

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

21 September 2021

The Bigger Picture

Social & Community

Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a concern for Pacific communities in the Auckland region. MPP, NEMA and MSD are working to better identify where need is greatest, align their efforts, and ensure food demand is being met. MPP have escalated 76 requests for food through the process with MSD.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 20 September 2021 4:57 PM

Access to Education for Pacific Peoples

Access to devices to learn at home during higher alert levels continues to be an issue for the Pacific Community in Auckland. MPP is meeting with MoE this week to address and identify education issues.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 20 September 2021 4:57 PM

Support for Recovered Cases Leaving MIQ

NGOs, Southsea Healthcare and the Samoan Assembly of God Church have been working alongside MSD and MoH to provide a wrap around support package for people when they leave MIQ. This package assists with housing, employment and mental health support.

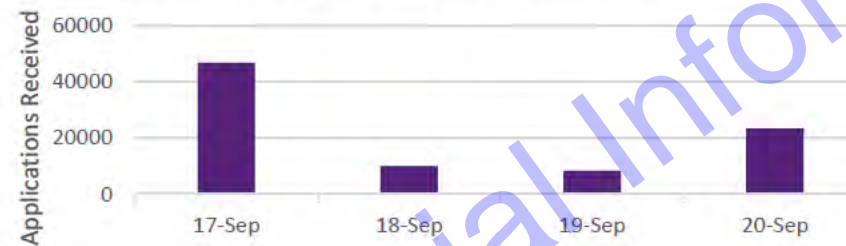
Caring for Communities: 20 September, 11.43.

Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 88,323 applications across four days so far. 23,400 applications were received on 20 September, 15,064 more than the previous day. Wage Subsidy #2 closed on 16 September after 14 days, receiving 264,284 applications in total.

Ministry for Social Development, 21 September 2021 11:33 AM

Daily Applications for August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3



As at 20 September, \$2.368 billion has been paid in August 2021 wage subsidies to support 1.221 million jobs, including employees of 300,543 businesses and 159,053 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development, 21 September 2021 10:40 AM

Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend (through Paymark EFTPOS) in the week ending 19 September was 16% less than the same week in 2019. This is the same level as last week.

Spending decreased in all major categories except Food & Liquor, which grew by 15% this week compared to 2019 (a 3% drop from last week). Home & Recreational Retailing spend decreased by 8% compared to 2019 (whereas last week it was 5% more compared to 2019).

MBIE, 19 September 2021 5:00PM

Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019 (as at 19 September 2021)



Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 0.92% of vehicles were turned back on September 20. This is less than half the proportion over the weekend (2%, 1.85), despite significantly higher numbers of vehicles.

New Zealand Police, 21 September 2:00 PM

Police continue to observe the misuse of essential worker forms, receiving generic letters that do not explicitly state that the holder is permitted to cross. This has raised concerns that letters are being copied and handed out amongst non-essential workers. Old exemption letters from 2020 have also been received. Police will be given clear advice on what constitutes a legitimate essential worker exemption document to ensure a consistent approach is implemented.

New Zealand Police, 21 September 2:00 PM

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Social & Community

Section 6(c)

Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

Compliance with Alert Level 4 rules is generally high. Trends reveal that non-compliance tends to increase over the weekends, subsequently declining throughout the week. Reporting of Alert Level 4 breaches largely related to people organising and/or participating in large gatherings. Warnings, prosecutions and infringements have all been declining over the past week. This implies high levels of public understanding and acceptance of the rules in place.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 6.37 AM. Information as of 20 September 5.00 PM
Note: As of 9 September, Police no longer report infringements outside AL4.

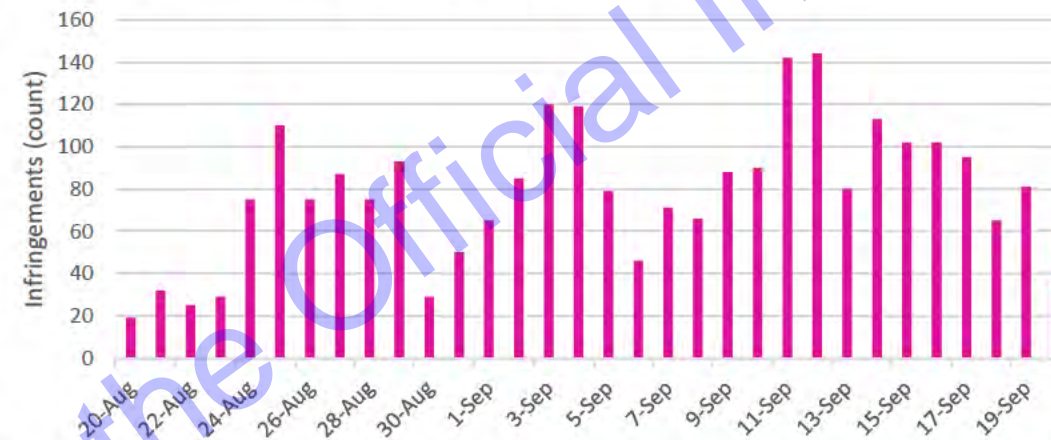
Judge Reserves Decision in Vaccine Court Case

A judge has reserved their decision in a case taken by a former Customs border worker challenging the Public Health order mandating vaccines. The former worker was dismissed from her role for refusing to receive the vaccine required for her role.
Stuff: 17 September, 5.48 PM

Transport – Judicial Hearing for Non-Vaccinated Staff

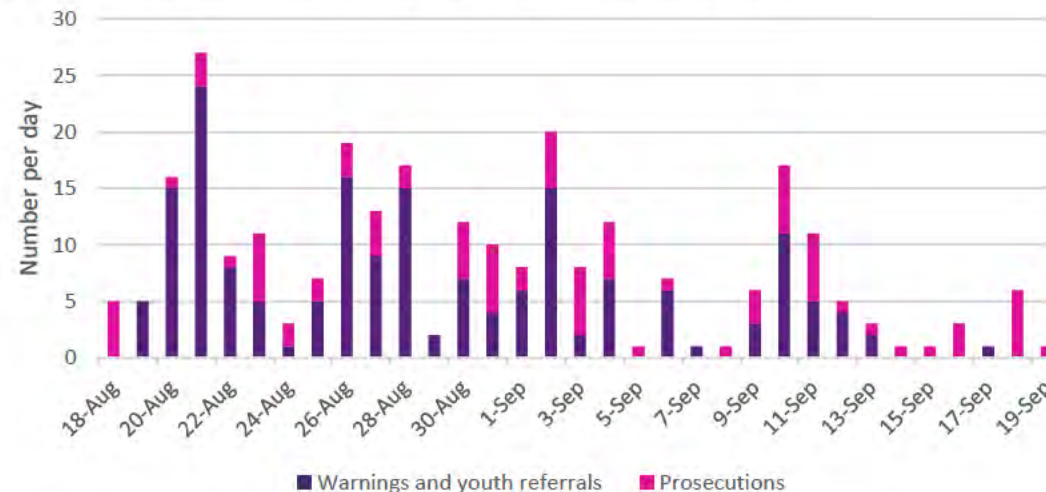
A judicial hearing between four remaining non-vaccinated Aviation Security Service (AVSEC) employees and the Crown, in relation to the Vaccinations Order, will take place on 25 September. Crown Law is connected with this work.
Ministry of Transport, 20 September 2021 2.05 PM

Total Infringements under AL3 and AL4 - Auckland Only



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland Only



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The Bigger Picture

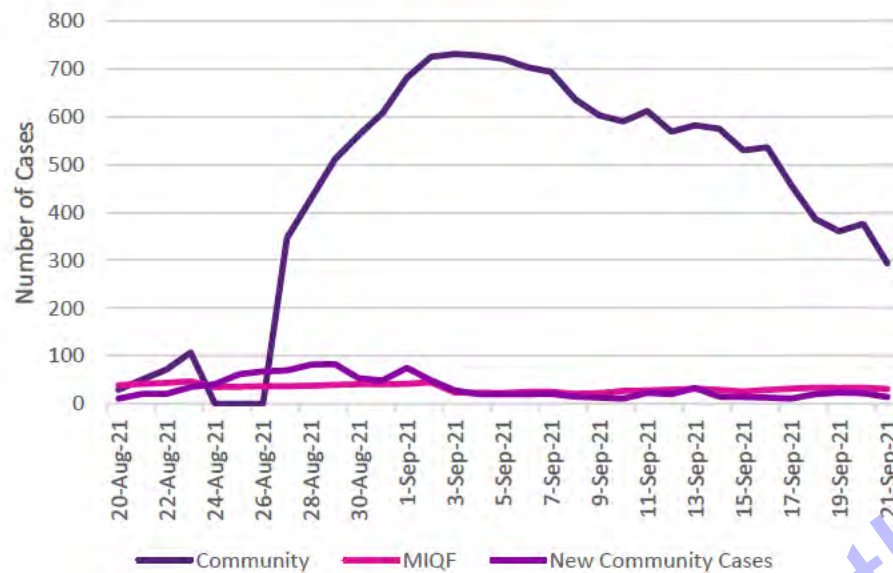
Health & Border

Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

The number of active cases has reached its lowest point since before 27 August, after peaking at 731 on 3 September. The number of active cases first identified in MIQ was 31 today, down 3 on yesterday's total, and has remained within a range of 21 – 47 over the period of the recent outbreak.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



Vaccines and Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain significantly below rates for other ethnicities. The number of first doses administered to eligible Māori and Pacific Peoples are 515 per 1000 people and 665 per 1000 people, respectively. This compares to an average of 741 first doses per 1000 eligible people in the total population. This disparity in vaccination rates amongst different ethnicities is particularly large in the under 30 age group. The lower average age of the Māori and Pacifica populations compared to other ethnicities, may also explain some of these disparities as younger age groups have had less time to get vaccinated.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021

Extra Support for Ethnic Vaccination

Specific funding has been allocated to support vaccination efforts and communications for ethnic communities. \$1 million has been set aside for this, with each group able to apply for up to \$50,000.

