

# COVID-19 weekly situation update

## PILLARS OF THE COVID-19 ELIMINATION STRATEGY

New Zealand's elimination strategy is a sustained approach to 'Keep it Out', 'Prepare for It', 'Stamp it Out' and 'Manage the Impact'. We do this through:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Pre- &amp; Border Settings, Managed Isolation &amp; Quarantine</b><br><i>Strong but proportionate border settings flex and adapt as health security settings shift</i>   |  |
| <b>Detection &amp; Surveillance</b><br><i>Best-evidence protocols ensure cases are detected and transmission is controlled</i>  |  |
| <b>Contact Tracing &amp; Case Management</b><br><i>Targeted and timely activities minimise impacts of new outbreaks across the community and health system</i>  |  |
| <b>Stronger Public Health Measures</b><br><i>Public adherence to tailored health interventions is high due to trust and confidence in our health settings</i>   |  |
| <b>Health System Preparedness &amp; Resilience</b><br><i>Proactive planning ensures a proportionate response to manage future impacts of COVID-19 and maintain other services</i>   |  |
| <b>PRIORITY: COVID-19 Immunisation Programme</b><br><i>Targeted and timely roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to manage and mitigate the risk of on-going harm to the community. Updates on this Programme are provided separately.</i> |  |

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

New Zealand has performed well against its elimination strategy; however, we need to continue to remain vigilant and responsive, especially given the novel COVID-19 variant strains.

**As at 9.00am 5 September 2021, there are 721 active community cases. There are 22 active imported cases in Managed Isolation Facilities.**

As at 9.00am 5 September, there has been an increase of 20 cases in the community since the day prior.

There are currently 8 epidemiologically linked subclusters identified within this outbreak. The 2 largest clusters are the Birkdale Social Network cluster associated with Case A (approximately 75 confirmed cases), and a cluster associated with the Assembly of God church in Mangere (approximately 356 confirmed cases).

As at 10:00am 5 September, 38,120 contacts have been identified. Of these, 33,672 are close contacts and 1,109 are close plus contacts, and 3,339 are casual plus contacts.

With the public health risk deemed to be medium, all regions south of Auckland moved to Alert Level 3 on Tuesday 31 August at 11.59pm, and Northland moved to Alert Level 3 at 11.59pm on Thursday 2 September.

With the public health risk still deemed to be high, on Monday 30 August, the Prime Minister announced Auckland would remain at Alert Level 4 for a further two weeks.

Cabinet will review the public health risk for Auckland and the rest of New Zealand on Monday 6 September 2021.

## FOCUS FOR WEEK AHEAD

- The response to the current community outbreak.
- Continuing to focus on the operational contact tracing response.
- Complete a bulk re-send of posters and updated advice to all poster holders.
- Continued input to work required to operationalise and then review Border Worker saliva testing national rollout.
- Input to papers/pilots as part of Reconnecting NZ.
- Continue working on implementation plan of proposed testing regime for healthcare workforce surveillance testing.
- Continue investigating options for additional laboratory testing surge capacity.
- Work to support boundary testing requirements for essential workers.

## CONTACT TRACING

27 August – 2 September for all community cases and associated close plus contacts\*

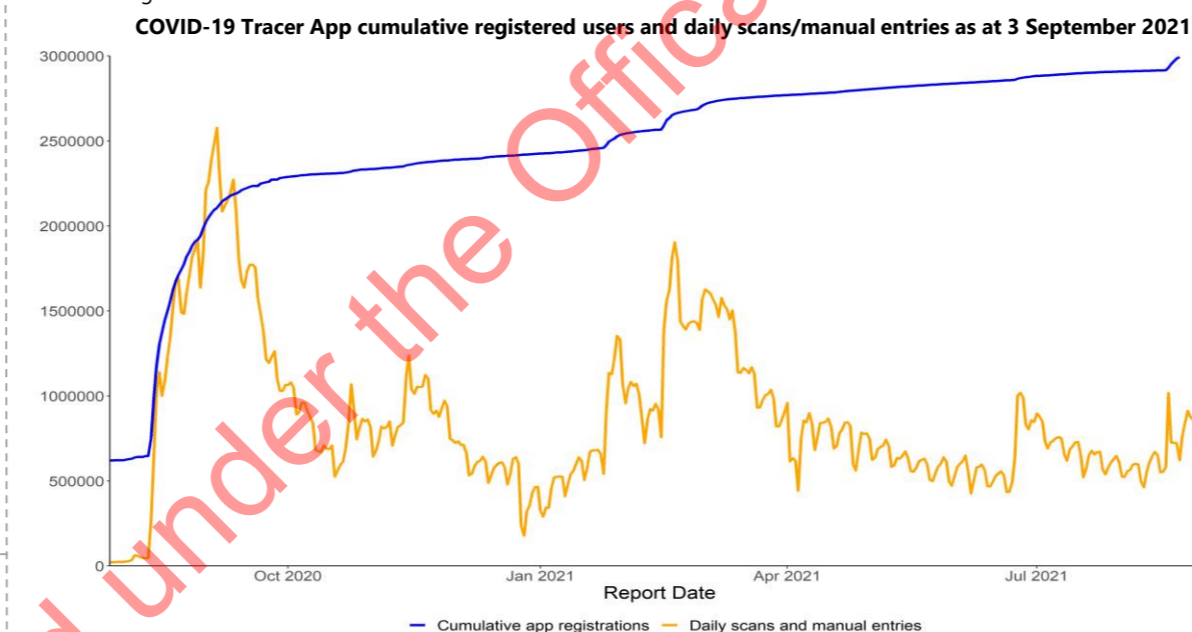
| Contact tracing activity                                       | Target               | Performance |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Time notification to case interview                            | ≥80% within 24 hours | 94%         |
| Time case notification to isolation / quarantine of contact    | ≥80% within 48 hours | 60%         |
| Time from close contact identification to isolated/quarantined | ≥80% within 24 hours | 56%         |
| Proportion of contacts traced                                  | ≥80% within 48 hours | 68%         |

**For week 27 August – 2 September (cases notified during this period)** **74%** **Of close plus contacts traced within 2 days of case notification**  
 Target: 80% within 2 days of case notification

\*Due to the high volumes of contacts the contact tracing service is prioritising their efforts to have a focus on high-risk contacts from higher risk locations. Close plus contacts are classified as part of the higher risk contacts and are therefore the subject population for this table.

## NZ COVID TRACER APP

The QR Poster Management self-service is now live with businesses able to update and resend their own posters or archive those no longer in use.



## CAPACITY AT BORDER SERVICES (MIQ)

Status: Primary focus in the coming week will be continuing to manage the Auckland outbreak, including increasing Q capacity, reducing pressures on the workforce, increased surveillance testing of workers in higher risk environments and supporting development of community quarantine capacity.

| OCCUPANCY & CAPACITY           | AKL              | WKO            | ROT            | WLG          | CHCH           | TOTAL            |                |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Current Occupancy              | Isolation: 2,370 | Isolation: 156 | Isolation: 570 | Isolation: 0 | Isolation: 756 | Isolation: 3,852 | ↔              |
|                                | Quarantine: 721  |                |                |              |                |                  | Quarantine: 10 |
| Number of Community Cases      | 496              | 0              | 0              | 15           | 0              | 26               | ↑              |
| Capacity for Region (MIF only) | 4,133            | 216            | 418            | 0            | 1,463          | 6,230            | ↑              |

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: We have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce currently. However, ongoing vigilance is required.

The Ministry is confident it has good stocks of PPE available, with at least eight weeks of stock based on forecast usage at high pandemic volumes.

| Item                         | Quantity on hand week commencing 5 September 21 | Current Usage (weekly) | Weeks on hand (current usage) |   |
|------------------------------|---|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Nitrile gloves               | 283,273,269                                     | 4,846,320              | 58                            | ↑ |
| Isolation gowns              | 16,415,657                                      | 581,670                | 28                            | ↑ |
| N95s                         | 20,275,321                                      | 867,724                | 23                            | ↑ |
| Procedure masks              | 269,721,687                                     | 3,838,900              | 70                            | ↑ |
| Face shields                 | 1,326,911                                       | 152,270                | 9                             | ↑ |
| Goggles/Glasses              | 1,571,937                                       | 43,323                 | 36                            | ↑ |
| Aprons                       | 15,040,763                                      | 293,750                | 51                            | ↑ |
| Hand sanitiser (500ml equiv) | 976,120   | 48,279                 | 20                            | ↑ |

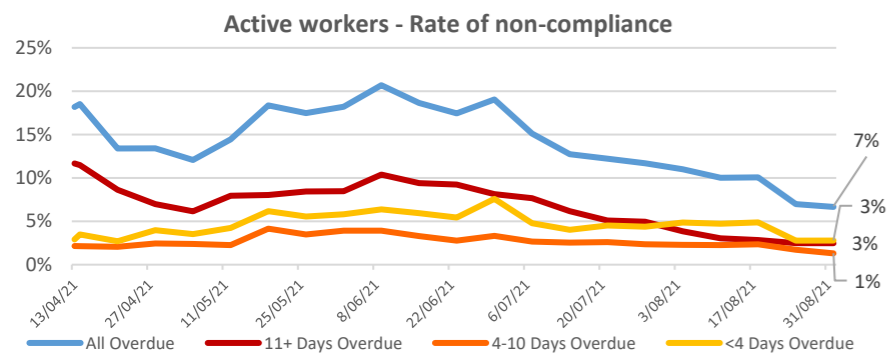
Usage over the last week reflects significantly higher demand than normal. However, this week whilst higher than normal, usage has reduced by 70%. We do not expect this level of demand to be maintained.

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

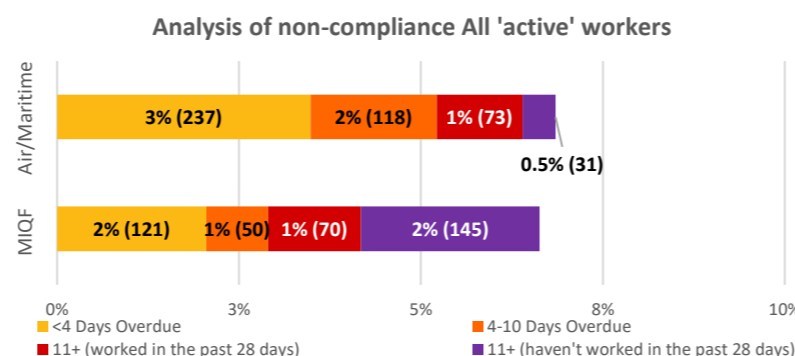
# COVID-19 weekly situation update – testing



## BORDER WORKERS IN THE BORDER WORKER TESTING REGISTER (BWTR)



This graph shows the trend over time of the proportion of workers that are overdue for testing and by how many days as at 1 September 2021



This graph shows the proportion of Air/Maritime and MIQF workers that are currently overdue for testing and by how many days as at 1 September 2021

| PCBUs        |       | Total Workers |          | Active workers |          | Testing Compliance |       |       | Vaccination Status |           |       |
|--------------|-------|---------------|----------|----------------|----------|--------------------|-------|-------|--------------------|-----------|-------|
| MBIE         | 1 ↔   | All           | 28,823 ↑ | All            | 12,868 ↓ | All Workers        | 93% ↔ | 94% ↔ | 96% ↑              | One Dose  | 6% ↑  |
| MIQF Teams   | 273 ↓ | MIQF          | 13,188 ↑ | MIQF           | 6,054 ↓  | MIQF               | 93% ↔ | 96% ↑ | 99% ↑              | Two Doses | 88% ↑ |
| Air/Maritime | 256 ↔ | Air/Maritime  | 15,635 ↑ | Other          | 6,814 ↓  | Other              | 93% ↔ | 93% ↔ | 93% ↔              |           |       |

- PCBUs** - There are 257 PCBUs in the BWTR of which MBIE is one. This has been stable over the past week, with no new PCBUs added.
- Compliance** - 93% of all active workers are compliant with testing (93% for MIQFs, 93% for Air/Maritime). For those working in the past 28 days, 94% are compliant (96% for MIQFs, 93% for Air/Maritime). Of those border workers working last week 96% were compliant (99% for MIQFs, 93% for Air/Maritime). The rate of all active workers 11+ days overdue has dropped from 10% on 9 June to 3% today.
- Addressing Non-Compliance** - Last week MoH contacted 28 PCBUs and 85 workers. MBIE contacted 84 PCBUs and 204 workers. MoH did not need to send any directive letters to workers last week, in total 142 have now been sent. MoH also did not need to send any infringement notices last week, in total 53 have now been issued. MBIE escalated 8 workers to MoH this week for further action, 90 referrals have now been made in total and 43 of these workers are now compliant. All border worker monitoring and compliance activity is continuing as usual during the heightened alert levels and response period.
- Saliva testing** – 793 border workers have opted into saliva testing to date, compared to 688 at the same time last week. 542 of these workers are now undertaking saliva testing, of which 63 work in MIQFs and 479 work at the Air or Maritime Borders. 91% are compliant with testing requirements (92% for MIQFs and 91% for Air/Maritime). The five overdue workers in MIQFs are all just one day overdue.

