to implementation, which are Step 4 on 4 July 2022 (Accredited Employer work visas and Work Visas) and Step 5 on 31 July 2022 (Visitor and Student Visas).



6. New Zealand Customs Service Weekly Report

6.1 Compliance Checking at the Air Border

As part of Reconnecting New Zealanders, the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Air Border) Order 2021 came into force on 28 February 2022. Customs staff undertake compliance checks for all passengers on arrival for evidence of pre-departure testing or exemption, vaccination verification or exemption or a travel pass.

Travellers who do not provide the required evidence may incur an infringement offence fee between \$500 and \$4,000 depending on the nature of the offence. Non-New Zealand citizens who do not provide the required evidence of vaccination status will be referred to the Ministry of Health officials for further intervention.

For the period 14 to 20 June 2022 (both dates inclusive), a total of 46,362 passengers travelled to New Zealand. Of this number, 83 were considered to not meet the requirements for air travel into New Zealand:

- two travellers were issued warning letters, and 81 travellers have been issued with an infringement offence fee for not meeting pre-departure testing requirements
- no travellers have been issued with an infringement offence fee for not meeting vaccination verification requirements, and no travellers have been referred to the Ministry of Health for further intervention.

From 11.59pm, 20 June 2022 amendments to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Air Border) Order 2021 came into force:

- the requirement for passengers to undertake Pre-Departure Testing was removed
- the classification of risk for Vaccination non-compliance has reduced to medium risk, which means the maximum amount for an infringement fee that Customs may issue for non-compliance is now \$1,000

Customs staff continue undertake compliance checks for all passengers on arrival for evidence of vaccination verification or exemption or a travel pass

6.2 s9(2)(f)(iv)

[Redacted content]

6.3 New Zealand Traveller Deceleration system

Since the announcement that travellers arriving into New Zealand no longer need a COVID-19 pre-departure test (which came into effect 11.59pm, 20 June 2022), media interest and social media activity has been high.

A common theme across both media and social media is querying whether travellers are still required to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration and the purpose of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration.

Following the removal of the pre-departure test requirement, a significant decrease in the number of passengers considered to not meet the requirements for air travel into New Zealand is expected because vaccination certification will be the only criteria and this has been less of a compliance issue.

To coincide with the removal of pre-departure test requirements, Customs have a global campaign that went live on 14 June 2022 to educate and remind travellers of the need to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration. Campaign messages focus on continuing to raise awareness of the need to complete a Traveller Declaration, with supporting messaging to alert travellers to the removal of the pre-departure test requirement. This ensures travellers continue to meet requirements before travelling to New Zealand.

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7. COVID-19 Chief Executives Board

The COVID-19 Chief Executives Board (CCB) will meet on 28 June 2022. The agenda will include:

- updates on the COVID-19 Response;
- lessons from the Omicron Response to date;
- updates on the post-winter strategy and legal framework;
- updates on planning around the transition of centrally held response functions to a more business as usual approach; and
- the CCB's enduring role and membership through the COVID-19 system transition.

8. Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group

The Strategic COVID-19 Public Health Advisory Group did not meet this week and are next scheduled to meet on Wednesday 29 June 2022. Officials from the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment will attend to discuss the National Quarantine Plan and Ministry of Health officials will also attend to continue discussions regarding mortality from COVID-19.

Next week's meeting will be the final meeting under the current terms of reference and with Sir David Skegg as chairperson and Philip Hill as a member. The DPMC Secretariat are continuing to progress the extension of the Group until 30 December 2022 and the appointment of new members and chairperson. The Secretariat are also working with your office to arrange a time for you to meet with the Group in July to welcome the new members.

9. Business Leaders Forum

The Business Leaders Forum does not currently have a date for its next meeting.

10. Community Panel

The Community Panel did not meet this week and are scheduling their final meeting for Thursday 30 June 2022. This will be held at Parliament in Wellington for those members available to travel and you are attending for the first part of the meeting.

11. Government Modelling Group

There are no updates from the Government Modelling Group this week. Future updates will be provided where significant.

12. Upcoming Cabinet Papers
s9(2)(f)(iv)



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