Caring for Communities 20 September, 11.43 AM; Ministry of Health 17 September;

Pacific Community Vaccine Drive

MPP report specific vaccination drives in Auckland catered to different demographics of the pacific community. A drive for Cook Islanders and people from Niue is planned this week and a vaccine drive for Fiji is planned for Fijian language week.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 20 September 2021 4.57 PM

Negative Response to the New MIQ Lobby

Some New Zealanders overseas indicated they were frustrated with the new MIQ lobby system released for the first time on Monday. Demand outweighed supply and some had over 20,000 people ahead of them in the queue.

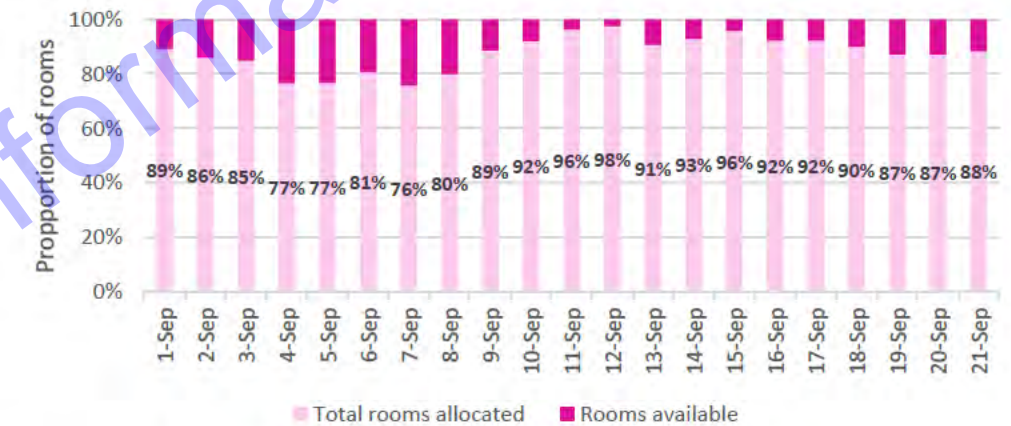
NZ Herald, 20 September, 4.00 PM.

Managed Isolation and Quarantine Occupancy

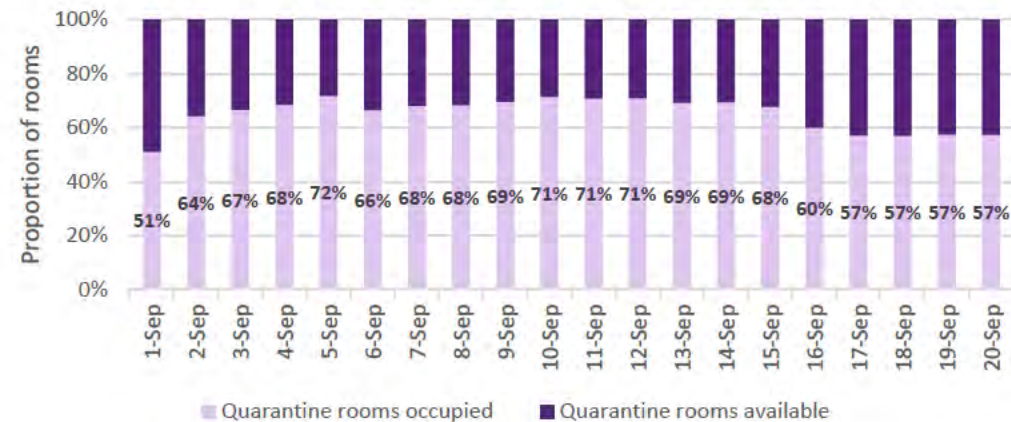
After peaking on September 12, pressure on managed isolation and quarantine facilities is easing.

MBIE: 21 September 2021 12.00 PM

Managed Isolation Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



Quarantine Rooms Allocated as a Proportion of Total Capacity



Transport – Visas For Non-Cargo Ships

The shipping industry has advised the Ministry of Transport of difficulties in crewing some non-cargo ships legitimately in NZ, including ships permitted to carry out work under the Maritime Border Order, due to crew visas only being granted for cargo ships and not other ship types. This may put the NZ Marine industry's refit, repair and new construction work at risk. MoT have indicated that they will be raising this with Immigration.

Ministry of Transport, 20 September 2021 2.05 PM

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Daily Updates

Health & Border

Community Cases

There are 1,085 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 14 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland. 1 earlier recorded case was reclassified as under investigation giving a net increase of 14.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

Contact Tracing

There are 234 close plus contacts currently under management. 208 (88%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 172 (86%) have returned an initial test, 3 were positive. 1,141 close contacts are currently under management 990 (86%) have been contacts advised to isolate and be tested. 985 (86%) have been tested, 1 was positive.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 1.16PM

Vaccination

There have been 3,118,082 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,644,597 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,445,471 future bookings. This indicates that a vast majority of the bookings are likely to relate to second doses, rather than additional coverage of the population.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 10.48 AM

Testing

There were 8,346 tests yesterday, 16% of surge testing capacity. This is an increase of 262 from the previous day, when 8,084 tests were conducted.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 8.55 AM

ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Wairarapa. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is over 20 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has around 10 ICU beds and over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

Health & Border

COVID APP Usage

The NZ COVID Tracer app has 3,237,146 registered users as of 10AM today, increasing by 3,265 since yesterday. There were 1,766,692 scans between 12.00PM 20 September and 9.50AM 21 September.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 10.00 AM

Healthline

Healthline had 4,752 contacts on Monday. Of those contacts, 2,994 were calls to the COVID-19 Info Line, of which 76% were seeking information, and 18% were sent for testing.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

MIQ Capacity

There are 4,123 people in managed isolation. 3,488 managed isolation rooms are allocated (87% of operational capacity). Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 275 people in quarantine facilities. 392 of 686 quarantine rooms are filled (57% of capacity).

MBIE, 21 September 2021 12.00 PM

Mental Health

There were 663 contacts to "1737 Need to talk?" on Monday, 131 more than the contacts reported on Sunday.

Ministry of Health, 21 September 2021 1.16 PM

PPE

The current usage rate is at low pandemic usage.

There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 2.35 PM

Health System

There are 15 hospitalised cases, 1 less than yesterday. 4 cases are in ICU, 3 require ventilation.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 1.16 PM.

Health & Border

Maritime Border

The Hong Kong flagged bulk carrier *Portland Bay* had health pratique denied on 19 September as the vessel reported crew having flu like symptoms. The vessel is anchored off Port Tauranga while a health plan is being drafted. There are 17 crew.

There are 4 small craft inbound to Opuā.

There are 3 small vessels in port at Opuā.

5 merchant vessels will arrive today, 4 will depart today, and 39 are currently in ports.

NZ Customs Service: 21 September 2021 2.30 PM

Air Border – Testing and Arrivals

Auckland has 21 red zone and freight arrivals with 172 passengers in total; and 22 red zone and freight departures expected today with 85 passengers in total.

Christchurch has two red flights arriving with 134 passengers and four flights departing with no passengers listed.

100% of passengers requiring PDTs continue to be screened with no breaches noted.

COVID-19 testing order requirements of staff are being met and adequate staffing levels are being maintained.

NZ Customs Service: 21 September 2021 2.30 PM

Compliance

Non-Compliance

In Auckland, six people were prosecuted on September 18 for a COVID-19 related offence. This is double the previous day for which reporting is available, September 16. One person was warned on Monday. No data related to warnings has been provided since then. There were 37 infringements issued yesterday for COVID-19 related breaches, a decrease from 81 on Sunday.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 6.37 AM.

Information as of 20 September 5.00 PM.

Compliance

Online Breach Notifications

There were 103 compliance breaches reported to Police online yesterday, almost half the 188 reported on Sunday. Of the breaches, 62% (64) related to gatherings, 31% (32) related to businesses, and 7% (7) related to individuals. This is the lowest number of online breach notifications since reporting began.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 6.37 AM.

Information as of 20 September 5.00 PM.

Travel Compliance

Approximately 15,854 vehicles were recorded going through checkpoints in the 24 hours to 11.59 PM, 20 September 2021. 146 vehicles (0.92%) were turned around for not having permission to travel.

New Zealand Police: 21 September 2021 12.40 PM

Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media sentiment over the weekend highlighted conversation around case numbers and vaccinations, with some in Auckland feeling hopeful about an alert level change on Monday and others unsure due to case numbers rising. Some believe the South Island should move to AL1 due to having no community cases. There was also discussion around vaccine passports, including privacy/data concerns and wondering how these would be enforced.

Most online conversation continues to focus on the virus (50% negative and 41% neutral sentiment), NZ's COVID response (47% negative and 41% neutral), the vaccine rollout (53% negative and 33% neutral), and alert level timeframes (40% negative and 44% neutral). All categories increased slightly in negative sentiment on Sunday.

DPMC, 20 September 2021 7.43 PM

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Daily Updates

AOG Coordination

Communications

The focus for Communications includes developing material for the AL3 and 2 change, testing in key suburbs, and a targeted campaign in Auckland around support available.

Questions raised by the public have mainly been regarding: AL3, food security, domestic travel and vaccine passports.

DPMC: 20 September 2021 8.57 AM

Policy

DPMC are progressing work following the Alert Level decision by Cabinet on Monday. Issues with the current Health Order and Level 2 settings are also being worked through.

DPMC: 20 September 2021 1.39 PM

Regional Coordination

Fire and Emergency Resourcing

61 Fire and Emergency personnel are isolating after visiting locations of interest (up five from yesterday).

Personnel availability constraints are concentrated in the AL4 region, with 85% of staff available compared to 95-100% elsewhere. The Kaiaua Rural Fire Bridge in the North Waikato is currently out of service as all staff are in isolation and getting tested.