## REASONS FOR NO TEST BY DEPARTURE DATE FROM FACILITY

| Reason               |   | 8 August – 14 August | 15 August – 21 August | 22 August – 28 August | 29 August – 4 September |
|----------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| Total                | ↓ | 2                    | 43                    | 45                    | 29                      |
| Child <sup>(1)</sup> | ↓ | 1                    | 16                    | 9                     | 3                       |
| Clinical reasons     | ↔ | 0                    | 1                     | 0                     | 0                       |
| No consent given     | ↔ | 0                    | 0                     | 0                     | 0                       |
| Other <sup>(2)</sup> | ↓ | 1 <sup>(3)</sup>     | 26 <sup>(3)</sup>     | 36 <sup>(3)</sup>     | 26 <sup>(3)</sup>       |

(1) "Child" generally refers to under 6 months of age  
 (2) "Other" reasons include guests who had a symptomatic test instead, or had a swab in a hospital  
 (3) There are a large number of day 0/1 tests entered in error as the guest was not from a high-risk country so was not required to be tested. These appear as 'other' in the data  
 These figures are based on numbers of times no test is performed, not on individuals (i.e. as tests are performed on day 3 and day 12, there will be multiple times an individual may not receive a test)

## TESTING AND TESTING SITES

| Stream  |   | Total tested 8 August – 14 August | Total tested 15 August – 21 August | Total tested 22 August – 28 August | Total tested 29 August – 4 September |
|---|---|-----------------------------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Guest – MIF and MIQ                                       | ↓ | 4,970                             | 5,126                              | 5,250                              | 4,733                                |
| Border Workers – MIQ                                      | ↓ | 8 <sup>(2)</sup>                  | 5 <sup>(2)</sup>                   | 23 <sup>(2)</sup>                  | 3 <sup>(2)</sup>                     |
| Border Workers – MIF                                      | ↑ | 1,541                             | 2,476                              | 1,878                              | 2,049                                |
| Border Workers – Air Crew                                 | ↓ | 130                               | 131                                | 144                                | 101                                  |
| Border Workers – Airport Staff                            | ↓ | 449 <sup>(3)</sup>                | 544 <sup>(3)</sup>                 | 566 <sup>(3)</sup>                 | 448 <sup>(3)</sup>                   |
| Border Workers – Sea port staff                           | ↓ | 1,352                             | 1,313                              | 1,378                              | 1,287                                |
| Border Workers – Maritime crew                            | ↓ | 252                               | 144                                | 239                                | 103                                  |
| Background Community Testing (GPs and other Primary Care) | ↓ | 13,517                            | 68,140                             | 160,310                            | 62,252                               |
| CBAC Testing  | ↓ | 12,419                            | 41,666                             | 55,088                             | 17,660                               |
| Contact Tracing <sup>(1)</sup>                            | ↓ | 399                               | 13,858                             | 34,347                             | 17,400                               |
| <b>Total tests <sup>(4)</sup></b>                         | ↓ | <b>35,037</b>                     | <b>133,403</b>                     | <b>259,223</b>                     | <b>106,036</b>                       |

(1) For the purposes of this table, contact tracing numbers are netted off from the CBAC testing volumes.  
 (2) Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as MIQF border workers from Jet Park Auckland, as Auckland DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for.  
 (3) Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as airport staff from Auckland DHB, as the DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for.  
 (4) Saliva tests are currently not included in the number of total tests as saliva tests do not have SURV codes.

## TESTING COMMENTARY

### Community testing

In response to the community outbreak, which so far has been predominantly centred in Auckland, the number of tests performed nationwide over the last two weeks has greatly increased. However, this week the number of tests has been steadily decreasing.

Auckland DHB has confirmed that, to date, they have been able to increase capacity and respond to developments as required. Over the past week, to ensure adequate testing facilities were available, up to 22 testing sites have been in operation across the Auckland region. NRHCC has also set up restricted testing centres across the region for household contacts of confirmed cases, high risk groups, critical workers and people with disabilities for whom accessing testing at another testing site may be challenging. NRHCC has commenced planning to scale down the number of CTCs operating in line with testing demand decreases. As of Sunday 5 September, there were 22 CTCs operating.

In Wellington, one pop-up site was operating this week but has closed as demand has decreased. The three regular CTCs across the region continue to operate. CCDHB and HVDHB both noted that testing volumes continue to return to the levels seen before the Auckland Delta community outbreak.

Canterbury DHB confirmed that the number of tests has been dropping steadily each day, from the record high seen in the previous week. Hawke's Bay DHB also highlighted that with no community case identified in the Hawke's Bay region to date, the DHB had seen a significant drop in testing rates. However, it is working to remind essential businesses to encourage staff who are unwell with cold and flu-like symptoms to be tested.

Wastewater testing continues at ESR facilities across the country and as of 10:00am on 4 September, there have been no unexpected detections. SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected in a sample collected from Rotorua on 2 September, which is consistent with a known case staying at a Rotorua MIQ facility when wastewater sampling was taking place on 1 and 2 September. Further samples will be collected on Tuesday and Thursday next week. In all, analysis during this outbreak has included samples from 154 sites, covering 3.8 million people. There are 103 locations in the North Island, and 51 locations in the South Island.

### Border testing

Surveillance saliva testing of border workers commenced on 11 August. There are now 25 sites and 60 collection points up and running across the country. As of 5 September, 833 border workers have opted into saliva testing, compared to 760 at this time last week. The roll out to the two new MIQFs in Auckland is being accelerated to enable regular saliva testing to be undertaken at all three MIQFs there, in addition to Jet Park, from next week. The programme team is continuing to seek and act on feedback from workers and PCBUs. Follow up includes targeted Q&A sessions, updates to FAQs and regular communications updates.

**Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQF):** Testing activity at managed isolation facilities remains stable. An apparent decrease in the number of tests of managed quarantine facility border workers at Jet Park is due to a reporting issue. This has now been resolved. Staffing numbers provided by MBIE remain consistent and rates of testing at this facility are also consistently high, at close to 100%.

**Airports/Air Crew:** The testing numbers for aircrew and airport staff are lower than expected. A recent decrease has been observed consistent with fewer flights operating during the community outbreak. However, MoH is also investigating with Auckland DHBs into a recording issue for tests performed at Auckland Airport. Canterbury DHB reported this week that testing at Christchurch airport remains stable.

**Ports/ Maritime:** Overall, the numbers of maritime border workers tested remains stable with some week-to-week variation consistent with variations in shift patterns. Northland DHB reported this week that it had seen an increase in maritime crew testing numbers.

## DHB TESTING BY ETHNICITY

Rate per 1000 people tested for COVID-19 from 22 August – 4 September 2021

| Prioritised ethnicity MPAO |             |              |             |             |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| DHB of Domicile            | Maori       | Pacific      | Asian       | Other       | Total       |
| Auckland                   | 101.6       | 172.0        | 95.7        | 105.4       | 113.8       |
| Bay of Plenty              | 28.9        | 50.4         | 27.9        | 31.7        | 31.2        |
| Canterbury                 | 27.8        | 38.1         | 28.3        | 28.2        | 28.9        |
| Capital & Coast            | 42.0        | 66.5         | 40.9        | 43.5        | 45.2        |
| Counties Manukau           | 105.3       | 228.4        | 92.0        | 81.2        | 119.7       |
| Hawke's Bay                | 23.1        | 41.3         | 24.2        | 26.8        | 26.6        |
| Hutt Valley                | 23.6        | 41.4         | 31.6        | 26.0        | 27.6        |
| Lakes                      | 28.1        | 47.4         | 35.0        | 30.2        | 30.6        |
| MidCentral                 | 23.1        | 29.7         | 27.4        | 24.3        | 24.7        |
| Nelson Marlborough         | 29.2        | 46.1         | 31.1        | 31.8        | 32.1        |
| Northland                  | 30.8        | 36.7         | 31.4        | 32.9        | 32.5        |
| South Canterbury           | 26.0        | 73.7         | 35.1        | 23.9        | 25.1        |
| Southern                   | 20.4        | 30.2         | 20.1        | 23.3        | 23.1        |
| Tairāwhiti                 | 20.9        | 29.5         | 41.1        | 24.2        | 23.2        |
| Taranaki                   | 25.0        | 49.5         | 28.7        | 27.7        | 27.7        |
| Waikato                    | 30.8        | 39.5         | 31.8        | 29.6        | 30.9        |
| Wairarapa                  | 24.1        | 37.3         | 24.9        | 26.5        | 26.5        |
| Waitemata                  | 105.6       | 177.0        | 124.1       | 108.2       | 117.0       |
| West Coast                 | 14.2        | 35.6         | 14.1        | 15.3        | 15.5        |
| Whanganui                  | 20.4        | 25.0         | 18.8        | 21.4        | 21.3        |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>47.0</b> | <b>154.7</b> | <b>76.2</b> | <b>48.9</b> | <b>60.6</b> |

# COVID-19 weekly situation update

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| <b>Pre- &amp; Border Settings, Managed Isolation &amp; Quarantine</b><br><i>Strong but proportionate border settings flex and adapt as health security settings shift</i>   |  |
| <b>Detection &amp; Surveillance</b><br><i>Best-evidence protocols ensure cases are detected and transmission is controlled</i>  |  |
| <b>Contact Tracing &amp; Case Management</b><br><i>Targeted and timely activities minimise impacts of new outbreaks across the community and health system</i>  |  |
| <b>Stronger Public Health Measures</b><br><i>Public adherence to tailored health interventions is high due to trust and confidence in our health settings</i>   |  |
| <b>Health System Preparedness &amp; Resilience</b><br><i>Proactive planning ensures a proportionate response to manage future impacts of COVID-19 and maintain other services</i>   |  |
| <b>PRIORITY: COVID-19 Immunisation Programme</b><br><i>Targeted and timely roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to manage and mitigate the risk of on-going harm to the community. Updates on this Programme are provided separately.</i> |  |

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

New Zealand has performed well against its elimination strategy; however, we need to continue to remain vigilant and responsive, especially given the novel COVID-19 variant strains.

**As at 9.00am 10 September 2021, there are 590 active community cases and there are 27 active imported cases in Managed Isolation Facilities.**

As at 9.00am 10 September, there has been an increase of 11 cases in the community since the day prior.

There are currently 8 epidemiologically linked subclusters identified within this outbreak. The 2 largest clusters are the Birkdale Social Network cluster associated with Case A (76 confirmed cases), and a cluster associated with the Assembly of God church in Mangere (374 confirmed cases).

As at 9:00am 10 September, 38,061 contacts have been identified. Of these, 33,547 are close contacts and 1,158 are close plus contacts, and 3,356 are casual plus contacts.

Over 500,000 tests have been processed since the start of this current outbreak, with a record high of 49,746 tests processed on 24 August 2021.

Following Cabinet's decision on Monday 6 September, all of New Zealand moved to Alert Level 2 on Tuesday 7 September 2021 at 11.59pm, with Auckland to remain at Alert Level 4 for at least another week.

Cabinet will review the public health risk for Auckland and the rest of New Zealand on Monday 13 September 2021.

## FOCUS FOR WEEK AHEAD

- The response to the current community outbreak.
- Continuing to focus on the operational contact tracing response.
- Preparation for the NFC tag trial which will commence over the coming weeks as participating entities adjust to Alert Level 2.
- Input to papers/pilots as part of Reconnecting NZ.
- Procurement of Rapid Antigen Tests to utilise in controlled pilot(s).
- Recruitment to fill gaps in the COVID-19 Laboratory Testing team.

## CONTACT TRACING

31 August – 6 September for all community cases and associated close plus contacts\*

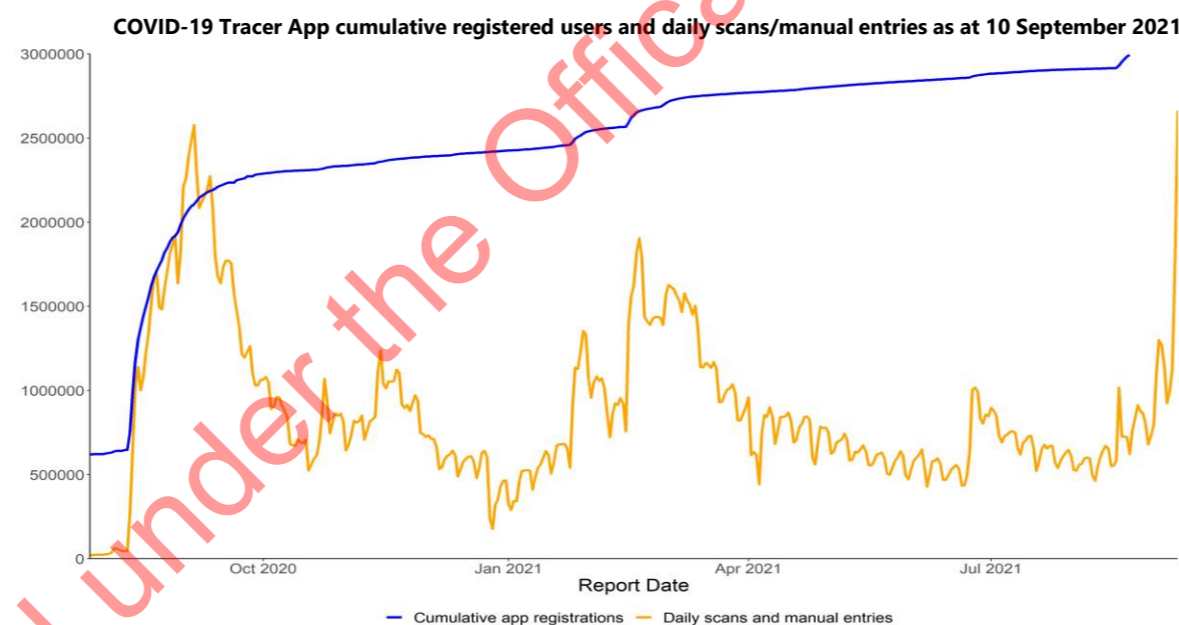
| Contact tracing activity                                       | Target               | Performance |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Time notification to case interview                            | ≥80% within 24 hours | 95%         |
| Time case notification to isolation / quarantine of contact    | ≥80% within 48 hours | 93%         |
| Time from close contact identification to isolated/quarantined | ≥80% within 24 hours | 93%         |
| Proportion of contacts traced                                  | ≥80% within 48 hours | 98%         |

**For week 31 August – 6 September (cases notified during this period)** **98%** **Of close plus contacts traced within 2 days of case notification**  
*Target: 80% within 2 days of case notification*

\*Due to the high volumes of contacts the contact tracing service is prioritising their efforts to have a focus on high-risk contacts from higher risk locations. Close plus contacts are classified as part of the higher risk contacts and are therefore the subject population for this table.

## NZ COVID TRACER APP

Poster resend bulk email (including advice to all poster holders) was completed on 9 September.



## CAPACITY AT BORDER SERVICES (MIQ)

Status: We continue to focus on supporting the Auckland health workforce during the current outbreak. Other focus areas include, implementation of a day 6/7 surveillance test for returnees by the end of September and development of a returnee saliva testing pilot.

| OCCUPANCY & CAPACITY           | AKL              | WKO            | ROT            | WLG          | CHCH           | TOTAL            |                |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| Current Occupancy              | Isolation: 2,495 | Isolation: 156 | Isolation: 477 | Isolation: 0 | Isolation: 789 | Isolation: 3,852 | ↔              |
|                                | Quarantine: 696  |                |                |              |                |                  | Quarantine: 10 |
| Number of Community Cases      | 457              | 125            | 0              | 8            | 0              | 590              | ↓              |
| Capacity for Region (MIF only) | 3,857            | 213            | 412            | 0            | 1,728          | 6,210            | ↓              |

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: We have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce currently. However, ongoing vigilance is required.

