

## Travel Health Pass Excerpts from Transport COVID-19 Response Insights Situation Report

### 9 April

We have prepared a short briefing for Minister Hipkins, at his request, on the Travel Health Pass Work Programme this week and will provide you with a copy of this. A more detailed briefing is being prepared for a joint COVID-19 Ministerial Meeting (the meeting has now been postponed with the date TBC). However, we will still provide the briefing to Minister Hipkins on 15 April 2021. We are currently working with your Office to confirm whether you are scheduled to attend the future meeting, and will submit the briefing through you for Ministerial consideration.

We are planning another cross agency workshop for the week of 19 April to dive into the key component parts of a health pass end to end, and specifically the mechanics of it in and around the border. We will update you on the outcome of the workshop once completed.

### 12 March

#### ***Travel pass and green travellers***

Through a series of workshops, we have confirmed the content of Travel Health Pass programme, including work areas and agency leads to progress the work areas identified. The programme itself takes an end-to-end look at a passenger's journey, and focuses on the role of traveller health certificates in facilitating travel in and out of New Zealand. The aim of this work is to position New Zealand to be able to move when the health science says it is safe to do so, recognising that international connectivity remains fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of New Zealanders. We acknowledge there are significant unknowns about the role and impact of vaccines, and New Zealand is not expected to reach domestic vaccination targets until late 2021. Advice to Ministers is expected by the end of March confirming the work programme, timing of advice over the coming months and key considerations and dependencies that Ministers will need to be aware of, and decision points.

We hosted a cross agency session on 11 March with Air New Zealand and the International Air Transport Association (IATA) to hear more about the IATA Travel Pass and Air New Zealand's upcoming pilot. The trial provides an important opportunity for Air New Zealand to test the technology that underpins the IATA Travel Pass, and it intends to trail this on a small group of crew and passengers on the Auckland to Sydney Route in mid April (timing to be confirmed).

The IATA Travel Pass is built in modules as an industry solution based on open-source standards. It can be used in combination with other providers or as an end-to-end solution. Importantly, it appears to be able to sufficiently blend a person's COVID-test status (and in future vaccination status) with their identity (passport). However, government to government assurance process associated with that credential (how it is pushed from an individual to the appropriate government authorities for the purpose of travel) is a key issue that needs to be worked through.

#### ***Border measures, restrictions, internal affairs and resurgences***

Digital vaccine passports continue to be a big point of discussion as the world looks to reopen both domestically and internationally. There is a consistent theme of concerns being considered in the planning and roll out: privacy/security concerns in relation to data, equity/discrimination concerns given that some people cannot get vaccinated and many developing countries are struggling to

procure vaccines, and rights concerns in relation to people who do not want to be vaccinated. However, Israel, Australia, the UK, the EU, China, and Denmark are all either planning or have already rolled out versions of a vaccine passport, and IATA, IBM, and the World Economic Forum/The Commons Project have all produced technologies and are undergoing trials with airlines and countries. While the goal for many is to have a universal/coordinated platform that can be used globally, the range of different “passports” and the differing goals of jurisdictions is making this difficult.

### 5 March

Through a series of workshops, we have confirmed the content of Travel Health Pass programme, including work areas and agency leads to progress the work areas identified. The programme itself takes an end to end look at a passenger’s journey, and focuses on the role of traveller health certificates in facilitating travel in and out of New Zealand. The aim of this work is to position New Zealand to be able to move when the health science says it is safe to do so, recognising that international connectivity remains fundamental to the economic and social wellbeing of New Zealanders. We acknowledge there are significant unknowns about the role and impact of vaccines, and New Zealand is not expected to reach domestic vaccination targets until late 2021. Advice to Ministers is expected by the end of March confirming the work programme, timing of advice over the coming months and key considerations and dependencies that Ministers will need to be aware of, and decision points.

We are hosting a cross agency session on 11 March, with Air New Zealand and the International Air Transport Association (IATA), to hear more about the IATA Travel Pass and the pilot that Air New Zealand will be trialling in the coming month. We will report back following that session in next week’s insights sitrep. The IATA Travel Pass is one of a number technology solutions being trialled globally to transmit a passengers pre-departure testing results and, in the future, vaccination status.

The key issue that States, and international standard setting bodies are grappling with, is:

- how to blend, including digitally, a person’s test and vaccination status with their identity for the purpose of travel; and
- the government-to-government assurance process associated with that credential.