Fire and Emergency NZ: 21 September 2021 2.32 PM

Travel & Transport

Traffic

In Auckland under AL4, traffic is at 32% of baseline levels (compared to the same week in 2019). Auckland had a 5% increase in light vehicle traffic and a 1% increase in heavy vehicle traffic compared to the previous week.

Outside of Auckland under AL2, traffic remains below baseline levels in Christchurch (66% vs. the same week in 2019), Wellington (91%), Hamilton (92%) and Dunedin (95%). In each city, light vehicle traffic increased by 0.3% to 10% compared to the previous week. Heavy vehicle traffic increased by 4% to 12%, except for Dunedin, where it decreased by 0.2%.

Waka Kotahi, 21 September 2021 9.48 AM

Transport

As at 20 September, Auckland public transport patronage (including buses, trains and ferries) under AL4 was 5.2% of the same week in 2019.

Under AL2, bus patronage remains steady. In Wellington, patronage is 66% compared to the same week in 2019, up 15% from the previous week in AL2. Christchurch bus patronage stands at 61% of the same week in 2019, increasing 13% from the previous week.

Waka Kotahi, 21 September 2021 11.47 AM

Travel & Transport

Travel Exemption Requests

MPI has provided advice on 630 requests for a boundary exemption to date. They recommended that 129 requests be approved, 105 declined, and the remainder either withdrawn, revoked, or are awaiting further information.

Ministry of Primary Industries: 21 September 2021 3.55 PM

Ministry of Health - Travel Exemptions

As at 8 AM on 21 September, the Ministry of Health has received a total of 5,988 requests for a travel exemption. Of these, 5,220 have been completed, with 235 approved; 4,105 declined; and 880 closed, referred to MBIE, permitted under the Order, or declined multiple times.

Of the 5,132 exemption requests considered within the Ministry of Health's mandate, 4.6% were approved.

Ministry of Health: 21 September 2021 8.11 AM

Workplace & Infrastructure

Corrections

There has been one confirmed case of COVID-19 among people in Corrections care. The individual was remanded at Mount Eden Corrections Facility on Friday night and returned a positive test result. The prisoner shared a cell with one person on Friday night who has also been moved to quarantine. A further six prisoners have been identified as potential close contacts and are being managed in line with quarantine protocols.

58 members of Corrections staff are currently awaiting COVID-19 test results, with no reported disruptions to operations.

Department of Corrections, 21 September 2021 3.00 PM

Workplace & Infrastructure

Supermarket Resourcing

Countdown has approximately 500 staff not working as a result of COVID-19 risks, up by 100 since September 15.

One Countdown store remains closed. Foodstuffs North Island has 34 staff self-isolating, up 2 from 20 September.

Some purchase limits remain on goods to maintain supply.

MBIE: 20 September 2021 2.54 PM

Infrastructure Resourcing

In the water sector, Watercare have 27 staff self-isolating (six less than 15 September).

There are 24 staff self-isolating across the fuel sector (no change from 15 September), and three staff self-isolating in the gas sectors (down one from 15 September).

There are no staff self-isolating in the electricity sector.

Three staff are isolating in the waste sector, no change as of 17 September.

MBIE: 20 September 2021 2.54 PM

Digital Infrastructure – Distributed Denial of Service (DDoS) Attack

Following the recent DDoS attacks the Government Chief Digital Officer asked Government agencies to check with their providers around their resilience to withstand attacks. While there are no current issues, short intermittent disruptions are expected to continue and the risk is ongoing.

Department of Internal Affairs: 21 September 2.50 PM

Telecommunications, Energy, Water, Waste

No issues reported.

MBIE: 20 September 2021 2.54 PM

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Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz

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24 September 2021

Health

Community Cases

There are 1,131 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 9 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

After peaking at 731 on 3 September, the number of active cases has reached its lowest level since at least August 26 (see the chart below). The number of active cases first identified in MIQ was 28 today, the lowest number since September 11. The number of new cases detected in the community stands at nine – the lowest daily total since the beginning of the outbreak.

Ministry of Health 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



Contact Tracing

There are 191 close plus contacts currently under management. 176 (92%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 158 (82%) have returned an initial test, none were positive. 862 close contacts are currently under management 804 (93%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 795 (92%) have been tested, none were positive.

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 1.07PM

PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 3.29 PM

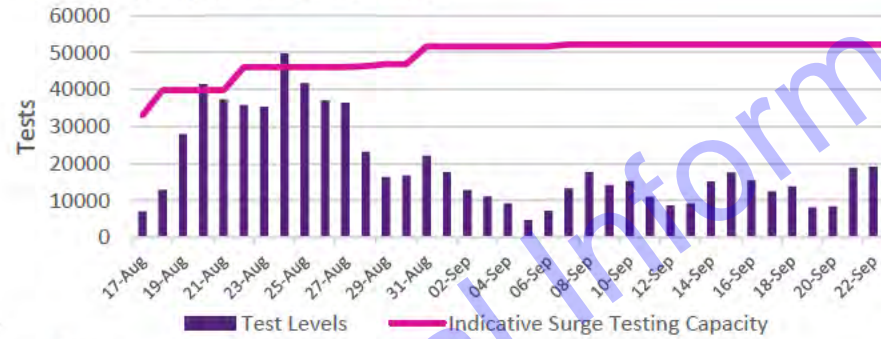
Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, testing rates have varied between 7,255 and 19,124 (see the chart below).

Testing hesitancy may be one reason rates are low.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 8.58 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Whanganui where all ICU capacity is being utilised for non -COVID cases. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is around 15 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just under 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

Health System

There are 13 hospitalised cases, 2 less than yesterday. 3 cases are in ICU, and all 3 require ventilation.

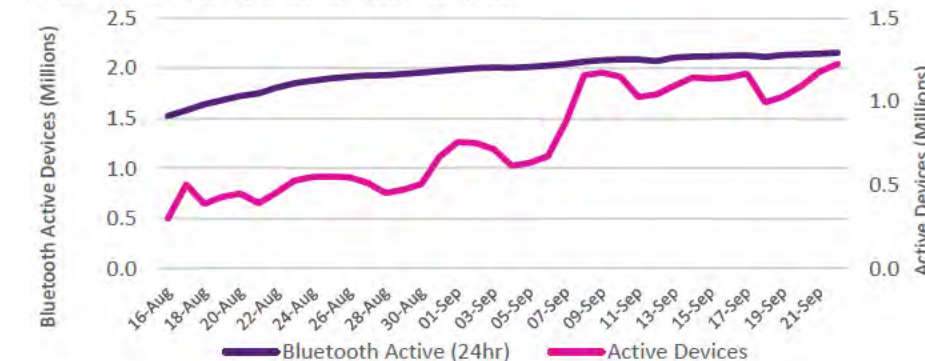
Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 1.07 PM.

App Usage

In the 24 hours from 12PM 22 September to 12 PM 23 September, there were 1.225 million Active Devices using the Tracer App, and 2.152 million devices with Bluetooth active

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 10.00 AM.

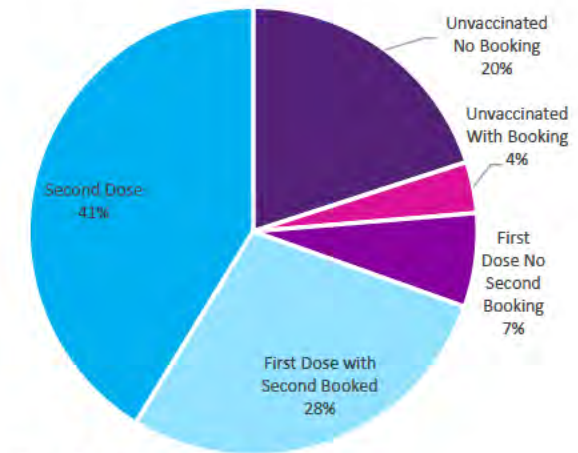
Active Devices and Bluetooth Active Devices



Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,192,380 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,725,151 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,346,952 future bookings. The chart below shows the total eligible population and whether they have been vaccinated or have a booking. Approximately 1.2 million of the future bookings are for second doses.

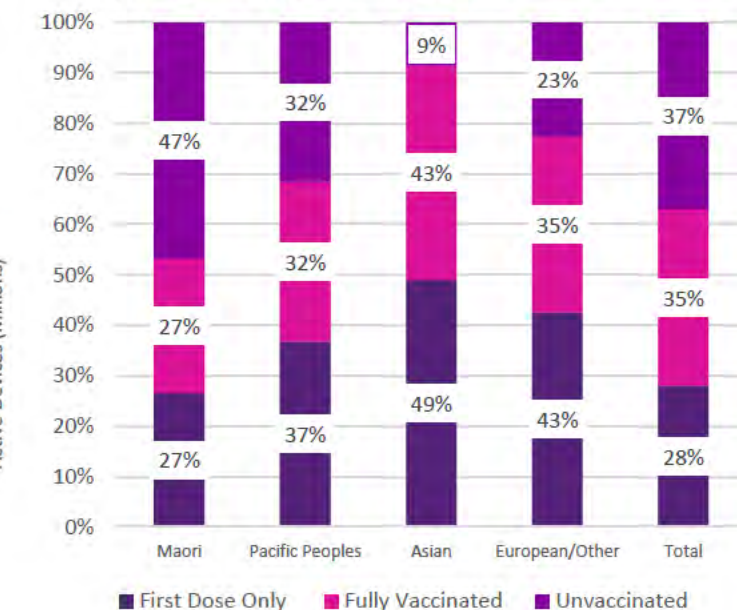
Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 10.41 AM



Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 24 September 2021 10.41 AM



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Social & Community

Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

Recent call volumes to Healthline have reached their highest level since 1 September. The primary themes present in calls to Healthline relate to travel restrictions, boundary measures, and exemptions. Healthline is also registering growing public frustration and anxiety around entering and leaving Auckland, and regarding the persistence of AL3 restrictions for longer than expected. The new restrictions introduced in Waikato also formed the subject of a significant proportion of calls.