The Ministry is confident it has good stocks of PPE available, with at least eight weeks of stock based on forecast usage at high pandemic volumes and 36 weeks on average at low usage rate. Figures as at 10 September 2021 for the week reflect low usage.

| Item                         | Quantity on hand week commencing 10 September 21 | Current Usage (weekly) | Weeks on hand (current usage) |   |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Nitrile gloves               | 281,704,889                                      | 4,846,320              | 58                            | ↓ |
| Isolation gowns              | 16,189,677                                       | 581,670                | 28                            | ↓ |
| N95s                         | 19,951,641                                       | 867,724                | 23                            | ↓ |
| Procedure masks              | 267,911,037                                      | 3,838,900              | 70                            | ↓ |
| Face shields                 | 1,271,931  | 152,270                | 9                             | ↓ |
| Goggles/Glasses              | 1,563,498  | 43,323                 | 36                            | ↓ |
| Aprons                       | 14,952,663                                       | 293,750                | 50                            | ↓ |
| Hand sanitiser (500ml equiv) | 931,701  | 48,279                 | 20                            | ↓ |

This week whilst higher than normal, usage has reduced by 70%. We do not expect this level of demand to be maintained. Additional contingency supply discussions to be held with health and disability sectors operating in Alert Level 2.

## LAB TESTING

Status: Sufficient capacity for current demand.

As at 9 September, 3,114,087 tests have been conducted.

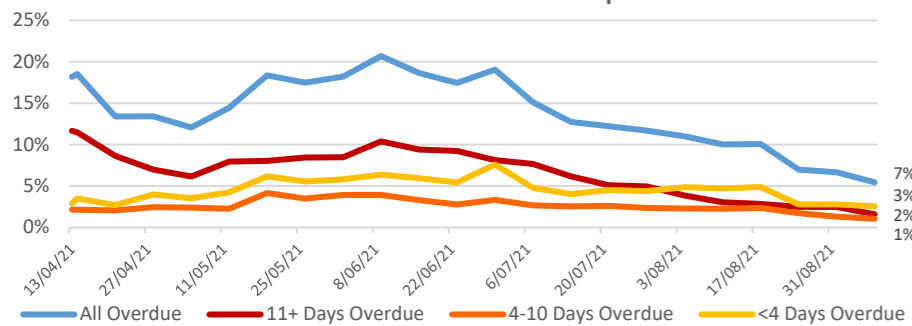
|  |         |   |
|--|---------|---|
| Average daily number of tests this week (rolling)                | 11,035  |   |
| Total tested across New Zealand between 3 – 9 September          | 77,244  | ↓ |
| <b>NATIONAL CAPACITY</b>   |         |   |
| Maximum daily testing capacity across all labs as at 9 September | 52,180  | ↑ |
| Test supplies in stock as at 9 September                         | 181,547 | ↓ |

# COVID-19 weekly situation update – testing



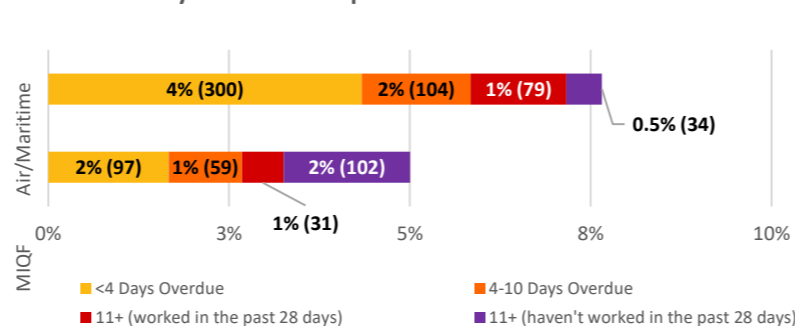
## BORDER WORKERS IN THE BORDER WORKER TESTING REGISTER (BWTR)

Active workers - Rate of non-compliance



This graph shows the trend over time of the proportion of workers that are overdue for testing and by how many days as at 8 September 2021

Analysis of non-compliance - All 'active' workers



This graph shows the proportion of Air/Maritime and MIQF workers that are currently overdue for testing and by how many days as at 8 September 2021

## TESTING COMMENTARY

### Community testing

In response to the Delta Community Outbreak, which so far has been predominantly centred in Auckland, the number of tests performed nationwide last month greatly increased. Although the number of tests being performed has steadily decreased over the past 10 days, an increase was noticed over the past two days. This is likely to be a result of the targeted requests for asymptomatic testing and the announcement of testing required for permitted workers crossing Alert Level boundaries.

Auckland DHB has confirmed that, to date, they have been able to increase capacity and respond to developments as required. Over the past week adequate testing facilities were available with over 20 testing sites in operation across the Auckland region.

Lakes DHB confirmed the number of people seeking a test at CTCs has dropped from a peak of just over 500 on 20 August to daily numbers of 60-80. Mid Central DHB also reported a decrease in testing numbers. The busiest day being Monday 30 August, with 345 tests, decreasing to 35 tests on Sunday 5th September.

Waikato DHB reported this week that while demand for testing at CTCs is decreasing, the DHB is still working through some Day 12 tests and have completed some close contact, at home tests, for their population who have challenges getting to testing sites.

Wastewater testing continues at ESR facilities across the country and as of 10:00am on 9 September, there have been no unexpected detections. SARS-CoV-2 RNA continues to be detected in the Auckland area. In all, analysis during this outbreak has included samples from 154 sites, covering 3.8 million people. There are 103 locations in the North island, and 51 locations in the South Island.

### Border testing

Surveillance saliva testing of border workers commenced on 11 August. There are now 28 sites and 63 collection points operating across the country. As of 9 September, 1003 border workers have opted into saliva testing, compared to 815 at this time last week. The roll out of saliva testing to the two new MIQFs in Auckland is being accelerated to enable regular saliva testing to be undertaken at all three MIQFs. The programme team is continuing to seek and act on feedback from workers and PCBUs. Follow up includes targeted Q&A sessions, updates to FAQs and regular comms updates.

**Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQF):** Testing activity at managed isolation facilities remains stable. An apparent decrease in the number of tests of managed quarantine facility border workers at Jet Park is due to a reporting issue. This has now been resolved. Staffing numbers provided by MBIE remain consistent and rates of testing at this facility are also consistently high, at close to 100%.

**Airports/Air Crew:** The testing numbers for aircrew and airport staff are lower as expected. A recent decrease has been observed consistent with fewer flights operating during the community outbreak. Canterbury DHB reported this week that testing at Christchurch airport continues to remain stable.

**Ports/ Maritime:** Overall, the numbers of maritime border workers tested remains stable with some week-to-week variation consistent with variations in shift patterns. Canterbury DHB reported this week that they have observed a decrease in testing of maritime crew.

## DHB TESTING BY ETHNICITY

Rate per 1000 people tested for COVID-19 from 27 August – 9 September 2021

| Prioritised ethnicity MPAO |             |              |             |             |             |
|----------------------------|-------------|--------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| DHB of Domicile            | Maori       | Pacific      | Asian       | Other       | Total       |
| Auckland                   | 66.2        | 113.6        | 58.3        | 64.7        | 72.2        |
| Bay of Plenty              | 18.9        | 36.7         | 17.6        | 19.2        | 19.5        |
| Canterbury                 | 18.5        | 25.4         | 19.2        | 17.4        | 18.2        |
| Capital & Coast            | 22          | 29.4         | 20.4        | 21.9        | 22.6        |
| Counties Manukau           | 77.6        | 156.7        | 67          | 59.8        | 85.5        |
| Hawke's Bay                | 14          | 21.3         | 13.1        | 14.3        | 14.8        |
| Hutt Valley                | 15.3        | 23.9         | 18.1        | 16.1        | 16.9        |
| Lakes                      | 19.6        | 33.3         | 27          | 19.2        | 20.6        |
| MidCentral                 | 14.4        | 18.9         | 16.8        | 15.1        | 15.4        |
| Nelson Marlborough         | 20.9        | 31.6         | 25.3        | 22          | 22.5        |
| Northland                  | 22.3        | 30.6         | 20.4        | 23.1        | 23.1        |
| South Canterbury           | 26.6        | 79.9         | 36.8        | 25.1        | 26.3        |
| Southern                   | 12          | 17.9         | 11.2        | 13          | 13          |
| Tairāwhiti                 | 14.4        | 17           | 25.7        | 13.3        | 14.8        |
| Taranaki                   | 16.7        | 33.8         | 20.1        | 18.1        | 18.3        |
| Waikato                    | 21.5        | 26.9         | 22.2        | 20.2        | 21.3        |
| Wairarapa                  | 14          | 21.7         | 14.4        | 15          | 15.2        |
| Waitemata                  | 66.7        | 117.7        | 75.1        | 67.7        | 73.2        |
| West Coast                 | 6.4         | 11.9         | 8.6         | 7.7         | 7.7         |
| Whanganui                  | 12.1        | 13.1         | 9.2         | 12          | 12.1        |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>31.6</b> | <b>103.4</b> | <b>48.7</b> | <b>30.9</b> | <b>39.2</b> |

| PCBUs        | Total Workers | Active workers | Testing Compliance |              |             | Vaccination Status |           |
|--------------|---------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------|-------------|--------------------|-----------|
|              |               |                | All time           | Past 28 days | Past 7 days | One Dose           | Two Doses |
| MBIE         | 1             | All            | 93%                | 94%          | 95%         | 6%                 |           |
| MIQF Teams   | 300           | MIQF           | 95%                | 96%          | 99%         | 89%                |           |
| Air/Maritime | 264           | Other          | 92%                | 91%          | 92%         |                    |           |

- PCBUs** - There are 265 PCBUs in the BWTR of which MBIE is one. Eight new PCBUs were added in the past week.
- Compliance** - 93% of all active workers are compliant with testing (95% for MIQFs, 92% for Air/Maritime). For those working in the past 28 days, 94% are compliant (96% for MIQFs, 91% for Air/Maritime). Of those border workers working last week 95% were compliant (99% for MIQFs, 92% for Air/Maritime). The rate of all active workers 11+ days overdue has dropped from 10% on 9 June to 2% today.
- Addressing Non-Compliance** - Last week MoH contacted 23 PCBUs and 92 workers. MBIE contacted 98 PCBUs and 259 workers. MoH sent 14 directive letters to workers last week, in total 142 have now been sent. MoH also did not need to send any infringement notices last week, in total 53 have now been issued. MBIE escalated 9 workers to MoH this week for further action; 99 referrals have now been made in total and 49 of these workers are now compliant. All border worker monitoring and compliance activity is continuing as usual during the heightened alert levels and response period.
- Saliva testing** - 885 border workers have opted into saliva testing to date, compared to 793 at the same time last week. 525 of these workers are now undertaking saliva testing, of which 100 work in MIQFs and 425 work at the Air or Maritime Borders. 92% are compliant with testing requirements (93% for MIQFs and 92% for Air/Maritime).

## REASONS FOR NO TEST BY DEPARTURE DATE FROM FACILITY

| Reason               | 12 August – 18 August | 19 August – 25 August | 26 August – 1 September | 2 September – 8 September |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|
| Total                | 5                     | 73                    | 39                      | 41                        |
| Child <sup>(1)</sup> | 3                     | 22                    | 3                       | 0                         |
| Clinical reasons     | 1                     | 0                     | 0                       | 0                         |
| No consent given     | 0                     | 0                     | 0                       | 0                         |
| Other <sup>(2)</sup> | 1 <sup>(3)</sup>      | 51 <sup>(3)</sup>     | 36 <sup>(3)</sup>       | 41 <sup>(3)</sup>         |

(1) "Child" generally refers to under 6 months of age  
 (2) "Other" reasons include guests who had a symptomatic test instead, or had a swab in a hospital  
 (3) There are a large number of day 0/1 tests entered in error as the guest was not from a high-risk country so was not required to be tested. These appear as 'other' in the data  
 These figures are based on numbers of times no test is performed, not on individuals (i.e. as tests are performed on day 3 and day 12, there will be multiple times an individual may not receive a test)

## TESTING AND TESTING SITES

| Stream  | Total tested 12 August – 18 August | Total tested 19 August – 25 August | Total tested 26 August – 1 September | Total tested 2 September – 8 September |
|---|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|
| Guest – MIF and MIQ                                       | 5,323                              | 5,436                              | 4,777                                | 4,397                                  |
| Border Workers – MIQ                                      | 7 <sup>(2)</sup>                   | 11 <sup>(2)</sup>                  | 12 <sup>(2)</sup>                    | 7 <sup>(2)</sup>                       |
| Border Workers – MIF                                      | 1,886                              | 2,356                              | 2,053                                | 1,731                                  |
| Border Workers – Air Crew                                 | 146                                | 150                                | 106                                  | 109                                    |
| Border Workers – Airport Staff                            | 486 <sup>(3)</sup>                 | 609 <sup>(3)</sup>                 | 530 <sup>(3)</sup>                   | 410 <sup>(3)</sup>                     |
| Border Workers – Sea port staff                           | 1,275                              | 1,566                              | 1,276                                | 1,204                                  |
| Border Workers – Maritime crew                            | 170                                | 209                                | 141                                  | 144                                    |
| Background Community Testing (GPs and other Primary Care) | 16,958                             | 155,797                            | 105,605                              | 40,670                                 |
| CBAC Testing  | 14,789                             | 72,607                             | 27,010                               | 22,717                                 |
| Contact Tracing <sup>(1)</sup>                            | 719                                | 31,640                             | 28,047                               | 4,600                                  |
| <b>Total tests <sup>(4)</sup></b>                         | <b>41,759</b>                      | <b>270,381</b>                     | <b>169,557</b>                       | <b>75,989</b>                          |

(1) For the purposes of this table, contact tracing numbers are netted off from the CBAC testing volumes.  
 (2) Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as MIQF border workers from Jet Park Auckland, as Auckland DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for.  
 (3) Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as airport staff from Auckland DHB, as the DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for.  
 (4) Saliva tests are currently not included in the number of total tests as saliva tests do not have SURV codes.