### ***Border measures, internal affairs and resurgences***

Digital vaccine passports continue to be picked up by jurisdictions as an approach to allow them to reopen both internally and with a longer-term eye for international easing of restrictions. Israel has produced an internal “green pass” required for access into facilities which have been reopened. New South Wales, after closely monitoring Israel’s approach, has produced an app that 75% of its population have downloaded which will allow a similar reopening of indoor venues and events. The Australian government has signalled it will likely require a vaccination certificate for international travel and the Danish government has said it too would introduce a “digital passport.” The UK and the EU are both considering a similar thing, with the EU’s “Digital Green Pass” proposal covering vaccine information as well as other supplementary information which will allow non-vaccinated people to meet other requirements. Concerns from EU members as well as the UK about vaccine discrimination have been raised after backlash in Israel where many non-vaccinated people are unable to access the same facilities as vaccinated people and where other proposed legislation relating to mandatory 48-hour testing for non-vaccinated people and allowing identification of non-vaccinated people to authorities is on the cards.

## 26 February

### ***Travel pass and green travellers***

The Ministry has developed a draft programme for the traveller health certificate work stream, that will be tested with agencies at an interagency workshop at the goal publicly announced by the Prime Minister is for quarantine-free travel to commence by the end of the first quarter.

## 12 February

### ***Travel pass and green travellers***

The Ministry hosted an interagency workshop on Wednesday 10 February 2021 on the concept of health or vaccination certificates to facilitate “green travellers” in and out of New Zealand. We will continue to update you and seek direction from Ministers as the work evolves.

### ***Border measures***

While it is unclear whether vaccinations will mean countries automatically ease/remove border restrictions, many countries are contemplating the idea of vaccination certificates for international travel and how it might look/work.

The Danish government has said it would introduce a “digital passport” in the next few months and it is on the radar for many other countries, with Australia recently indicating that it is “highly likely” that a vaccination certificate will be required for internationals to enter Australia.

With the industry desperate to reopen, many players have been proactively working on technologies to help. These are intended to provide safe, secure, and coordinated verification of both vaccines and tests as well as information about countries’ requirements and vaccine/test sites:

- As previously reported, IATA has been working on its Travel Pass for months and has airlines (including Emirates, Etihad, Qatar Airways, IAG, and Copa Airlines) and the Panamanian government on board for trials/use.
- CommonPass, from the World Economic Forum and The Commons Project, is currently in trials and provides a similar service.
- IBM is developing its “digital health pass”, built on blockchain technology

The main challenge seems to be creating a universal, secure and, inclusive document/app.

## 5 February

### ***Travel pass and green travellers***

Following our 28 January 2021 update to you on the concept of health or vaccination certificates to facilitate “green travellers” in and out of New Zealand, the Ministry will host an interagency workshop on Wednesday 10 February 2021 to identify the policy and operational questions and

shape the work programme. We will continue to update you and seek direction from Ministers as the work evolves.

### 29 January

#### ***Travel pass and green travellers***

On 28 January 2021, we provided you with a briefing that responded to the Prime Minister's request for information on the International Air Transport Association (IATA)'s Travel Pass initiative. The briefing also covers work being started by a Government agency group on the concept of health certificates to facilitate "green travellers" in and out of New Zealand more broadly. Agencies will work together over the next few weeks to shape the work programme. We will continue to update you and seek direction from you and your colleagues as the work evolves.

### 22 January

#### ***Border-Related***

IATA has announced progression on its "Travel Pass" which, globally, will:

- provide travellers with a registry that outlines countries' health requirements
- provide a registry of authorised testing/vaccination centres for travellers to meet these requirements
- enable these testing/vaccination centres to securely send result/verification certificates to travellers, and
- enable travellers to verify their meeting of countries' travel requirements with relevant certificates that can be shared online with airlines prior to check in.

Emirates and Etihad have just become two of the first airlines to pilot this. Both will use it to validate the negative pre-departure PCR tests they require (Emirates on flights to Dubai and Etihad on all of their flights).

Such a platform that specifically assists passengers, airlines, and authorities to track these testing and vaccination travel requirements, and verify them being met, can reduce confusion, increase compliance, and assist countries to be comfortable in reopening borders, which is key in the global recovery.