There are also increasing requests for information on the procedures for returning to work in AL3, while observing appropriate health and safety requirements. An emerging and growing sentiment concerns a perceived loss of 'empathy' and 'care' in the response, particularly in relation to the implementation of restrictions, fines for non-compliance, and messaging.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 1.07 PM

Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media sentiment this week highlighted conversation around the vaccine rollout, with some New Zealanders sharing positive experiences of receiving the vaccine on social media to encourage others, prompted by the Prime Minister's 'I'm getting vaccinated too...' post. A few people were discussing misinformation, including some asking for advice on how to talk to people who believe misinformation about the vaccine, and others actively attempting to disprove misinformation online.

On Wednesday, following Auckland's move to AL3, some people were expressing frustration at businesses and customers not following mask wearing or social distancing rules, and debating the possibility of businesses adopting a vaccine mandate for customers and employees.

Most online conversation continues to focus on NZ's COVID response (42% negative and 48% neutral sentiment), the virus (45% negative and 47% neutral), the vaccine rollout (48% negative and 39% neutral), and enforcement (39% negative and 52% neutral). All categories decreased in negative sentiment on Wednesday, with the majority increasing in neutral sentiment.

DPMC, 23 September 2021 4.58 PM

Transport – Deadline for Vaccinated Workers Approaching
MoT reports that stevedore companies have been reminded of the 30 September deadline for all workers to be vaccinated. MoT notes one company has 30-40 workers who will be stood down and will need to pass on their work.

Ministry of Transport, 24 September 2021 2.11 PM

Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a concern for Pacific communities in the Auckland region. While MPP reports there is positive feedback coming from some groups, families and smaller community groups in Auckland report long waiting times or not receiving support. This is because the Ministry of Social Development in conjunction with the New Zealand Food Network does not fund all foodbanks and so smaller entities may not have stock to meet demand. MPP have escalated 76 requests for food through the process with MSD. However, recent developments are geared to adjust the distribution system by improving coordination between provider and supplier.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 24 September 2021 8.43 PM

Ministry of Social Development: 22 September 2021 1.41 PM
DPMC 24 September 2021

Vaccine Efforts in the Pacific Community

MPP report the need for more mobile vaccination centres, and continued tailored communications to Pacific Communities about vaccination and its importance to increase COVID-19 vaccination.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 24 September 2021 8.43 AM

High Demand for Mental Health Crisis Support

The Ministry of Health report high demand for mental health crisis support among the three Auckland DHBs. Mental health inpatients are also high across the country, but especially in Auckland at this time.

Caring For Communities: 23 September. 3.55 PM

Wellbeing Campaign Planned for Auckland

The Ministry of Health, with the Mental Health Foundation, are planning a mental health and wellbeing campaign in Auckland over the next 6-8 weeks. This is in response to high reports of distress for Aucklanders over this time.

Caring For Communities: 23 September. 3.55 PM

MIQ Capacity

There are currently 3,340 people in managed isolation, with 90% of rooms allocated as a proportion of operational capacity. Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 236 people in quarantine facilities. 348 of 658 quarantine rooms are filled, which is 53% of capacity.

MBIE, 23 September 2021 12.43 PM

COVID-19 Within Gangs

Media coverage is expected over the weekend regarding the composition of the community cases in quarantine facilities and the transmission of COVID-19 within gangs.

MBIE, 24 September 2021 2.20 PM

Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 130,637 applications in the first week, an average of 18,660 per day. As at 23 September, \$2.541 billion has been paid in August 2021 Wage Subsidies to support 1.233 million jobs, including employees of 306,659 businesses and 163,303 self-employed people.

Ministry for Social Development, 24 September 2021 10.00 AM

Increase of Māori on Jobseeker Benefits

In August, there was a 3.2% (up 1,500 people) increase from July in the number of Māori receiving jobseeker support. This increase occurred during August, the month the country moved into AL4.

Te Puni Kōkiri: Tuesday 21 September 2021 4.40 PM

Increased Need for Special Needs Grants

MSD report Special Needs Grants given to Māori for food increased 38.3% in August compared to July. This indicates an increased need for food and may be related to an increased demand over AL4.

Te Puni Kōkiri: Tuesday 21 September 2021 4.40 PM

Air & Maritime Border

An all of government meeting is being held today regarding the *Vanuatu Chief* container ship, due into Auckland on 25 September with 24 crew on board. Following a stop in Suva, two crew tested positive for COVID-19. The crew arriving into New Zealand are currently showing no signs of infection.

NZ Customs Service: 24 September 2021 2.28 PM

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Social & Community

Section 6(c)

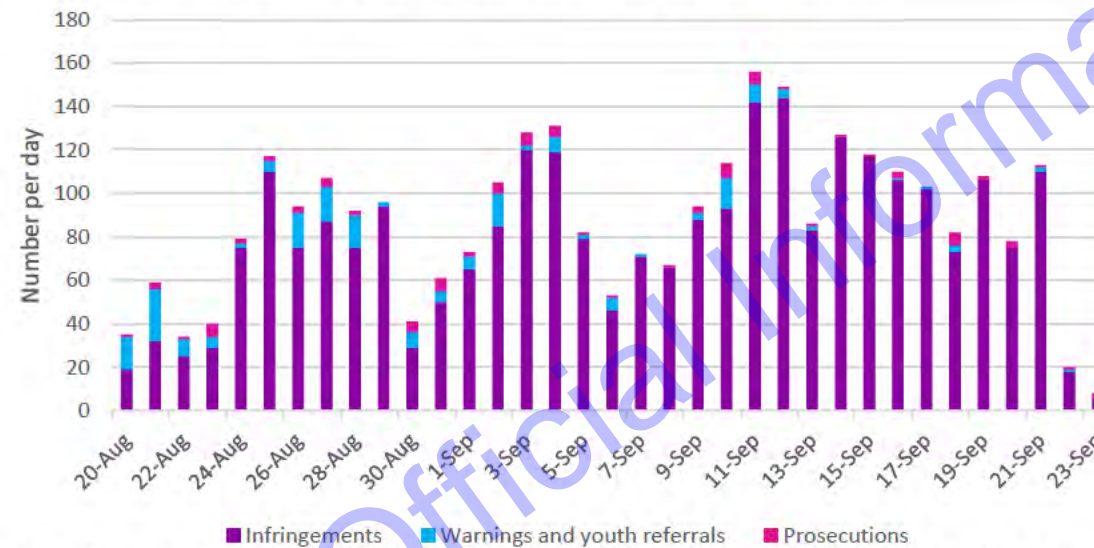
Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced dramatically since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3. Daily prosecutions and warnings have remained stable at a very low base of 1-6 since September 11.

New Zealand Police: 24 September 2021 6.37 AM. Information as of 23 September 5.00 PM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



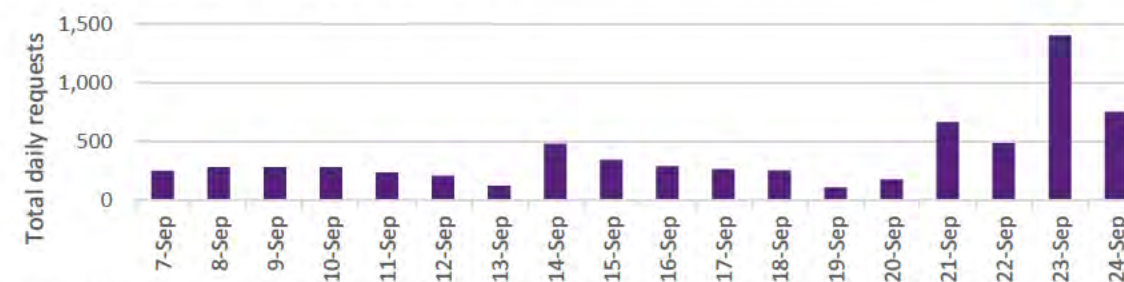
Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Boundary Exemptions

Over the past week, the Ministry of Health has received an average of 548 daily requests for exemptions to cross the AL4/AL3 boundary. These requests have increased markedly following the transition to AL3, from a prior average of 299. Average approvals have also risen sharply from 3.28% previously to 12-19% over the past two days. This reflects changes in approaches to those crossing the boundary for funerals and tangi, relocations, and returning to home or school. MOH receives advice on some requests from MBIE and MPI.

Ministry of Health, 24 September 2021 8.19 AM

Approximate Daily Volume of Requests to MOH for Boundary Travel Exemptions to Leave AL4 and AL3 Areas



Note: the data for Aug 31-7 Sept and 8-10 Sept represent daily averages for those periods, as daily data was unavailable.

Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 2.09% of vehicles were turned back on September 23. The average rate of turn arounds for the last five days has been 1.57% for vehicles and 4.34% for heavy vehicles.

New Zealand Police, 24 September 12.21 PM

Police continue to observe the misuse of essential worker forms and attempts to evade checkpoints continue to be observed.

New Zealand Police, 21 September 10.00 AM

Misunderstanding Regarding Boundary

There appears to be some confusion regarding the AL3 boundary, with some people crossing the AL3 boundary out of Auckland to start a new job or move house. While this is allowed for within Auckland, it is currently not allowable across the AL3 boundary.

1 News: 23 September 6.00 PM.

DPMC 23 September 2021

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

24 September 2021

Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

Key Issues and Risks

Vaccination Hesitancy – Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of bookings for vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are 1,216,002 future bookings. A slow-down in vaccinations could have an impact on future reopening strategies, with 20% of the eligible population still to be either vaccinated or to have booked a vaccine. Vaccination levels amongst some specific communities remain below average. Vaccination levels in Māori and Pacific communities are 55% and 71% respectively for the first dose, compared to 77% across the total population. Based on the Health Service Utilisation data from the Ministry of Health, the uptake for African communities was comparatively lower than other ethnic groups. MEC has also been notified that there is particular hesitancy amongst the Congolese community due to safety concerns and misinformation, while uptake in the Rwandan community is also low.