# COVID-19 weekly situation update

## PILLARS OF THE COVID-19 ELIMINATION STRATEGY

New Zealand's elimination strategy is a sustained approach to 'Keep it Out', 'Prepare for It', 'Stamp it Out' and 'Manage the Impact'. We do this through:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Pre- &amp; Border Settings, Managed Isolation &amp; Quarantine</b><br><i>Strong but proportionate border settings flex and adapt as health security settings shift</i>   |  |
| <b>Detection &amp; Surveillance</b><br><i>Best-evidence protocols ensure cases are detected and transmission is controlled</i>  |  |
| <b>Contact Tracing &amp; Case Management</b><br><i>Targeted and timely activities minimise impacts of new outbreaks across the community and health system</i>  |  |
| <b>Stronger Public Health Measures</b><br><i>Public adherence to tailored health interventions is high due to trust and confidence in our health settings</i>   |  |
| <b>Health System Preparedness &amp; Resilience</b><br><i>Proactive planning ensures a proportionate response to manage future impacts of COVID-19 and maintain other services</i>   |  |
| <b>PRIORITY: COVID-19 Immunisation Programme</b><br><i>Targeted and timely roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to manage and mitigate the risk of on-going harm to the community. Updates on this Programme are provided separately.</i> |  |

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

New Zealand has performed well against its elimination strategy; however, we need to continue to remain vigilant and responsive, especially given the novel COVID-19 variant strains.

**As at 9.00am 17 September 2021, there are 457 active community cases and 32 active imported cases in Managed Isolation Facilities.**

As at 9.00am 17 September, there has been an increase of 11 cases in the community since the day prior.

There are currently 9 epidemiologically linked subclusters identified within this outbreak. The 3 largest clusters are the Birkdale Social Network cluster associated with Case A (79 confirmed cases), the Assembly of God church cluster in Mangere (384 confirmed cases), and the secondary community transmission cluster associated with the AOG church (164 confirmed cases).

On 13 September 2021, the Prime Minister announced that Auckland would remain at Alert Level 4 and the rest of New Zealand would remain at Alert Level 2 until 11:59pm Tuesday 21 September.

Wastewater samples have from 155 locations during this outbreak have been analysed. There are 103 locations in the North Island and 52 locations in South Island. These cover an estimated 3.8 million people, and 95% of the New Zealand population connected to reticulated wastewater systems.

As at 15 September, close to 600,000 tests have been processed since the start of this current outbreak.

## FOCUS FOR WEEK AHEAD

- Continued response to the current community outbreak.
- Continuing to focus on the operational contact tracing response.
- Continuing with the NFC tag trial planning and execution.
- Covid Tracer App Release 9 Discovery to resume.
- Planning Release 2 of Location of Interest form.
- Review of response to outbreak to date.
- Input to papers/pilots as part of Reconnecting NZ.
- Input to the Quarantine Free Travel for Recognised Seasonal Employers pilot.
- Input to work to review policy around use of Rapid Antigen Tests outside of identified pilots.

## CONTACT TRACING

7 - 13 September for all community cases and associated close plus contacts\*

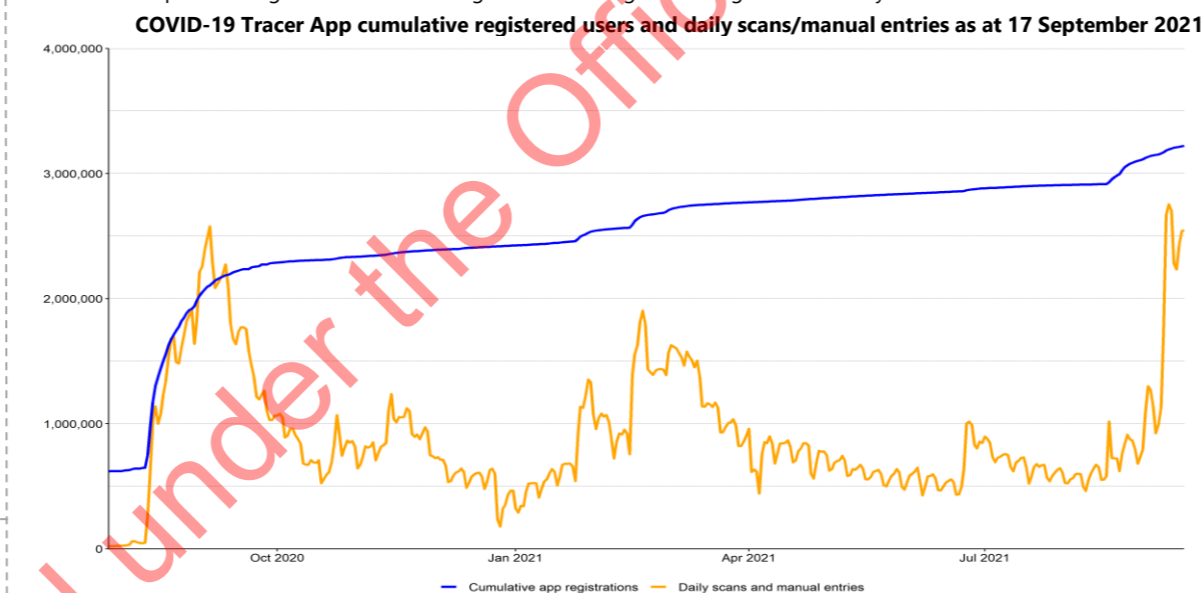
| Contact tracing activity                                       | Target               | Performance |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Time notification to case interview                            | ≥80% within 24 hours | 93%         |
| Time case notification to isolation / quarantine of contact    | ≥80% within 48 hours | 92%         |
| Time from close contact identification to isolated/quarantined | ≥80% within 24 hours | 96%         |
| Proportion of contacts traced                                  | ≥80% within 48 hours | 100%        |

For week 7 - 13 September (cases notified during this period) **100%** Of close plus contacts traced within 2 days of case notification  
*Target: 80% within 2 days of case notification*

\*Due to the high volumes of contacts the contact tracing service is prioritising their efforts to have a focus on high-risk contacts from higher risk locations. Close plus contacts are classified as part of the higher risk contacts and are therefore the subject population for this table.

## NZ COVID TRACER APP

Since August 17, over 11,000 people have been alerted through the app that they scanned in at a location of interest. Over a million people each day are scanning in since the move to Level 2 outside Auckland. Businesses outside Auckland have been sent new poster designs. A trial of scanning in with NFC tags is starting at the Ministry of Health.



## CAPACITY AT BORDER SERVICES (MIQ)

Status: Day 6/7 testing for returnees on the same floor (in proximity to) cases identified via day 0/1 or 3 testing is in place. Day 6/7 testing for all returnees will be implemented for cohorts arriving from 30 September 2021. Planning for the returnee saliva testing pilot is underway, expected to commence late October.

| OCCUPANCY & CAPACITY           | AKL              | WKO            | ROT            | WLG          | CHCH           | TOTAL            |               |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Current Occupancy              | Isolation: 2,165 | Isolation: 105 | Isolation: 375 | Isolation: 0 | Isolation: 939 | Isolation: 3,584 | ↓             |
|                                | Quarantine: 375  |                |                |              |                |                  | Quarantine: 3 |
| Number of Community Cases      | 455              | 0              | 0              | 2            | 0              | 457              | ↓             |
| Capacity for Region (MIF only) | 3,857            | 204            | 393            | 104          | 1,651          | 6,209            | ↓             |

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: We have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce currently. However, ongoing vigilance is required.

The Ministry is confident it has good stocks of PPE available, with at least eight weeks of stock based on forecast usage at high pandemic volumes and 36 weeks on average at low usage rate. Figures as at 17 September 2021 for the week reflect low usage.

| Item                         | Quantity on hand week commencing 17 September 21 | Current Usage (weekly) | Weeks on hand (current usage) |   |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Nitrile gloves               | 280,429,409                                      | 1,275,480              | 58                            | ↓ |
| Isolation gowns              | 15,912,677                                       | 277,000                | 28                            | ↓ |
| N95s                         | 19,511,898                                       | 439,743                | 23                            | ↓ |
| Procedure masks              | 266,484,837                                      | 1,426,200              | 70                            | ↓ |
| Face shields                 | 1,225,681  | 46,250                 | 9                             | ↓ |
| Goggles/Glasses              | 1,555,655  | 7,843                  | 36                            | ↓ |
| Aprons                       | 14,903,563                                       | 49,100                 | 50                            | ↓ |
| Hand sanitiser (500ml equiv) | 918,818  | 12,883                 | 20                            | ↓ |

## LAB TESTING

Status: Sufficient capacity for current demand.

As at 16 September, 3,206,325 tests have been conducted.

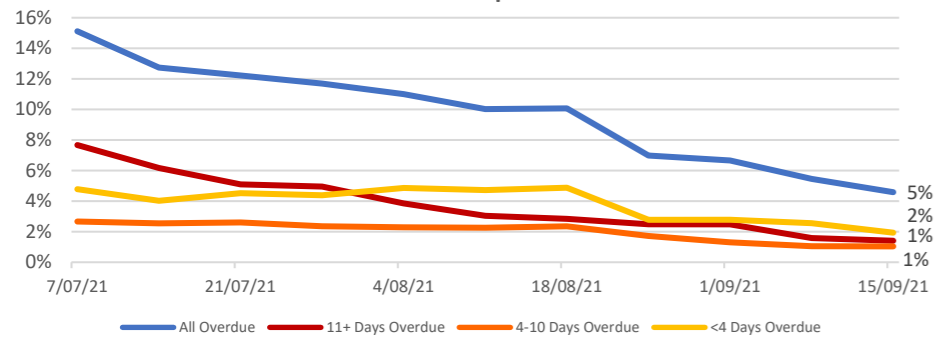
|   |         |
|---|---------|
| Average daily number of tests this week (rolling)                 | 13,177  |
| Total tested across New Zealand between 10 - 16 September         | 92,238  |
| <b>NATIONAL CAPACITY</b>  |         |
| Maximum daily testing capacity across all labs as at 16 September | 52,180  |
| Test supplies in stock as at 16 September                         | 169,656 |

# COVID-19 weekly situation update – testing



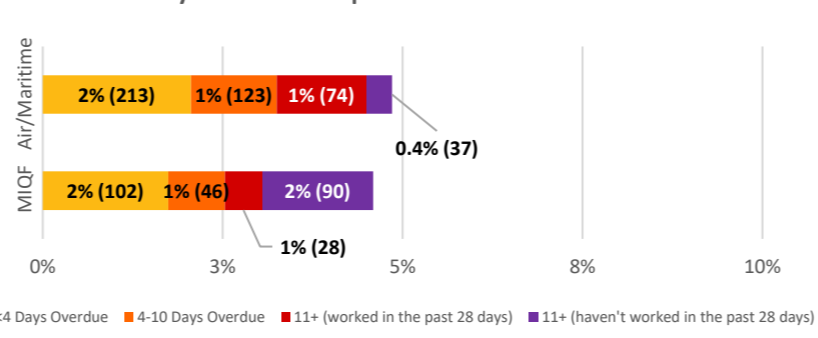
## BORDER WORKERS IN THE BORDER WORKER TESTING REGISTER (BWTR)

Active workers - Rate of non-compliance in the last 3 months



This graph shows the trend over time of the proportion of workers that are overdue for testing and by how many days as at 15 September 2021

Analysis of non-compliance - All 'active' workers



This graph shows the proportion of Air/Maritime and MIQF workers that are currently overdue for testing and by how many days as at 15 September 2021

| PCBUs        | Total Workers |        | Active workers |       | Testing Compliance |              |                   |                    | Vaccination Status |           |
|--------------|---------------|--------|----------------|-------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-----------|
|              | All           | MIQF   | All            | MIQF  | All active         | Last 28 days | Last week (Nasal) | Last week (Saliva) | One Dose           | Two Doses |
| MBIE         | 1             | 32,979 | 16,273         | MIQF  | 95%                | 95%          | 94%               | 93%                | 6%                 |           |
| MIQF Teams   | 284           | 13,581 | 5,924          | MIQF  | 95%                | 97%          | 98%               | 91%                |                    |           |
| Air/Maritime | 266           | 19,398 | 10,349         | Other | 95%                | 93%          | 93%               | 94%                |                    |           |

\* Note on temporary increase in number of air/maritime active workers – This number includes just over 3700 workers of St John NZ, and Civil Aviation Authority of NZ and Aviation Security Service (AVSEC) recently added into the BWTR. They are not currently border workers but are on the register to identify vaccinated workers as they may have to go to the border to provide medical care. Most, if not all, of these workers will revert to "inactive" status over the next two weeks after not working at the border.

- PCBUs** – There are 267 PCBUs in the BWTR of which MBIE is one. Two new PCBUs were added in the past week.
- Compliance** – 95% of all active workers are compliant with testing (95% for MIQFs, 95% for Air/Maritime). For those working in the past 28 days, 95% are compliant (97% for MIQFs, 93% for Air/Maritime). Of those border workers working last week 94% were compliant for nasal swab testing and 93% for saliva testing.
- Addressing Non-Compliance** – Last week MoH contacted 55 PCBUs and 129 workers. MBIE contacted 91 PCBUs and 201 workers. MoH sent 9 directive letters to workers last week, in total 173 have now been sent. MoH sent 4 infringement notices last week, in total 62 have now been issued. MBIE escalated 5 workers to MoH this week for further action; 104 referrals have now been made in total and 49 of these workers are now compliant. All border worker monitoring and compliance activity is continuing as usual during the heightened alert levels and response period.
- Saliva testing** – 1147 border workers have opted into saliva testing to date, compared to 885 at the same time last week. 678 of these workers are now undertaking saliva testing, of which 221 work in MIQFs and 457 work at the Air or Maritime Borders.