Ministry of Health : 28 September 2021 2.21 PM; Ministry for Ethnic Communities, 28 September 2021 2.24 PM; Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021, 10.53 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: There are ongoing communications to encourage COVID-19 vaccination uptake. There will be an upcoming Zoom hui with the African community on the COVID-19 vaccination on Wednesday 29 September – this will provide an opportunity for MEC to hear from the African community about what further support they may need. MEC is also working with community leaders to encourage uptake amongst these communities.

Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Despite the relatively small number of COVID-19 cases requiring hospitalisation, there is a possibility if there are more community cases that demand will outweigh health capacity, with several regions during the current outbreak having had all ICU beds in use for non-COVID-19 cases. Recent modelling suggests if vaccinations do not exceed 90% (see '*Booking Levels for Vaccinations Declining*' section), hospitalisations could be in the tens of thousands with 7,000 deaths in one year assuming no restrictions are in place. ICU specialists have noted that hospitals would struggle to cope with the current level of beds and staff.

Ministry of Health, 26 September 2021 11.31 AM; <https://www.stuff.co.nz/national/health/coronavirus/300414293/covid19-icu-staff-plead-for-kiwis-to-be-vaccinated-amid-bed-nurse-shortage>, 27 September 2021, 1.48 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: A system assessment is underway to identify next steps and mitigations.

MIQ Capacity Limited

There are currently 3,659 rooms occupied in managed isolation, and 282 in quarantine facilities. This represents 91% and 46% of current operational capacity, respectively.

MBIE, 28 September 2021 11.29 AM and 5.15 PM; Guardian, 21 September 2021, 00.55

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Work is underway to identify future options. If there are more community cases the system would need to flex again, noting that there are MIQ facilities in only some locations.

Anti-Vaccine and Anti-Compliance Activism Occurring

Anti-government messaging online in relation to anti-vaccination and COVID-19 compliance themes continues. Online anti-vaccination themes have included threats to public figures and officials, prominent religious figures encouraging unlawful behaviour, and anti-vaccine groups using anti-lockdown and anti-vaccine messaging to highlight their cause. Incidents of direct action related to COVID-19 have reduced in number since the beginning of the current lockdown measures, though there was a recent incident of arson directed towards a vaccination site.

New Zealand Police, 24 September 2021, 10.00 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Police continue to engage with communities and applying de-escalation measures at protests, as well as monitoring the situation.

COVID-19 Related Racism Occurring

The identification of one of the COVID-19 clusters in Auckland as being linked to a Samoan Church Group has seen incidents of racism directed towards this community. This aligns with a 2021 survey by the New Zealand Human Rights Commission that shows incidents of racism towards Māori, Pacifica and Chinese have increased during the COVID-19 Pandemic.

Stuff New Zealand, 26 September 2021 01.30 PM; The Conversation, 19 May 2021, 7.20 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The Director General of Health, and the Race Relations Commissioner have condemned racist behaviour. The 'Give Nothing to Racism' campaign is also ongoing.

Pacifica Food Security Issues Continue

Food supply for the Pacifica community continues to be an issue, however the level of need is gradually easing as coordination between agencies and groups takes place.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples, 27 September 2021 9.00 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: MPP, NEMA, and MSD are working to address food security and distribution issues. Otara Health, Fonua Ola, Taulanga U, Vaka Tautua, Pasifika Futures and South Seas Healthcare have delivered hundreds of food parcels. MPP have completed 158 food related follow ups with most church, groups and families receiving adequate food support and 5,500 food parcels delivered to 33,000 people have been distributed by Affirming Works and Siaola.

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

Key Issues and Risks

Employer Vaccine Mandates Receiving Push-back

Some employers are introducing COVID-19 vaccine mandates (in addition to those already in legislation for border workers). Mandates have been enacted in some public agencies, including the Defence Force, Department for Conservation, and in the health sector for those treating COVID-19 patients. A handful of private companies are publicly considering the introduction of vaccination requirements, such as Air New Zealand, the Sudima Hotels Group, and those recruiting RSE workers. Some legislated employee vaccination requirements have already been challenged, with legal cases brought against NZ Customs and the Port of Tauranga. Responses to these mandates may escalate and cause problems for the response.

NZ Herald: 22 September 2021 7.48 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Legal cases are ongoing. Outcomes may provide some guidance to employers going forward. PSC, Worksafe, and MBIE have advice available for employers.

Increasing Mental Health Needs

Ongoing alert level and travel restrictions can have an impact on mental health especially for people with pre-existing vulnerabilities. Ministry of Health COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey showed that total population anxiety and depression levels increased to 15% in the first week of Alert level 4, which was approximately twice pre-pandemic levels and are now tracking downwards but remain elevated at around 12%. Overall, a suite of indicators of distress measured by the Health and Wellbeing Survey have been gradually trending down over the four weeks studied to date. After an initial increase in 1737 contacts, following the move to alert level 4, there has been a decrease back to prior levels. Increased attention to mental health concerns is expected in the coming days, in line with Mental Health Awareness Week.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 2.56 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Ministry of Health is progressing work with the Mental Health Foundation including a wellbeing campaign for Auckland. The Mentemia app and the Wellbeing Sessions continue to be available to the public. The Suicide Prevention Office established a \$1.4 million Youth Mental Wellbeing Grants Fund, which was specifically targeted at grassroots, community level initiatives. The purpose of the fund is to help alleviate youth mental distress and ultimately lead to a reduction in suicide risk. The focus is on youth (12 – 24 years) and priority populations disproportionately impacted by the outbreak, including youth living in Auckland/Northland and Pacific youth. Funding has been distributed.

COVID-19 Infections in Gangs Occurring

Some gang members have tested positive for COVID-19. They are a high-risk cohort for contracting and spreading COVID-19. Some gang members disregard official guidelines and advice, such as self-isolation and testing. Some gangs are also disproportionately made up of Māori and Pacifica peoples who are a vulnerable group for COVID-19 transmission, with lower vaccination rates. This could have an impact on the spread of community cases.

New Zealand Police, 24 September 2021, 10.00 AM; Stuff New Zealand, 22 September 2021.

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Government agencies, NGO's, and Police continue to engage with gang leadership to encourage vaccination and compliance within this community.

COVID-19 Infringements Ongoing

There has been a steady number of pandemic related infringements in Auckland during the lockdown period, with an average of 80 infringements a day [see the '*Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings*' chart later in the report]. This could have an impact on the number of community cases if people fail to follow guidelines, such as wearing a face covering or maintaining social distancing. Notably, some previously unlinked cases in the current outbreak have resulted from breaches of restrictions.

NZ Herald: 22 September. 10.29 AM; Stuff: 24 September. 5.00 AM; NZ Police: 22 September 6:19 AM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The recent change from Alert Level 4 to 3 may reduce some of the impetus people had to breach COVID-19 restrictions, as well as the new category allowing people to move for personal reasons. Public messaging is re-emphasising the importance of compliance measures and prevention strategies.



COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

Health

Community Cases

There are 1,185 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 8 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

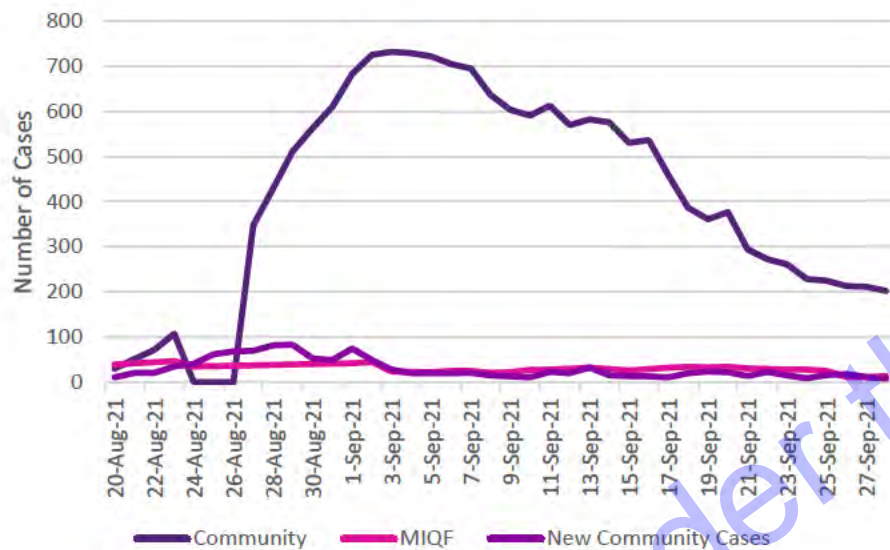
Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

After peaking at 731 on 3 September, the number of active cases has reached its lowest level since August 26 (see the chart below). There were eight new cases detected in the community yesterday – the lowest daily total since the beginning of the outbreak.

There were 4 new cases identified in MIQF.

Ministry of Health 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



Contact Tracing

There are 50 close plus contacts currently under management. 47 (94%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 39 (78%) have returned an initial test, none were positive. 666 close contacts are currently under management 627 (94%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 609 (91%) have been tested, none were positive.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 11.16 AM

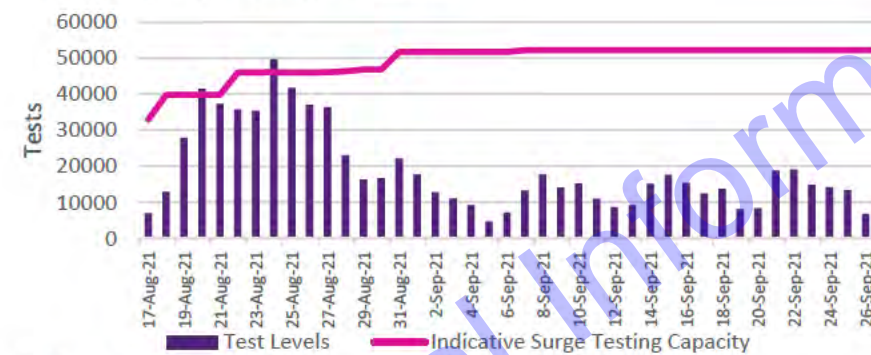
Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, testing rates have varied between 6,906 and 19,124 (see the chart below).