## REASONS FOR NO TEST BY DEPARTURE DATE FROM FACILITY

| Reason               | 19 August – 25 August | 26 August – 1 September | 2 September – 8 September | 9 September – 15 September |
|----------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| Total                | 73                    | 39                      | 45                        | 113                        |
| Child <sup>(1)</sup> | 22                    | 3                       | 0                         | 6                          |
| Clinical reasons     | 0                     | 0                       | 0                         | 0                          |
| No consent given     | 0                     | 0                       | 0                         | 1                          |
| Other <sup>(2)</sup> | 51 <sup>(3)</sup>     | 36 <sup>(3)</sup>       | 45 <sup>(3)</sup>         | 106 <sup>(3)</sup>         |

- "Child" generally refers to under 6 months of age
  - "Other" reasons include guests who had a symptomatic test instead, or had a swab in a hospital
  - There are a large number of day 0/1 tests entered in error as the guest was not from a high-risk country so was not required to be tested. These appear as 'other' in the data
- These figures are based on numbers of times no test is performed, not on individuals (i.e. as tests are performed on day 3 and day 12, there will be multiple times an individual may not receive a test)

## TESTING AND TESTING SITES

| Stream  | Total tested 19 August – 25 August | Total tested 26 August – 1 September | Total tested 2 September – 8 September | Total tested 9 September – 15 September |
|---|------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|---|
| Guest – MIF and MIQ                                       | 5,436                              | 4,776                                | 4,396                                  | 3,109                                   |
| Border Workers – MIQ                                      | 11 <sup>(2)</sup>                  | 12 <sup>(2)</sup>                    | 7 <sup>(2)</sup>                       | 15 <sup>(2)</sup>                       |
| Border Workers – MIF                                      | 2,356                              | 2,046                                | 1,728                                  | 1,899                                   |
| Border Workers – Air Crew                                 | 150                                | 106                                  | 109                                    | 214                                     |
| Border Workers – Airport Staff                            | 609 <sup>(3)</sup>                 | 529 <sup>(3)</sup>                   | 408 <sup>(3)</sup>                     | 193 <sup>(3)</sup>                      |
| Border Workers – Sea port staff                           | 1,566                              | 1,275                                | 1,203                                  | 936                                     |
| Border Workers – Maritime crew                            | 209                                | 141                                  | 143                                    | 214                                     |
| Background Community Testing (GPs and other Primary Care) | 155,567                            | 105,472                              | 40,036                                 | 51,050                                  |
| CBAC Testing  | 72,792                             | 26,990                               | 23,223                                 | 30,735                                  |
| Contact Tracing <sup>(1)</sup>                            | 31,640                             | 28,047                               | 4,600                                  | 2,636                                   |
| <b>Total tests <sup>(4)</sup></b>                         | <b>270,336</b>                     | <b>169,394</b>                       | <b>75,853</b>                          | <b>91,001</b>                           |

- For the purposes of this table, contact tracing numbers are netted off from the CBAC testing volumes.
- Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as MIQF border workers from Jet Park Auckland, as Auckland DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for.
- Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as airport staff from Auckland DHB, as the DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for.
- Saliva tests are currently not included in the number of total tests as saliva tests do not have SURV codes.

## TESTING COMMENTARY

### Community testing

In response to the community outbreak, which has been predominantly centred in Auckland, the number of tests performed nationwide last month greatly increased. Although the number of tests being performed has since decreased, it is still significantly higher than before the outbreak. This is likely to be a result of targeted asymptomatic testing and the announcement of testing required for permitted workers crossing alert level boundaries.

NRHCC has confirmed that, to date, they have been able to increase capacity and respond to public health requirements appropriately. Over the past week adequate testing facilities have been available with over 20 testing sites operating across the Auckland region. A programme to provide additional testing locations, in the form of mini pop-ups at places of worship, priority localities and workplaces is underway.

Hawke's Bay DHB reported that testing numbers have remained steady over the last week with higher numbers of Māori being tested daily than previously observed. The DHB is continuing with the promotion of messages for people to get tested if unwell with cold and flu like symptoms, maintaining access to testing for Māori, Pacifica, and rural communities and prioritising testing of essential workers.

Waikato DHB reported this week that while community testing numbers have slowed down over the week, testing requirements for workers crossing the boundary have increased the overall testing demand. Wastewater testing continues at ESR facilities across the country. SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected in a sample collected on 8 September from Pukekohe. Following this positive wastewater result, Auckland DHB has increased testing capacity at the Pukekohe pop-up. Re-testing in and around Snell's Beach is also being carried out in response to a positive wastewater sample.

### Border testing

Surveillance saliva testing of border workers commenced on 11 August. There are now 29 sites and 75 collection points operating across the country. As of 16 September, 1157 border workers have opted into saliva testing, compared to 926 at this time last week. The roll out of saliva testing to the two new managed quarantine facilities in Auckland has been completed and staff are being encouraged to undertake daily saliva testing. The programme team is continuing to seek and act on feedback from workers and PCBUs. Follow up includes targeted Q&A sessions, updates to FAQs and regular comms updates.

**Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQF):** NRHCC reported that the day 6 corridor nasopharyngeal testing has been rolled out successfully at all three Managed Quarantine Facility sites. The DHB anticipates rolling out day 6 testing for all MIQFs, however, the date is yet to be confirmed.

Canterbury DHB is planning for large numbers of NZDF staff to be tested at Burnham whilst they are isolating between their Auckland MIQF placements.

**Airports/Air Crew:** NRHCC reported that airport testing volumes have remained stable. There are now two locations to drop off saliva tests with one being accessible 24/7. The DHB has observed a small number of airport staff attending the clinic for alert level boundary crossing tests.

Canterbury DHB reported this week that they have observed an increase in testing due to increasing numbers of Air New Zealand staff now requiring regular testing as they fly domestic routes crossing the alert level boundaries.

**Ports/ Maritime:** Canterbury DHB reported that they are planning testing of mariners over the next three weeks, when marine crew changes are scheduled to occur. Northland and Tairāwhiti DHB reported that maritime testing continues to remain stable.

## DHB TESTING BY ETHNICITY

Rate per 1000 people tested for COVID-19 from 3 September – 16 September 2021

| DHB of Domicile            | Prioritised ethnicity MPAO |             |             |             |             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                            | Maori                      | Pacific     | Asian       | Other       | Total       |
| <b>Auckland</b>            | 50.0                       | 64.0        | 34.2        | 51.5        | <b>51.1</b> |
| <b>Bay of Plenty</b>       | 16.5                       | 32.9        | 16.6        | 16.1        | <b>16.8</b> |
| <b>Canterbury</b>          | 14.7                       | 19.0        | 14.5        | 13.0        | <b>13.8</b> |
| <b>Capital &amp; Coast</b> | 14.2                       | 18.8        | 11.7        | 16.0        | <b>15.7</b> |
| <b>Counties Manukau</b>    | 72.9                       | 110.9       | 57.3        | 55.3        | <b>70.8</b> |
| <b>Hawke's Bay</b>         | 11.3                       | 15.9        | 9.8         | 10.7        | <b>11.1</b> |
| <b>Hutt Valley</b>         | 12.0                       | 15.8        | 13.1        | 12.4        | <b>12.8</b> |
| <b>Lakes</b>               | 18.2                       | 22.7        | 21.6        | 16.1        | <b>17.7</b> |
| <b>MidCentral</b>          | 13.6                       | 15.5        | 12.6        | 13.2        | <b>13.5</b> |
| <b>Nelson Marlborough</b>  | 14.0                       | 20.2        | 15.6        | 12.3        | <b>13.0</b> |
| <b>Northland</b>           | 25.1                       | 33.3        | 18.6        | 23.2        | <b>24.1</b> |
| <b>South Canterbury</b>    | 9.0                        | 38.9        | 9.7         | 7.9         | <b>8.5</b>  |
| <b>Southern</b>            | 8.8                        | 13.4        | 8.1         | 9.8         | <b>9.8</b>  |
| <b>Tairāwhiti</b>          | 11.7                       | 8.9         | 18.0        | 9.9         | <b>11.4</b> |
| <b>Taranaki</b>            | 13.4                       | 18.7        | 13.8        | 13.6        | <b>14.0</b> |
| <b>Waikato</b>             | 19.3                       | 22.5        | 18.8        | 18.8        | <b>19.3</b> |
| <b>Wairarapa</b>           | 10.9                       | 10.8        | 16.8        | 9.8         | <b>10.4</b> |
| <b>Waitemata</b>           | 45.9                       | 69.2        | 35.2        | 42.5        | <b>43.3</b> |
| <b>West Coast</b>          | 4.1                        | 0           | 8.6         | 5.1         | <b>5.1</b>  |
| <b>Whanganui</b>           | 10.1                       | 11.8        | 8.2         | 10.6        | <b>10.4</b> |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>26.5</b>                | <b>68.6</b> | <b>31.5</b> | <b>23.4</b> | <b>28.8</b> |

# COVID-19 weekly situation update

## PILLARS OF THE COVID-19 ELIMINATION STRATEGY

New Zealand's elimination strategy is a sustained approach to 'Keep it Out', 'Prepare for It', 'Stamp it Out' and 'Manage the Impact'. We do this through:

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Pre- &amp; Border Settings, Managed Isolation &amp; Quarantine</b><br><i>Strong but proportionate border settings flex and adapt as health security settings shift</i>   |  |
| <b>Detection &amp; Surveillance</b><br><i>Best-evidence protocols ensure cases are detected and transmission is controlled</i>  |  |
| <b>Contact Tracing &amp; Case Management</b><br><i>Targeted and timely activities minimise impacts of new outbreaks across the community and health system</i>  |  |
| <b>Stronger Public Health Measures</b><br><i>Public adherence to tailored health interventions is high due to trust and confidence in our health settings</i>   |  |
| <b>Health System Preparedness &amp; Resilience</b><br><i>Proactive planning ensures a proportionate response to manage future impacts of COVID-19 and maintain other services</i>   |  |
| <b>PRIORITY: COVID-19 Immunisation Programme</b><br><i>Targeted and timely roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to manage and mitigate the risk of on-going harm to the community. Updates on this Programme are provided separately.</i> |  |

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

New Zealand has performed well against its elimination strategy; however, we need to continue to remain vigilant and responsive, especially given the novel COVID-19 variant strains.

**As at 9.00am 24 September 2021, there are 228 active community cases and 28 active imported cases in Managed Isolation Facilities.**

As at 9.00am 24 September, there has been an increase of 9 cases in the community since the day prior.

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 to assess how to best use them in future to help identify new infections, and support outbreak investigations through screening and monitoring of disease trends.

As at 19 September, 669,196 tests have been processed since the start of this current outbreak, with a record high of 49,746 tests processed on 24 August 2021.

As at midnight 21 September 2021, 92.3 percent of swabs had been received in the lab within the last 0-24hrs, 7.7 percent had been received within 24-48hrs and 0 percent had been received after more than 48hrs. Prioritisation of swabs received is occurring to ensure high risk close contacts are processed first.

In response to the cases in the Waikato, additional wastewater samples are being collected from sites including Meremere, Maramarua, Waitakaruru, Ngatea, Paeroa, Thames and Huntly. COVID-19 RNA was not detected in samples collected on 20 September 2021 from Meremere and Maramarua.

## FOCUS FOR WEEK AHEAD

- Continued response to the current community outbreak.
- Continuing to focus on the operational contact tracing response.
- Continuing with the NFC tag trial planning and execution.
- Covid Tracer App Release 9 Discovery to resume.
- Input to papers/pilots as part of Reconnecting NZ.
- Input to work to review policy around use of Rapid Antigen Tests outside of identified pilots.
- Co-ordination of implementation plan for point of arrival testing pilot.
- Input to the Quarantine Free Travel for Recognised Seasonal Employers pilot.

## CONTACT TRACING

14 - 20 September for all community cases and associated close plus contacts\*

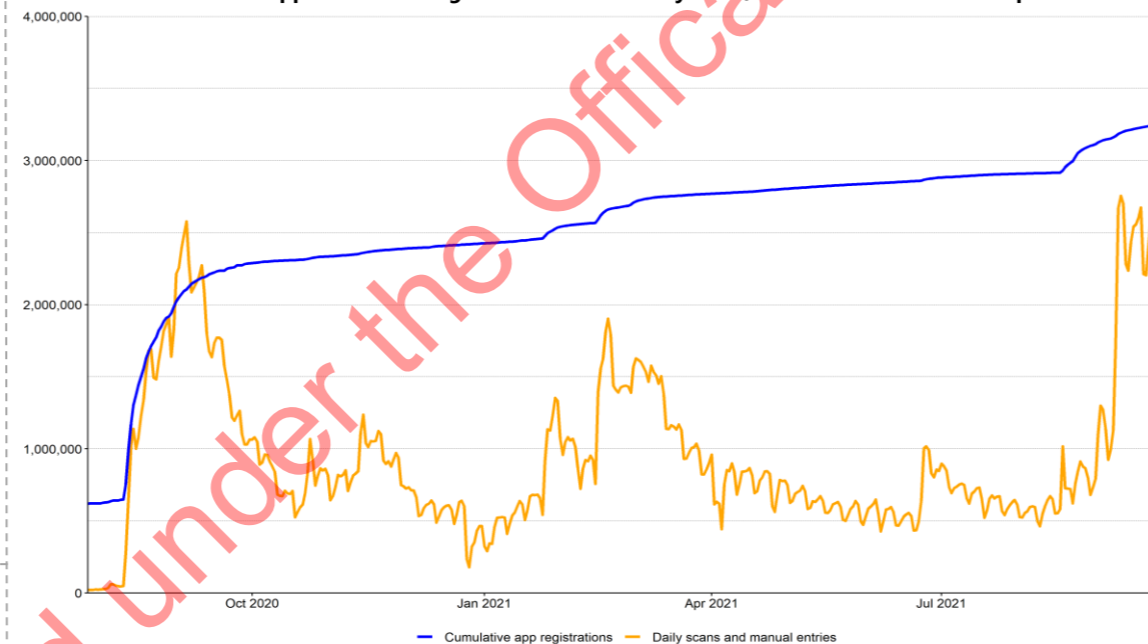
| Contact tracing activity                                       | Target               | Performance |
|--|----------------------|-------------|
| Time notification to case interview                            | ≥80% within 24 hours | 90%         |
| Time case notification to isolation / quarantine of contact    | ≥80% within 48 hours | 87%         |
| Time from close contact identification to isolated/quarantined | ≥80% within 24 hours | 88%         |
| Proportion of contacts traced                                  | ≥80% within 48 hours | 96%         |

**For week 14 - 20 September** (cases notified during this period) **87%** Of close plus contacts traced within 2 days of case notification  
 Target: 80% within 2 days of case notification

\*Due to the high volumes of contacts the contact tracing service is prioritising their efforts to have a focus on high-risk contacts from higher risk locations. Close plus contacts are classified as part of the higher risk contacts and are therefore the subject population for this table.