Testing hesitancy may be one reason rates are low.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 10.05 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Whanganui where all ICU capacity is being utilised for non-COVID cases. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is less than 20 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just under 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 1.11 PM

Health System

There are 14 hospitalised cases.

3 cases are in ICU, and none require ventilation.

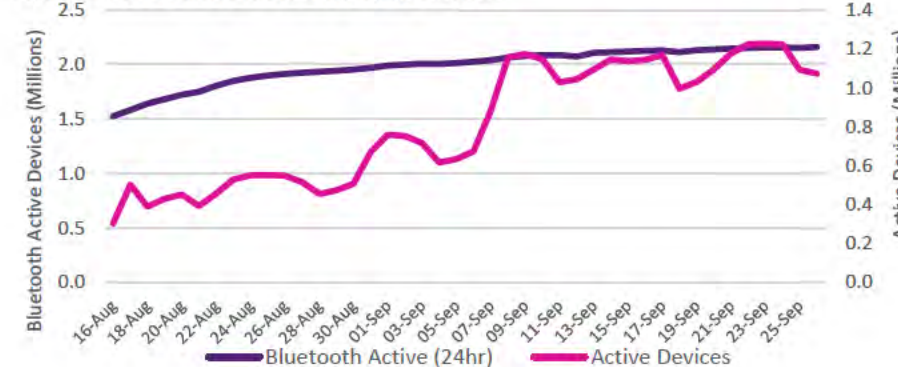
Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 1.11 PM.

App Usage

In the 24 hours from 1 PM 26 September to 1 PM 27 September, there were 1.07 million active devices using the Tracer App, and 2.159 million devices with Bluetooth active.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 10.00 AM.

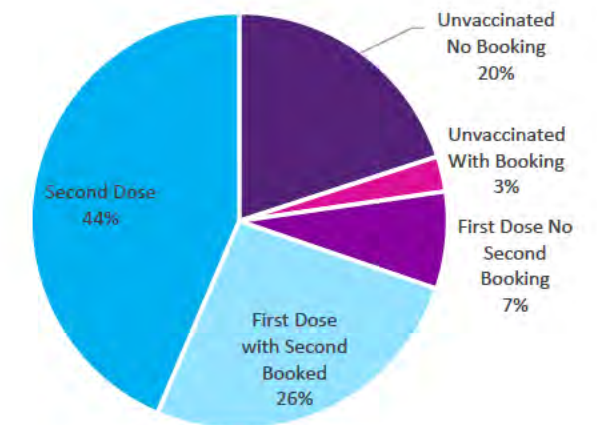
Active Devices and Bluetooth Active Devices



Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,252,807 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,834,404 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,216,002 future bookings. The chart below shows the total eligible population and whether they have been vaccinated or have a booking. Approximately 1.10 million of the future bookings are for second doses.

Ministry of Health : 28 September 2021 2.21 PM

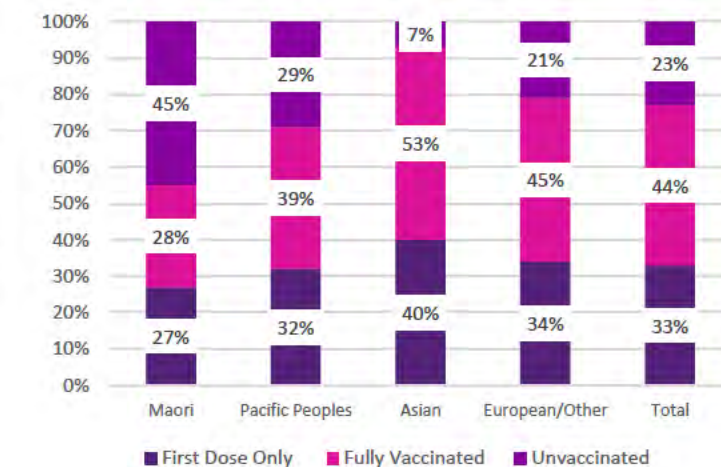


Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 28 September 2021 10.53 AM

Note: 'population' is the total eligible population



COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

Social & Community

Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

Calls to Healthline have now dropped to their lowest levels since the outbreak began. The proportion of calls related to COVID-19 has declined from 63-67% previously to 37-45% in recent days.

The primary themes present in calls to Healthline relate to travel restrictions, boundary measures, and exemptions, and returning to work during AL3. Healthline is also registering growing public frustration and anxiety around entering and leaving Auckland, the persistence of AL3 restrictions for longer than expected, and the differences in AL3 currently and previously. In an increasing number of instances, this translates into abuse directed towards Healthline staff.

Ministry of Health, 27 September 2021 1.11 PM

Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media sentiment over the weekend highlighted conversation around masks, with some people questioning the need to wear a mask after being fully vaccinated, and others asking why the South Island should need to wear masks due to having no community cases. A few people were sharing examples of good mask compliance in their communities, with some discussing the challenges of children and mask-wearing (including for autistic children) and others expressing frustration at seeing people not wearing a mask, or wearing one incorrectly. Some misinformation was noted in relation to mask-wearing not being effective.

Most online conversation continues to focus on NZ's COVID response (44% negative and 45% neutral sentiment), the virus (47% negative and 44% neutral), the vaccine rollout (50% negative and 38% neutral), and enforcement (40% negative and 49% neutral). Most categories became more neutral overall, except for 'Team of 5 Million', which increased in positive sentiment by 5%.

DPMC, 27 September 2021 5.30 PM

Transport – Vessel *Vanuatu Chief* Denied Pratique

The vessel *Vanuatu Chief*, was denied pratique on Friday after two crew signing off in a previous port returned a positive COVID-19 result. The ship was anchored off Auckland and remains at anchor under quarantine. Testing so far has returned negative results. Maritime NZ and Customs are working with stakeholders to develop plans to safely work the ship.

Ministry of Transport, 27 September 2021 2.52 PM

Food Security and Distribution in Pacific Communities

Food security and distribution continues to be a concern for Pacific communities in the Auckland region. MPP report hundreds of food parcels are being distributed daily with one provider giving away more than 5,500.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 27 September 2021 8.59 AM

Requests to Increase the Vaccination Rate for Pacific Youth

Concerns regarding low vaccination rates amongst Pacific youth, and further requests to increase their vaccination rates were raised recently at a Northern Region Zoom Fono attended by MPP, MSD, and Pacific Providers.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 28 September 2021 8.59 PM

Food and Job Insecurity Ongoing

Approximately 3 percent of the population are receiving wage subsidies. Additionally, the findings from the COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey for the week 15–21 September 2021 include 5 percent of respondents saying they struggled to meet basic living costs, such as food or accommodation, in the past week, and 2 percent of respondents said that their household has relied on special food grants, food banks and food parcels.

Ministry of Health, 27 September 2021, 9.05 AM; Ministry of Social Development, 27 September 2021, 9.05 AM

MIQ Capacity

There are currently 3,571 people in managed isolation, with 91% of rooms allocated as a proportion of operational capacity. Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 222 people in quarantine facilities. 326 of 608 quarantine rooms are filled, which is 46% of capacity.

MBIE, 27 September 2021 11.50 PM

Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 157,375 applications so far, an average of 14,307 per day.

This is 30% less than Wage Subsidy #2 (opening 3 September) which had received a total of 224,414 applications at the same point, and 48% less than Wage Subsidy #1 (opening 20 August) which had received 301,862.

As at 27 September, \$2.648 billion has been paid in recent wage subsidies to support 1.24 million jobs, including employees of 310,175 businesses and 165,835 self-employed people.

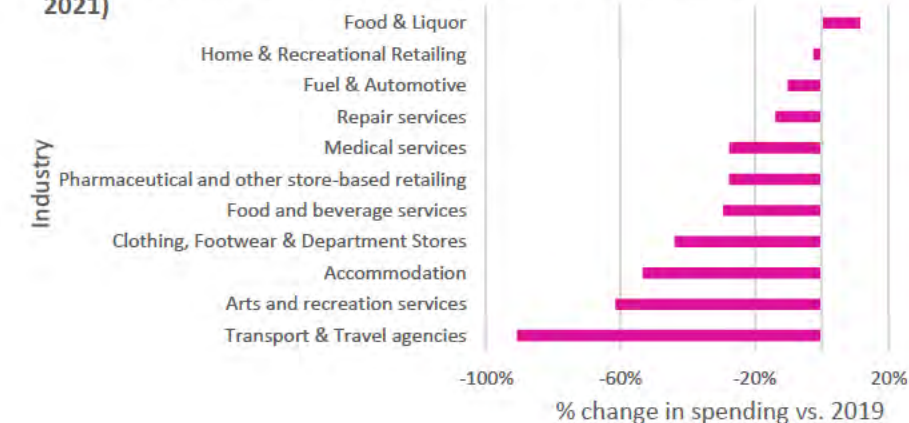
Ministry for Social Development, 28 September 2021 9.37 AM

Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend (through Paymark EFTPOS) in the week ending 26 September was 11% less than the same week in 2019. In comparison, in the previous two weeks, spending was 16% less than the same week in 2019. Spending continues below 2019 levels in all major categories except Food & Liquor, which increased by 12% compared to the same week in 2019.

MBIE, 27 September 2021 11:00 AM

Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019 (as at 26 September 2021)





COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

Social & Community

Section 6(c)

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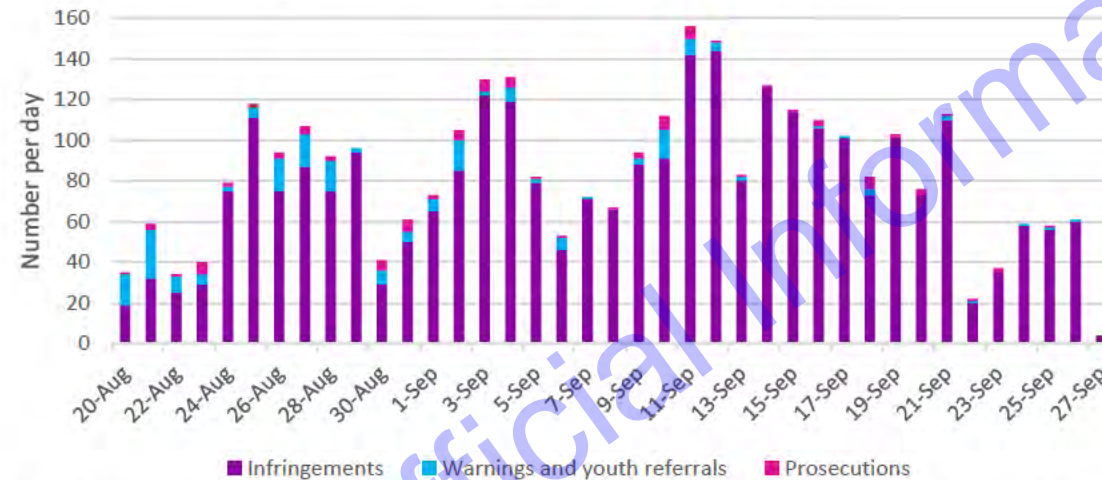
Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3. Recent increases in infringements were recorded over the weekend of 25-26 September, in line with trends in previous weeks regarding weekend activity.

New Zealand Police: 28 September 2021 6.24 AM. Information as of 27 September 5.00 PM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

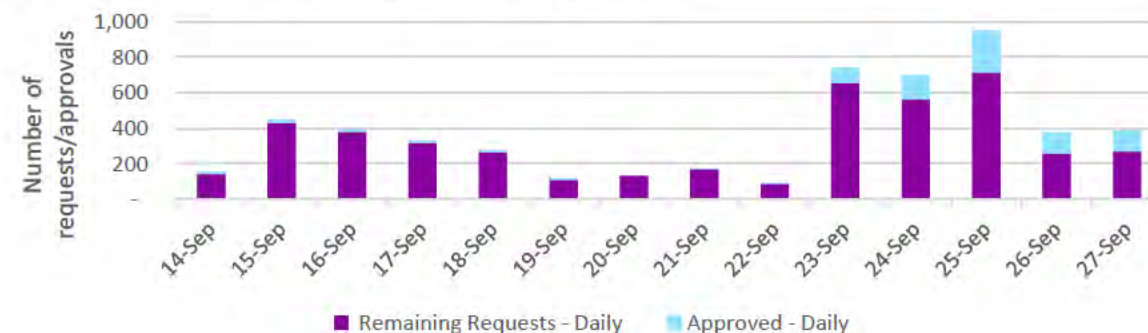
Boundary Exemptions

In the past week, the Ministry of Health has received an average of 690 daily requests for exemptions to cross the AL4/AL3 boundary. These requests have increased following the transition to AL3, from a prior daily average of 338. Average approvals have also risen from 3% in the week leading up to the alert level change to 25-32% over the past three days.

This reflects changes in approaches to those crossing the boundary for funerals and tangi, relocations, and returning to home or school. MOH receives advice on some requests from MBIE and MPI.

Ministry of Health, 28 September 2021 8.10 AM

Daily Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MoH



Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 1.4% of vehicles were turned back on September 27. This is lower than the average of 1.7% of vehicles turned around at the border so far in this outbreak.

New Zealand Police, 28 September 12.35 PM

Court Hearing for Non-Vaccinated Staff

Legal processes are continuing for the four employees that were due to be dismissed on 27 September, from Aviation Security as they failed to be vaccinated as required by the Vaccination Order. A determination from the hearing is expected this week.

Ministry of Transport, 27 September 2021 2.52 PM

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

28 September 2021

Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

1 October 2021

Health

Community Cases

There are 1,268 total cases that have been identified in this outbreak. Today, 19 new community cases were confirmed, all in Auckland.

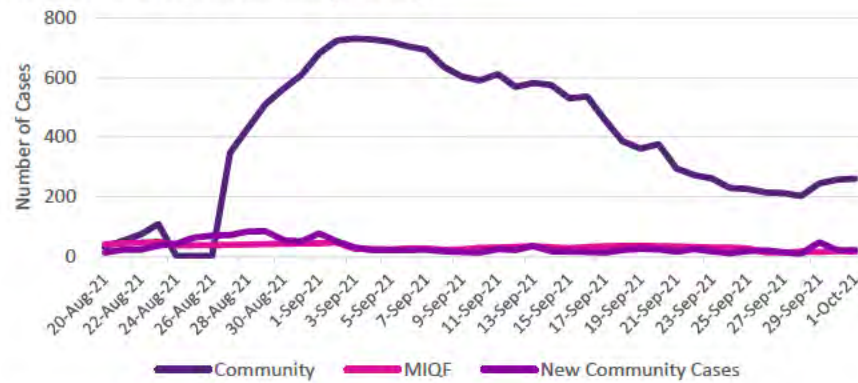
Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing

After peaking at 731 on 3 September, the number of active cases has declined to 260 currently. There were 19 new cases detected in the community yesterday, with the rolling 7-day average at 20 cases per day.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF

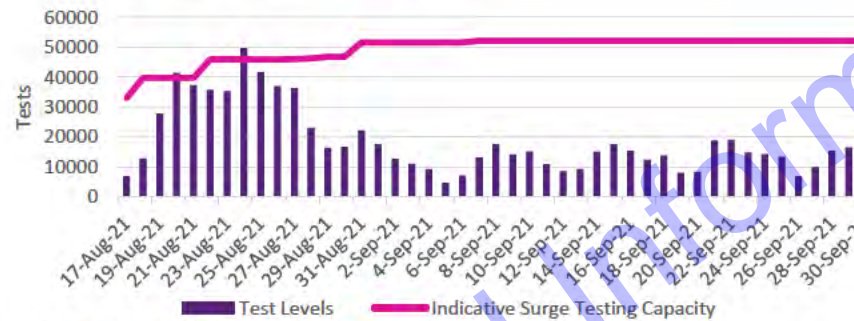


Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing rates peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing has been on an upward trajectory over the past five days, rising from 6,906 to 19,038.

Ministry of Health, 1 October 2021 9.58 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at most DHBs, except the West Coast and Lakes DHB where all ICU capacity is being utilised for non-COVID cases. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is more than 20 ICU beds and over 50 ventilators. Capital and Coast DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just under 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

Health System

There are 23 hospitalised cases. 5 cases are in ICU, and none require ventilation.

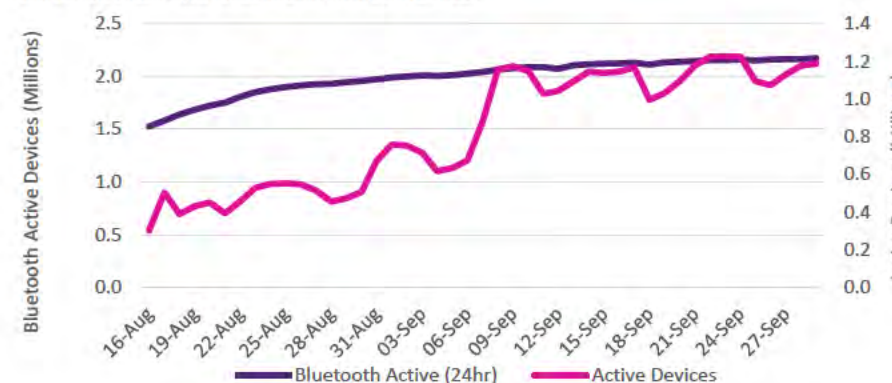
Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

App Usage

In the 24 hours from 1 PM 29 September to 1 PM 30 September, there were 1.19 million active devices using the Tracer App, and 2.171 million devices with Bluetooth active.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 10.00 AM.

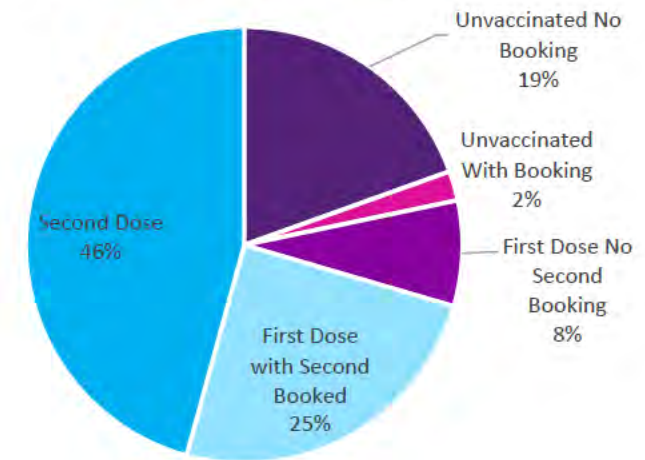
Active Devices and Bluetooth Active Devices



Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,295,644 first doses of vaccine administered and 1,925,370 people have been fully vaccinated. There are 1,136,201 future bookings. The chart below shows the total eligible population and whether they have been vaccinated or have a booking. Approximately 1.04 million of the future bookings are for second doses. Approximately 19% of the eligible population are not vaccinated and do not have a booking.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 10.43 AM and 2.12 PM



Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 10.43 AM



Contact Tracing

There are 78 close plus contacts currently under management. 74 (94%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 66 (84%) have returned an initial test, and one was positive.

494 close contacts are currently under management 404 (81%) have been contacted and advised to isolate and be tested. 377 (76%) have been tested, none were positive.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.35 PM

PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 2.49 PM

Critical Medical Supplies

There are two weeks of critical medical supplies at medium pandemic usage rates. Because of this, endotracheal tube supply is being monitored and blood tube supply is on manual allocation. Helium and Nitrous Oxide continues to be constrained after damage to an Australian plant. The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 2.49 PM

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

1 October 2021

Social & Community

Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

There were 3,723 calls to Healthline yesterday with 2,261 to the dedicated COVID-19 info line. 16% were sent for testing and 88% were seeking information.