## NZ COVID TRACER APP

COVID-19 Tracer App cumulative registered users and daily scans/manual entries as at 24 September 2021



## CAPACITY AT BORDER SERVICES (MIQ)

Status: Day 6/7 nasopharyngeal swabbing will be implemented for all returnees arriving from 30 September 2021. Work to design a saliva testing pilot for returnees is underway, with the pilot due to be implemented in late October 2021.

| OCCUPANCY & CAPACITY           | AKL              | WKO            | ROT            | WLG          | CHCH           | TOTAL            |               |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Current Occupancy              | Isolation: 2,165 | Isolation: 105 | Isolation: 375 | Isolation: 0 | Isolation: 939 | Isolation: 3,584 | ↓             |
|                                | Quarantine: 375  |                |                |              |                |                  | Quarantine: 3 |
| Number of Community Cases      | 455              | 0              | 0              | 2            | 0              | 457              | ↓             |
| Capacity for Region (MIF only) | 3,857            | 204            | 393            | 104          | 1,651          | 6,209            | ↑             |

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: We have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce currently. However, ongoing vigilance is required.

The Ministry is confident it has good stocks of PPE available, with at least eight weeks of stock based on forecast usage at high pandemic volumes and 35 weeks on average at low usage rate. Figures as at 23 September 2021 for the week reflect low usage.

| Item                         | Quantity on hand week commencing 23 September 2021 | Current Usage (weekly) | Weeks on hand (current usage) |   |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Nitrile gloves               | 280,429,409  | 937,440                | 57                            | ↓ |
| Isolation gowns              | 15,912,677   | 162,940                | 27                            | ↓ |
| N95s                         | 19,511,898   | 203,100                | 23                            | ↓ |
| Procedure masks              | 266,484,837  | 885,600                | 69                            | ↓ |
| Face shields                 | 1,225,681  | 48,120                 | 9                             | ↓ |
| Goggles/Glasses              | 1,555,655  | 2,376                  | 36                            | ↓ |
| Aprons                       | 14,903,563   | 27,600                 | 49                            | ↓ |
| Hand sanitiser (500ml equiv) | 918,818  | 9,322                  | 19                            | ↓ |

Noting logistics and global manufacturing constraints ahead of December/January peaks, the Ministry of Health has placed forward orders across PPE supply items based on usage rates experienced in the second week of raised Alert Levels.

## LAB TESTING

Status: Sufficient capacity for current demand.

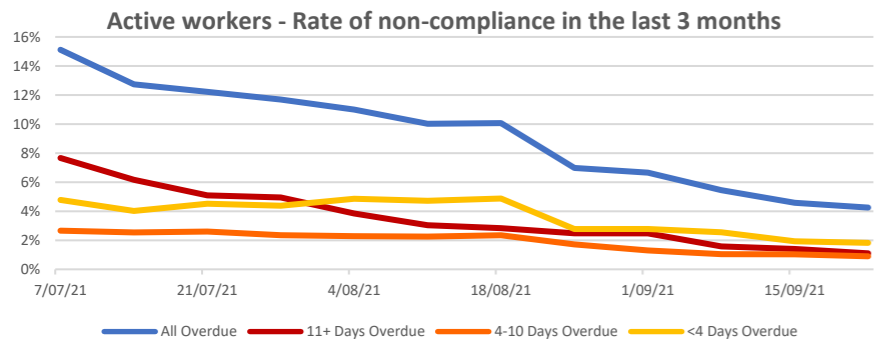
As at 23 September, 3,301,910 tests have been conducted.

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| Average daily number of tests this week (rolling)                 | 13,660  |   |
| Total tested across New Zealand between 17 - 23 September         | 95,618  | ↑ |
| <b>NATIONAL CAPACITY</b>  |         |   |
| Maximum daily testing capacity across all labs as at 23 September | 52,180  | ↔ |
| Test supplies in stock as at 23 September                         | 158,374 | ↓ |

# COVID-19 weekly situation update – testing

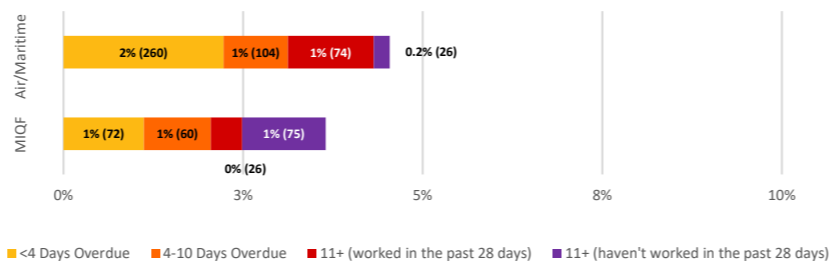


## BORDER WORKERS IN THE BORDER WORKER TESTING REGISTER (BWTR)



This graph shows the trend over time of the proportion of workers that are overdue for testing and by how many days as at 22 September 2021

### Analysis of non-compliance All 'active' workers



This graph shows the proportion of Air/Maritime and MIQF workers that are currently overdue for testing and by how many days as at 22 September 2021

| PCBUs        | Total Workers |        | Active workers |       | Testing Compliance |      |       |            | Vaccination Status |                   |                    |          |           |
|--------------|---------------|--------|----------------|-------|--------------------|------|-------|------------|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------|----------|-----------|
|              | All           | MIQF   | All            | MIQF  | All Workers        | MIQF | Other | All active | Last 28 days       | Last week (Nasal) | Last week (Saliva) | One Dose | Two Doses |
| MBIE         | 1             | 34,306 | 18,166         | 6,496 | 96%                | 96%  | 96%   | 96%        | 95%                | 96%               | 91%                | 6%       |           |
| MIQF Teams   | 294           | 13,857 | 6,496          |       | 96%                | 97%  | 92%   | 96%        | 97%                | 92%               | 92%                |          |           |
| Air/Maritime | 268           | 20,449 | 11,670         |       | 96%                | 92%  | 93%   | 96%        | 92%                | 93%               | 90%                |          |           |

\* Note on temporary increase in number of air/maritime active workers – This number includes just over 3700 workers of St John NZ, and Civil Aviation Authority of NZ and Aviation Security Service (AVSEC) recently added into the BWTR. They are not currently border workers but are on the register to identify vaccinated workers as they may have to go to the border to provide medical care. Most, if not all, of these workers will revert to "inactive" status over the next two weeks after not working at the border.

- PCBUs** - There are 269 PCBUs in the BWTR of which MBIE is one. Two new PCBUs were added in the past week.
- Compliance** - 96% of all active workers are compliant with testing. For those working in the past 28 days, 95% are compliant. Of those border workers working last week 95% were compliant for nasopharyngeal (nasal swab) testing and 90% for saliva testing.
- Addressing Non-Compliance** - Last week MoH contacted 95 PCBUs and 49 workers. MBIE contacted 115 PCBUs and 176 workers. MoH did not need to send any directive letters to workers last week, in total 173 have now been sent. MoH sent 9 infringement notices last week, in total 66 have now been issued. MBIE escalated 7 workers to MoH this week for further action; 111 referrals have now been made in total and 49 of these workers are now compliant. All border worker monitoring and compliance activity is continuing as usual during the heightened alert levels and response period.
- Saliva testing** - 1,358 border workers have opted into saliva testing to date, compared to 1,147 at the same time last week. 847 of these workers are now undertaking saliva testing, of which 332 work in MIQFs and 515 work at the Air or Maritime Borders

### REASONS FOR NO TEST BY DEPARTURE DATE FROM FACILITY

| Reason               | 26 August – 1 September | 2 September – 8 September | 9 September – 15 September | 16 September – 22 September |
|----------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total                | 39                      | 45                        | 112                        | 50                          |
| Child <sup>(1)</sup> | 3                       | 0                         | 6                          | 4                           |
| Clinical reasons     | 0                       | 0                         | 0                          | 0                           |
| No consent given     | 0                       | 0                         | 1                          | 0                           |
| Other <sup>(2)</sup> | 36 <sup>(3)</sup>       | 45 <sup>(3)</sup>         | 105 <sup>(3)</sup>         | 46 <sup>(3)</sup>           |

- "Child" generally refers to under 6 months of age
  - "Other" reasons include guests who had a symptomatic test instead, or had a swab in a hospital
  - There are a large number of day 0/1 tests entered in error as the guest was not from a high-risk country so was not required to be tested. These appear as 'other' in the data
- These figures are based on numbers of times no test is performed, not on individuals (i.e. as tests are performed on day 3 and day 12, there will be multiple times an individual may not receive a test)

### TESTING AND TESTING SITES

| Stream  | Total tested 26 August – 1 September | Total tested 2 September – 8 September | Total tested 9 September – 15 September | Total tested 16 September – 22 September |
|---|--------------------------------------|--|---|--|
| Guest – MIF and MIQ                                       | 4776                                 | 4396                                   | 3102                                    | 3131                                     |
| Border Workers – MIQ                                      | 12 <sup>(2)</sup>                    | 7 <sup>(2)</sup>                       | 15 <sup>(2)</sup>                       | 17 <sup>(2)</sup>                        |
| Border Workers – MIF                                      | 2046                                 | 1728                                   | 1896                                    | 1726                                     |
| Border Workers – Air Crew                                 | 106                                  | 109                                    | 214                                     | 214                                      |
| Border Workers – Airport Staff                            | 529 <sup>(3)</sup>                   | 408 <sup>(3)</sup>                     | 193 <sup>(3)</sup>                      | 164 <sup>(3)</sup>                       |
| Border Workers – Sea port staff                           | 1275                                 | 1203                                   | 936                                     | 989                                      |
| Border Workers – Maritime crew                            | 141                                  | 143                                    | 214                                     | 151                                      |
| Background Community Testing (GPs and other Primary Care) | 105420                               | 39929                                  | 50302                                   | 57272                                    |
| CBAC Testing  | 27042                                | 23330                                  | 31460                                   | 29888                                    |
| Contact Tracing <sup>(1)</sup>                            | 28047                                | 4600                                   | 2636                                    | 2630                                     |
| <b>Total tests <sup>(4)</sup></b>                         | <b>169394</b>                        | <b>75853</b>                           | <b>90968</b>                            | <b>96182</b>                             |

- For the purposes of this table, contact tracing numbers are netted off from the CBAC testing volumes.
- Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as MIQF border workers from Jet Park Auckland, as Auckland DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for. The Ministry is working with Auckland DHB to resolve this as soon as possible.
- Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as airport staff from Auckland DHB, as the DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for. The Ministry is working with Auckland DHB to resolve this as soon as possible.
- Saliva tests are currently not included in the number of total tests as saliva tests do not have SURV codes.

## TESTING COMMENTARY

### Community testing

Although the number of tests being performed has decreased after the August surge, it is still significantly higher than before the outbreak. This is likely to be a result of targeted asymptomatic testing and the announcement of testing required for permitted essential workers crossing alert level boundaries.

Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) continues to flex their testing capacity and the number of testing sites as required. In addition, NRHCC's testing plan for targeted testing of specific groups, as identified by public health, is well underway. They also continue to provide mobile testing services to identified households and work sites.

Waikato DHB reported that they have been supporting the Auckland region with the new requirements of permitted workers to have proof of a COVID-19 test by providing a pop-up testing site at the southern Auckland boundary crossing. On Friday 17 September the DHB completed over 200 swabs, enabling these workers to get tested before crossing the boundary. On Sunday 19 September new positive COVID-19 cases were identified within the Waikato DHB region. The DHB responded with 3 pop-up testing sites, in addition to the regular CTC in Hamilton, the following morning to provide testing to those communities affected by these cases.

Southern DHB note that their testing rates are relatively low compared to most other DHBs across the country. This has been raised in SDHB meetings and will be further discussed with the MoH COVID-19 testing team.

### Border testing

Surveillance saliva testing of border workers commenced on 11 August. There are now 33 sites and 81 collection points operating across the country. As of 23 September, 1,394 border workers have opted into saliva testing, compared to 1157 at this time last week.

**Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQF):** Saliva testing, including daily saliva testing, is being offered at the three Auckland managed quarantine facilities. This is expected to become mandatory with a change to the Required Testing Order expected on 8 October.

Testing activity at managed isolation facilities continues to remain stable. Canterbury DHB reported that testing of NZDF staff from Burnham began this week, following isolation at Auckland MIQFs.

**Airports/Air Crew:** NRHCC reported that airport testing volumes have remained stable. There are now two locations to drop off saliva tests with one being accessible 24/7. The DHB has observed a small number of airport staff attending the clinic for alert level boundary crossing tests.

Canterbury DHB reported this week that they have observed an increase in testing due to increasing numbers of Air New Zealand staff now requiring regular testing as they fly domestic routes crossing the alert level boundaries.

**Ports/ Maritime:** Canterbury DHB reported that while marine crew testing ceased during the delta outbreak, this was due to restart this week, allowing mariners to have shore leave.

## DHB TESTING BY ETHNICITY

Rate per 1000 people tested for COVID-19 from 10 September – 23 September 2021

| DHB of Domicile            | Prioritised ethnicity MPAO |             |             |             |             |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
|                            | Maori                      | Pacific     | Asian       | Other       | Total       |
| <b>Auckland</b>            | 53.8                       | 61.7        | 34.0        | 53.8        | <b>52.0</b> |
| <b>Bay of Plenty</b>       | 19.0                       | 35.3        | 20.1        | 19.9        | <b>20.3</b> |
| <b>Canterbury</b>          | 11.6                       | 14.5        | 13.4        | 11.1        | <b>12.3</b> |
| <b>Capital &amp; Coast</b> | 12.6                       | 15.0        | 9.4         | 13.9        | <b>13.5</b> |
| <b>Counties Manukau</b>    | 91.6                       | 125.4       | 65.5        | 67.8        | <b>83.6</b> |
| <b>Hawke's Bay</b>         | 10.2                       | 12.9        | 10.8        | 10.2        | <b>10.5</b> |
| <b>Hutt Valley</b>         | 11.4                       | 13.4        | 10.8        | 10.6        | <b>11.1</b> |
| <b>Lakes</b>               | 18.1                       | 25.1        | 21.1        | 16.8        | <b>18.0</b> |
| <b>MidCentral</b>          | 13.3                       | 13.2        | 11.3        | 12.3        | <b>12.6</b> |
| <b>Nelson Marlborough</b>  | 11.6                       | 14.2        | 9.3         | 10.7        | <b>11.0</b> |
| <b>Northland</b>           | 28.1                       | 34.3        | 23.7        | 30.2        | <b>29.5</b> |
| <b>South Canterbury</b>    | 9.4                        | 30.7        | 6.8         | 6.7         | <b>7.2</b>  |
| <b>Southern</b>            | 8.5                        | 14.1        | 8.7         | 8.9         | <b>9.2</b>  |
| <b>Tairāwhiti</b>          | 10.3                       | 11.6        | 18.9        | 9.4         | <b>10.3</b> |
| <b>Taranaki</b>            | 11.1                       | 20.1        | 13.3        | 12.1        | <b>12.3</b> |
| <b>Waikato</b>             | 27.1                       | 29.4        | 23.4        | 26.1        | <b>26.5</b> |
| <b>Wairarapa</b>           | 10.3                       | 13.2        | 12.0        | 7.7         | <b>8.6</b>  |
| <b>Waitemata</b>           | 49.5                       | 62.9        | 35.0        | 44.7        | <b>44.6</b> |
| <b>West Coast</b>          | 3.6                        | 4.0         | 6.5         | 4.2         | <b>4.2</b>  |
| <b>Whanganui</b>           | 7.7                        | 11.2        | 7.9         | 9.1         | <b>8.8</b>  |
| <b>Total</b>               | <b>30.0</b>                | <b>72.4</b> | <b>33.1</b> | <b>25.0</b> | <b>30.9</b> |

24/09/2021



# COVID-19 weekly situation update

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New Zealand's elimination strategy is a sustained approach to 'Keep it Out', 'Prepare for It', 'Stamp it Out' and 'Manage the Impact'. We do this through:

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| <b>Pre- &amp; Border Settings, Managed Isolation &amp; Quarantine</b><br><i>Strong but proportionate border settings flex and adapt as health security settings shift</i>   |  |
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| <b>PRIORITY: COVID-19 Immunisation Programme</b><br><i>Targeted and timely roll-out of the COVID-19 vaccine to manage and mitigate the risk of on-going harm to the community. Updates on this Programme are provided separately.</i> |  |

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

New Zealand has performed well against its elimination strategy; however, we need to continue to remain vigilant and responsive, especially given the novel COVID-19 variant strains.

**As at 9.00am 1 October 2021, there are 260 active community cases and 14 active imported cases in Managed Isolation Facilities.**

As at 9.00am 1 October, there has been an increase of 19 cases in the community since the previous day.

As at 29 September, more than 700,000 tests have been processed since the start of this current outbreak, with a record high of 49,746 tests processed on 24 August 2021.

Phase 1 of day 6/7 COVID-19 testing for returnees on the same floor (or proximity) of cases in Managed Isolation facilities (MIFs) has been introduced from 25 August. Phase 2 of Day 6/7 nasopharyngeal swabbing will be added to the routine testing schedule for all returnees arriving in MIFs from 30 September. That means returnees will now be tested on days 0/1, 3, 6/7 and 12.

As part of the Ministry's targeted approach to COVID-19 testing in Auckland, the hospitality, retail and construction sectors operating under Alert Level 3 have been asked to take part in surveillance testing of their workforce in order to quickly identify any new chains of transmission, and provide a level of assurance that there is a low risk of undetected community transmission prior to movement to Alert Level 2.

## FOCUS FOR WEEK AHEAD

- Continued response to the current community outbreak.
- Continuing to focus on the operational contact tracing response.
- NFC Tag Trial – Trial in progress with Ministry of Health staff and commencing next week at Victoria University.
- Covid Tracer App Release 9 Discovery continuing.
- Input to papers/pilots as part of Reconnecting NZ.
- Input to work to review policy around use of Rapid Antigen Tests outside of identified pilots.
- Co-ordination of implementation plan for point of arrival testing pilot.
- Input to the Quarantine Free Travel for Recognised Seasonal Employers pilot.

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21 - 27 September for all community cases and associated close plus contacts\*

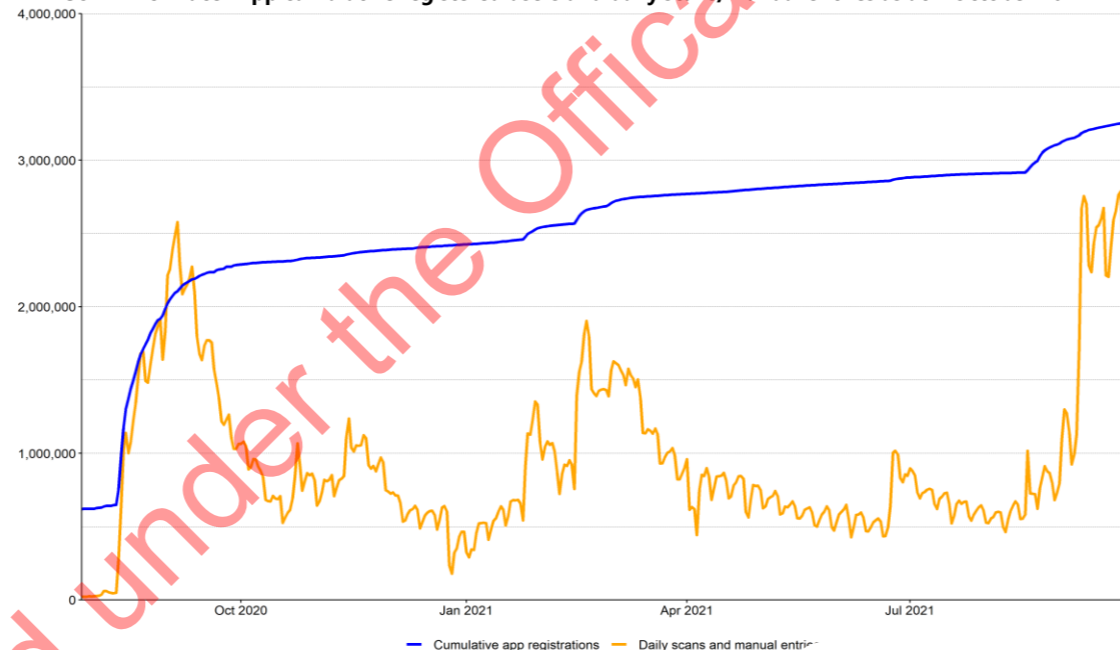
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|--|----------------------|-------------|
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| Time case notification to isolation / quarantine of contact    | ≥80% within 48 hours | 69%         |
| Time from close contact identification to isolated/quarantined | ≥80% within 24 hours | 81%         |
| Proportion of contacts traced                                  | ≥80% within 48 hours | 94%         |

**For week 21 – 27 September (cases notified during this period)** **69%** **Of close plus contacts traced within 2 days of case notification**  
Target: 80% within 2 days of case notification

\*Due to the high volumes of contacts the contact tracing service is prioritising their efforts to have a focus on high-risk contacts from higher risk locations. Close plus contacts are classified as part of the higher risk contacts and are therefore the subject population for this table.

## NZ COVID TRACER APP

COVID-19 Tracer App cumulative registered users and daily scans/manual entries as at 1 October 2021



## CAPACITY AT BORDER SERVICES (MIQ)

Status: Day 6/7 nasopharyngeal is now in place for all returnees arriving from 30 September 2021. The first design workshops with key DHB, MBIE, and PHU stakeholders commenced for the piloting of the mixed modality (nasopharyngeal and saliva testing) returnee testing.

| OCCUPANCY & CAPACITY           | AKL              | WKO            | ROT            | WLG           | CHCH           | TOTAL            |               |
|--------------------------------|------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Current Occupancy              | Isolation: 2,161 | Isolation: 177 | Isolation: 340 | Isolation: 63 | Isolation: 818 | Isolation: 3,559 | ↓             |
|                                | Quarantine: 197  |                |                |               |                |                  | Quarantine: 1 |
| Number of Community Cases      | 256              | 0              | 0              | 0             | 0              | 256              | ↓             |
| Capacity for Region (MIF only) | 4,087            | 119            | 371            | 92            | 1,539          | 6,208            | ↓             |

## PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: We have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce currently. However, ongoing vigilance is required.

The Ministry is confident it has good stocks of PPE available, with at least eight weeks of stock based on forecast usage at high pandemic volumes and 35 weeks on average at low usage rate. Figures as at 23 September 2021 for the week reflect low usage.

| Item                         | Quantity on hand week commencing 30 September 2021 | Current Usage (weekly) | Weeks on hand (current usage) |   |
|------------------------------|--|------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| Nitrile gloves               | 277,883,289  | 2,546,120              | 54                            | ↓ |
| Isolation gowns              | 15,593,477   | 319,200                | 48                            | ↓ |
| N95s                         | 20,412,378   | 340,360                | 59                            | ↓ |
| Procedure masks              | 263,392,537  | 3,092,600              | 85                            | ↓ |
| Face shields                 | 1,094,361  | 208,120                | 11                            | ↓ |
| Goggles/Glasses              | 1,549,645  | 6,010                  | 257                           | ↓ |
| Aprons                       | 16,343,613   | 59,950                 | 272                           | ↓ |
| Hand sanitiser (500ml equiv) | 911,374  | 7,444                  | 122                           | ↓ |

Noting logistics and global manufacturing constraints ahead of December/January peaks, the Ministry of Health has placed forward orders across PPE supply items based on usage rates experienced in the second week of raised Alert Levels.

## LAB TESTING

Status: Sufficient capacity for current demand.

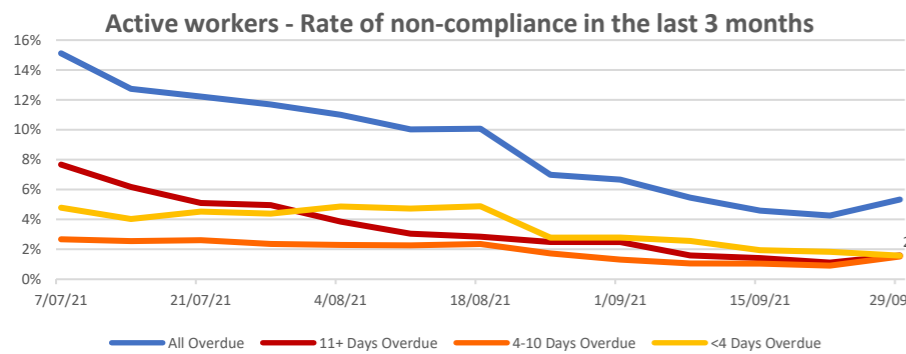
As at 30 September, 3,397,503 tests have been conducted.

|   |         |   |
|---|---------|---|
| Average daily number of tests this week (rolling)                 | 13,656  |   |
| Total tested across New Zealand between 24 – 30 September         | 95,593  | ↓ |
| <b>NATIONAL CAPACITY</b>  |         |   |
| Maximum daily testing capacity across all labs as at 30 September | 52,180  | ↔ |
| Test supplies in stock as at 30 September                         | 171,458 | ↑ |

# COVID-19 weekly situation update – testing

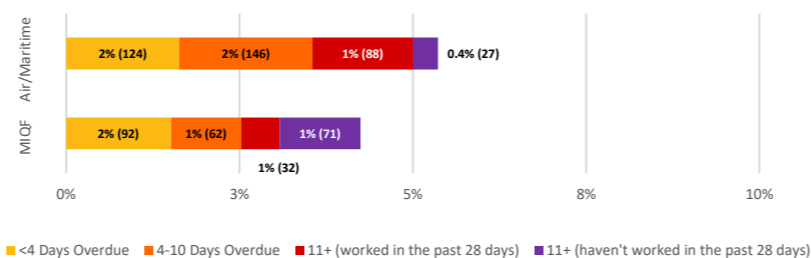


## BORDER WORKERS IN THE BORDER WORKER TESTING REGISTER (BWTR)



This graph shows the trend over time of the proportion of workers that are overdue for testing and by how many days as at 29 September 2021

Analysis of non-compliance All 'active' workers



This graph shows the proportion of Air/Maritime and MIQF workers that are currently overdue for testing and by how many days as at 29 September 2021

| PCBUs              | Total Workers |          | Active workers |          | Testing Compliance |              |                   |                    | Vaccination Status |       |
|--------------------|---------------|----------|----------------|----------|--------------------|--------------|-------------------|--------------------|--------------------|-------|
|                    | All           |          | All            |          | All Workers        | Last 28 days | Last week (Nasal) | Last week (Saliva) | One Dose           |       |
| MBIE ↕ 1           | All           | 34,530 ↑ | All            | ↓ 13,741 | 95% ↓              | 95% ↔        | 96% ↔             | 93% ↑              | 5%                 | ↓     |
| MIQF Teams ↓ 270   | MIQF          | 13,973 ↑ | MIQF           | ↓ 6,129  | 96% ↓              | 95% ↓        | 97% ↓             | 94% ↑              | Two Doses          | 93% ↑ |
| Air/Maritime ↑ 271 | Air/Maritime  | 20,557 ↑ | Other          | ↓ 7,612  | 96% ↓              | 93% ↑        | 95% ↑             | 92% ↑              |                    |       |

- PCBUs** - There are 272 PCBUs in the BWTR of which MBIE is one. Three new PCBUs were added in the past week.
- Compliance** - 95% of all active workers are compliant with testing. For those working in the past 28 days, 95% are compliant. Of those border workers working last week, 96% were compliant for nasopharyngeal testing and 93% for saliva testing.
- Addressing Non-Compliance** - Last week MoH contacted 112 PCBUs and 100 workers. MBIE contacted 79 PCBUs and 160 workers. MoH sent 6 directive letters to workers last week, in total 179 have now been sent. MoH sent 1 infringement notice last week, in total 67 have now been issued. MBIE escalated 2 workers to MoH this week for further action; 113 referrals have been made in total and 60 of these workers are now compliant. All border worker monitoring and compliance activity is continuing as usual during the heightened alert levels and response period.
- Saliva testing** - 1,522 border workers have opted into saliva testing to date, compared to 1,358 at the same time last week. 932 of these border workers are currently active in the BWTR. Of those workers who have opted in, 458 work in MIQFs and 1,064 work at the Air or Maritime Border.

### REASONS FOR NO TEST BY DEPARTURE DATE FROM FACILITY

| Reason               |   | 2 September – 8 September | 9 September – 15 September | 16 September – 22 September | 23 September – 29 September |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| Total                | ↓ | 39                        | 45                         | 112                         | 50                          |
| Child <sup>(1)</sup> | ↓ | 3                         | 0                          | 6                           | 4                           |
| Clinical reasons     | ↔ | 0                         | 0                          | 0                           | 0                           |
| No consent given     | ↓ | 0                         | 0                          | 1                           | 0                           |
| Other <sup>(2)</sup> | ↓ | 45 <sup>(3)</sup>         | 105 <sup>(3)</sup>         | 46 <sup>(3)</sup>           | 7 <sup>(3)</sup>            |

(1) "Child" generally refers to under 6 months of age  
 (2) "Other" reasons include guests who had a symptomatic test instead, or had a swab in a hospital  
 (3) There are a large number of day 0/1 tests entered in error as the guest was not from a high-risk country so was not required to be tested. These appear as 'other' in the data  
 These figures are based on numbers of times no test is performed, not on individuals (i.e. as tests are performed on day 3 and day 12, there will be multiple times an individual may not receive a test)

### TESTING AND TESTING SITES

| Stream  |   | Total tested 2 September – 8 September | Total tested 9 September – 15 September | Total tested 16 September – 22 September | Total tested 23 September – 29 September |
|---|---|--|---|--|--|
| Guest – MIF and MIQ                                       | ↓ | 4396                                   | 3102                                    | 3131                                     | 2959                                     |
| Border Workers – MIQ                                      | ↓ | 7 <sup>(2)</sup>                       | 15 <sup>(2)</sup>                       | 17 <sup>(2)</sup>                        | 13 <sup>(2)</sup>                        |
| Border Workers – MIF                                      | ↓ | 1728                                   | 1896                                    | 1726                                     | 1627                                     |
| Border Workers – Air Crew                                 | ↑ | 109                                    | 214                                     | 214                                      | 250                                      |
| Border Workers – Airport Staff                            | ↑ | 408 <sup>(3)</sup>                     | 193 <sup>(3)</sup>                      | 164 <sup>(3)</sup>                       | 176 <sup>(3)</sup>                       |
| Border Workers – Sea port staff                           | ↓ | 1203                                   | 936                                     | 989                                      | 836                                      |
| Border Workers – Maritime crew                            | ↑ | 143                                    | 214                                     | 151                                      | 239                                      |
| Background Community Testing (GPs and other Primary Care) | ↓ | 39914                                  | 50259                                   | 57056                                    | 56117                                    |
| CBAC Testing  | ↓ | 23345                                  | 31503                                   | 30104                                    | 27498                                    |
| Contact Tracing <sup>(1)</sup>                            | ↓ | 4600                                   | 2636                                    | 2630                                     | 1694                                     |
| <b>Total tests <sup>(4)</sup></b>                         | ↓ | <b>75853</b>                           | <b>90968</b>                            | <b>96182</b>                             | <b>91409</b>                             |

(1) For the purposes of this table, contact tracing numbers are netted off from the CBAC testing volumes.  
 (2) Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as MIQF border workers from Jet Park Auckland, as Auckland DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for. The Ministry is working with Auckland DHB to resolve this as soon as possible.  
 (3) Decrease in the number of tests MoH can identify as airport staff from Auckland DHB, as the DHB may be using SURV codes MoH currently has no mapping for. The Ministry is working with Auckland DHB to resolve this as soon as possible.  
 (4) Saliva tests are currently not included in the number of total tests as saliva tests do not have SURV codes.

## TESTING COMMENTARY

### Community testing

Although the number of tests being performed has decreased after the August surge, it is still significantly higher than the levels seen before the outbreak. This is likely to be a result of targeted asymptomatic testing and the announcement of testing requirements for different groups of people.

Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) continues to flex their testing capacity and the number of testing sites as required. Mobile testing services continue for close contacts as per public health advice. This includes offering testing at several emergency and transitional housing providers as directed by public health. In addition, NRHCC continues to provide testing services at work sites for essential workers and employees of permitted businesses that have returned after the alert level change.

Waikato DHB provided extra testing capacity this week for their community affected by the positive case.

Other DHBs across the rest of New Zealand continue to report community testing volumes have remained stable following the August surge.

Wastewater testing continues at ESR facilities across the country. SARS-CoV-2 RNA was detected in a sample collected from Tauranga on Thursday 23 September. Following the positive wastewater result, the focus for Bay of Plenty DHB has been to actively monitor community testing capacity with a rapid response mechanism configured to enable the DHB to stand up larger centralized testing facilities, should they be necessary. A second wastewater test result was negative.

### Border testing

Surveillance saliva testing of border workers commenced on 11 August. There are now 39 sites and 87 collection points operating across the country. As of 30 September, 1541 border workers have opted into saliva testing, compared to 1394 at this time last week.

**Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQF):** Saliva testing is available at the three Auckland managed quarantine facilities. Changes to Required Testing Order (RTO) are currently being drafted to require daily testing of any modality including saliva testing for workers in quarantine facilities and twice weekly testing for those in managed isolation facilities for the two weeks after an acute case leaves the facility.

Testing activity at managed isolation facilities continues to remain stable.

**Airports/Air Crew:** Canterbury DHB reported this week that testing numbers continue to increase with testing requirements for workers crossing the Auckland boundary by air.

**Ports/ Maritime:** Canterbury DHB and Tairāwhiti DHB reported that marine crew testing remains stable. Southern DHB reported an increase in uptake of saliva testing among port workers.

## DHB TESTING BY ETHNICITY

Rate per 1000 people tested for COVID-19 from 17 September – 30 September 2021

| DHB of Domicile            | Prioritised ethnicity MPAO |         |       |       |             | Total |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|---------|-------|-------|-------------|-------|
|                            | Maori                      | Pacific | Asian | Other |             |       |
| <b>Auckland</b>            | 55.6                       | 57.6    | 32.5  | 50.5  | <b>49.2</b> |       |
| <b>Bay of Plenty</b>       | 21.8                       | 45.0    | 20.9  | 24.2  | <b>24.1</b> |       |
| <b>Canterbury</b>          | 10.5                       | 13.4    | 12.9  | 11.0  | <b>12.5</b> |       |
| <b>Capital &amp; Coast</b> | 11.8                       | 12.3    | 8.9   | 12.9  | <b>12.4</b> |       |
| <b>Counties Manukau</b>    | 85.0                       | 105.7   | 61.3  | 65.7  | <b>76.5</b> |       |
| <b>Hawke's Bay</b>         | 10.2                       | 23.7    | 11.5  | 10.1  | <b>10.9</b> |       |
| <b>Hutt Valley</b>         | 10.3                       | 12.1    | 8.8   | 9.5   | <b>9.8</b>  |       |
| <b>Lakes</b>               | 17.4                       | 23.9    | 23.6  | 17.7  | <b>18.4</b> |       |
| <b>MidCentral</b>          | 11.8                       | 10.8    | 10.1  | 12.1  | <b>12.0</b> |       |
| <b>Nelson Marlborough</b>  | 9.3                        | 23.5    | 10.6  | 10.2  | <b>10.5</b> |       |
| <b>Northland</b>           | 32.5                       | 42.3    | 27.6  | 36.3  | <b>35.1</b> |       |
| <b>South Canterbury</b>    | 9.2                        | 22.5    | 7.6   | 5.1   | <b>5.8</b>  |       |
| <b>Southern</b>            | 8.5                        | 16.1    | 8.1   | 8.5   | <b>8.8</b>  |       |
| <b>Tairāwhiti</b>          | 10.7                       | 19.7    | 22.3  | 10.4  | <b>11.2</b> |       |
| <b>Taranaki</b>            | 10.4                       | 26.6    | 16.2  | 11.2  | <b>11.8</b> |       |
| <b>Waikato</b>             | 30.1                       | 33.1    | 27.4  | 29.0  | <b>29.8</b> |       |
| <b>Wairarapa</b>           | 7.4                        | 13.2    | 10.4  | 7.8   | <b>8.0</b>  |       |
| <b>Waitemata</b>           | 48.4                       | 54.9    | 32.0  | 43.2  | <b>42.3</b> |       |
| <b>West Coast</b>          | 4.4                        | 4.0     | 6.5   | 3.9   | <b>4.1</b>  |       |
| <b>Whanganui</b>           | 8.3                        | 9.2     | 8.5   | 9.0   | <b>8.9</b>  |       |
| <b>Total</b>               | 29.9                       | 63.6    | 31.6  | 24.9  | <b>30.0</b> |       |

**ACTION PLAN FOR SCENARIO ONE:**

| Outbreak MIF Rotorua   | Strategies<br>The overall approach taken if the scenario comes true to mitigate impact<br>(Refer to Production plan for laboratory capacity)   |
|--|--|
| <p>Following a week of recent testing that has occurred around the ports another outbreak ex MIF Rotorua has occurred. Gone unrecognised for 6 weeks (based on guesswork and WGS differences with likely source). 200 cases have been found by contact tracing in Palmerston North with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 10 epidemiologically unlinked cases in Rotorua,</li> <li>• 3 epidemiologically unlinked cases in Auckland</li> <li>• 7 epidemiologically unlinked in Hamilton</li> <li>• 1 epidemiologically unlinked in Christchurch</li> <li>• 2 epidemiologically unlinked in Wellington.</li> </ul> <p>What we know about swabbing: CBACs/CTC have been re-established, extensive testing around positive cases and their contacts in Palmerston North and other regions. Awaiting further information around workplaces involved.</p> <p>Assume significant increase in community testing across all regions. Alert levels being reviewed and an announcement is imminent.</p> <p><b>Inject 1:</b><br/>BD Max shipment is not arriving, current stock is expiring on the 7 November. Panther instrument at Middlemore is down and the engineer from Hologic is in Australia.</p> <p><b>Inject 2:</b><br/>It has been announced that the Manawatū-Whanganui Region is now at Alert level 3, and all other regions is at alert level 2.</p> | <p><b>Locally:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish staffing for maximum capacity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Data registration <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Remote data entry</li> </ul> </li> <li>○ Increase casual pool/redeployment of staff</li> <li>○ Increase shifts</li> <li>○ Team bubbles</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Implement Pooling <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Revalidation of pooling</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Increase logistics (couriers) to CBACs, use external couriers</li> <li>• Eorder set up at CBACs or pre-numbered labels supplied</li> <li>• BAU demand management/triage</li> <li>• Increase capacity by implementation of automation platforms e.g.: Roche</li> <li>• Stocktake to ensure enough supply</li> <li>• Increase capacity for whole genome sequencing at MASC and CSC</li> <li>• Stand-up satellite labs e.g.: Grafton, Gribbles</li> <li>• Increase use of PPE e.g. masks for staff <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Collections staff – full PPE according to alert levels</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><b>Regionally:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Liaison with Public Health, TAG and other planning groups.</li> <li>• Liaise with other laboratories within the region <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Co-ordinate moving samples to other sites to manage overflow</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Courier routes/networks</li> <li>• Activate stand-up laboratories e.g.: Gribbles</li> <li>• Activate early sample transfer to other sites</li> <li>• Communication: WhatsApp</li> </ul> <p><b>Nationally:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Regular meetings with Ministry of Health and the National Laboratory team.</li> <li>• Co-ordinate moving samples across the national network to manage backlogs and overflows. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Suggest not to wait for backlog to build up, pre-empt this early</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Ensure good allocation of swabs around the country, maintain good supply.</li> <li>• Equipment sharing e.g.: Kingfisher</li> <li>• CMDDB- suggested mobilising defence force helps with processing work- the defence force has laboratory scientists</li> </ul> |

| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Issues</b><br/>Issues identified from Scenario feedback</p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Current work underway</b></p>   |
|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bottleneck at data registration for some laboratories</li> <li>• Surveillance codes – do they need to be simplified</li> <li>• Call centre – demand management for results               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Interim message – e.g., sample in lab, results available in x hrs</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Storage space for increased volume of samples</li> <li>• Limited availability of flights – impact TATs</li> <li>• Supplies: BD Max, Hologic               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Increased pressure on predeparture testing</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Reporting results for out of region               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Dr database</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Allocation of swabs across the regions</li> <li>• Critical consumables – enough stock (see list)</li> <li>• Prioritisation of samples/triaging – ability to identify these in the lab.</li> <li>• BAU testing affected in all departments</li> <li>• Increase TATs</li> <li>• Increased costs of logistics</li> <li>• PPE for staff</li> <li>• Lead in time for any validation work required for stand-up laboratories.</li> <li>• Ensuring enough stock on hand for sustained/ongoing surge capacity</li> <li>• OOS/Staff fatigue</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rollout e-ordering nationally across the network               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Important to expedite this work</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Improve IT connectivity with other laboratories outside of networks to facilitate moving samples and reporting results</li> <li>• Maintain standing stock for Hologic Panther 50K</li> <li>• Increase uptake of e-order at primary care across all regions</li> <li>• GeneXpert available stock has increased to 84 kits per week</li> <li>• Installation MPLC/Dnature at Pathlab</li> <li>• Engage with NZIMLS and Medical Sciences Council NZ (in progress)</li> <li>•</li> </ul>   |
| <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Immediate Next Steps, Timelines, &amp; Owners</b></p>  | <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Ideas for Future Consideration</b></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Keep track of things you want to do eventually as the scenario becomes more likely to happen.</p>   |
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Plan for staff wellbeing – engage with HR, Health &amp; Safety           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Individual labs</li> </ol> </li> <li>2. Plan for staff infected with COVID – impact on laboratory operations           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Individual labs</li> </ol> </li> <li>3. Hologic stock 50K           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. MoH (contract)</li> <li>b. Labs (inventory management)</li> </ol> </li> <li>4. Critical Supplies           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Individual labs</li> </ol> </li> <li>5. Medical Sciences Council – process for fast tracking registration to prop up Molecular workforce           <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Letter (Don Mikkelson)</li> </ol> </li> </ol>  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update laboratory webpages/intranet – information</li> <li>• Robotics –pre-analytic sample preparation, prevent OOS -           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Keep in view progress               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Implementation underway at CHL – Hamilton platform</li> <li>▪ Multidroppers – Janus, dispensing reagents</li> <li>▪ Feedback on experience from CHL</li> <li>▪ Decapper – swabs (under validation at CHL)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> <li>• Paperless (e-order project)</li> <li>• Standardise request forms (e-order project)</li> <li>• Pre-barcoding swabs at CBACs/CTC (e-order project)</li> <li>• Additional IT hardware – data registration/sample receipting/transfers (Labs)</li> <li>• Provide information pack for CBAC/CTC/MIF/MIQ - (MoH) Quality e.g.: labelling, sample integrity           <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Ownership of Communications (DHBs, GPs)</li> <li>○ Individual labs</li> </ul> </li> </ul> |

### Indicators to Track (and Owners)

Note metrics to track. These could be metrics that indicate if a scenario is coming true and/or that help you see if the steps you've taken so far are successful.

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