Healthline staff are continuing to encounter abuse and frustration from the public which is impacting the workforce. The line has seen an increase in callers seeking information on COVID-19 and vaccines in recent days. There is a sense that peoples commitment to compliance is wavering. There has also been an increase in people reporting their desire to have rules around how far they can travel for exercise relaxed. There are also concerns that boundary restrictions may continue into level 2.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 1.36 PM

Public Sentiment

Analysis of public social media channels shows a 25% increase in volume in the mental health category, in particular how mental health challenges have been exacerbated by the pandemic (noting it is topical, being mental health week). Volume of conversation over the past 4 days increased by 19%, with the COVID response seeing the biggest growth in volume (up 36%).

All categories of social conversation had more negative sentiment.

DPMC: 30 September 2021 5.17 PM

Transport – Vessel *Vanuatu Chief* Denied Pratique

The vessel *Vanuatu Chief*, was denied pratique on Friday after two crew signing off in a previous port returned a positive COVID-19 result.

Testing indicates active cases on board although they continue to report as being asymptomatic. Crew are next expected to be tested on day 12 (1 October). If these tests are negative, then crew will likely remain in quarantine until after 14 days since last port of call.

An all-of-government response meeting was held on 29 September and a plan to work the vessel while under quarantine is being developed.

New Zealand Customs: 30 September 2021 1.11 PM

Food Security in Pacifica Communities

Food supply for the Pacifica community continues to be an issue, however the level of need is gradually easing as coordination between agencies and groups takes place.

Ministry for Pacific Peoples: 29 September 2021 5.03 PM

MIQ Capacity

There are currently 3,558 people in managed isolation, with 91% of rooms allocated as a proportion of operational capacity. Operational capacity includes some rooms not in use as they are undergoing cleaning or subject to cohorting. There are 215 people in quarantine facilities. 233 of 461 quarantine rooms are filled, which is 51% of capacity.

MBIE: 1 October 2021 10.00 AM

Economic Indicator – Wage Subsidy

The August 2021 Wage Subsidy #3 opened on 17 September and has received a total of 190,963 applications so far, an average of 13,640 per day.

This is 28% less than Wage Subsidy #2 (opened on 3 September), which had received a total of 264,284 applications at the same point, and 44% less than Wage Subsidy #1 (opening 20 August) which had received 339,392.

As at 30 September, \$2,726 billion has been paid in recent wage subsidies to support 1.25 million jobs, including employees of 313,013 businesses and 167,856 self-employed people.

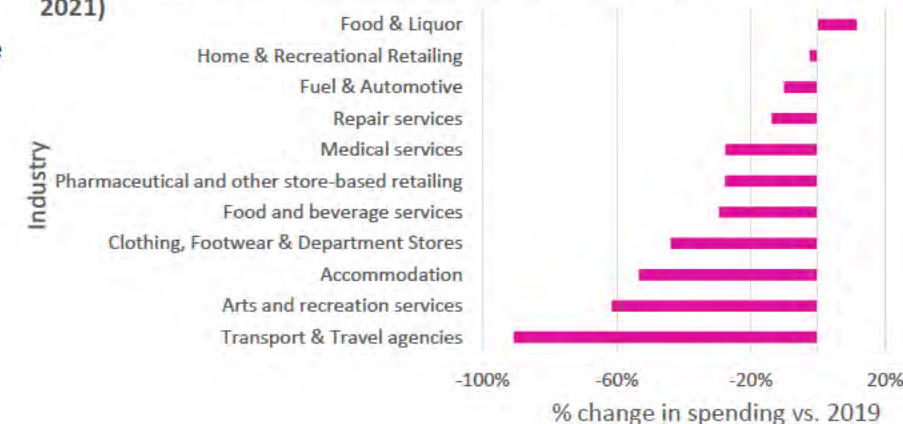
Ministry for Social Development: 1 October 2021 10.15 AM

Economic Indicator – Consumer Spending

As an indicator of spending, consumer spend (through Paymark EFTPOS) in the week ending 26 September was 11% less than the same week in 2019. In comparison, in the previous two weeks, spending was 16% less than the same week in 2019. Spending continues below 2019 levels in all major categories except Food & Liquor, which increased by 12% compared to the same week in 2019.

MBIE: 27 September 2021 11:00 AM

Consumer Spend Vs Same Week in 2019 (as at 26 September 2021)



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Social & Community

Section 6(c)

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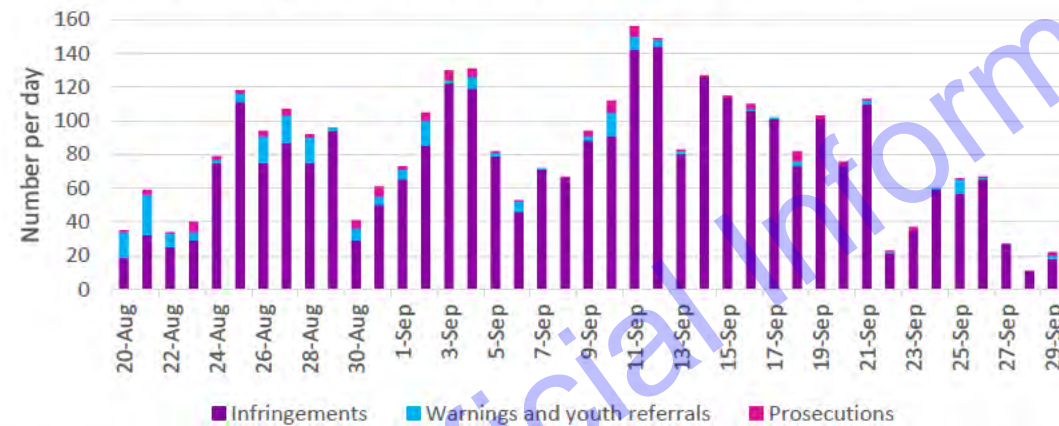
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Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced significantly since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with the last week recording the lowest number since the outbreak began. Recent increases in infringements were recorded over the weekend of 25-26 September, in line with trends in previous weeks regarding weekend activity.

New Zealand Police: 1 October 2021 6.24 AM. Information as of 30 September 5.00 PM
Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



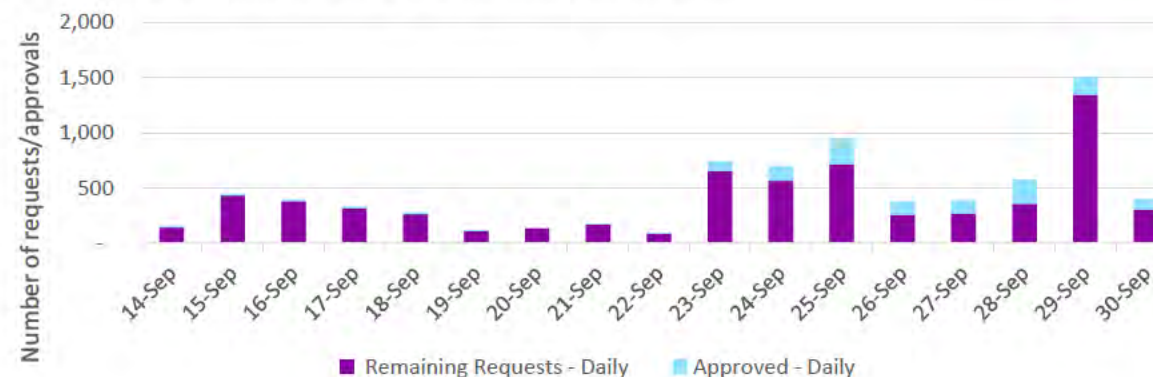
Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Boundary Exemptions

In the past week, the Ministry of Health has received an average of 497 daily requests for exemptions to cross the AL4/AL3 boundary. After increasing from 338-690 following the transition to AL3, these have begun to fall in recent days. On September 29, an amendment was enacted to permit cross-boundary travel without an exemption for the purposes of relocation, to return home (from AL3 to AL2), and to provide shared care. Average approvals have risen from 3% in the week leading up to the alert level change to 26% over the past week, reflecting changes in the boundary settings.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 8.10 AM

Daily Travel Exemption Requests and Approvals - MoH



Checkpoint Breaches

At checkpoints, 0.8% of vehicles were turned back on September 30. This is lower than the overall average of 1.59% of vehicles turned around at the border during the course of this outbreak. Exemptions for personal travel now apply, which may result in fewer breaches.

New Zealand Police, 1 October 2.28PM

Court Case Dismissed for Non-Vaccinated Former Border Worker

A former border worker who was previously sacked for not getting vaccinated has had her legal challenge dismissed by the high Court. She had refused the vaccine following it being made mandatory and was dismissed on May 31. Her Employment Relations Authority Case is still pending.

Stuff: 27 September 2021 8.05 PM

Concerns Over Delayed Surgeries

Some concerns have been raised over delayed elective surgeries. Elective surgeries have been postponed during alert levels 4 and 3.

Stuff: 1 October 2021, 5.00 AM

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

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Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 October 2021

Key System Issues & Risks

Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Despite the relatively small number of COVID-19 cases requiring hospitalisation, there is a possibility if there are more community cases that demand will outweigh health capacity. Several regions during the current outbreak had all ICU beds in use for non-COVID-19 cases, and some critical medical supplies are in short supply. Medical capacity will take time to develop, and may be outpaced by cases.

Ministry of Health: 1 October 2021 2.49 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: There is a full rapid review of COVID-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

MIQ Capacity Limited

79% of available isolation capacity is being utilised (rooms that are available fluctuate daily depending on a number of things *including* cohorting arrangements, flight schedules and rooms being repurposed for community cases). 33% of quarantine rooms in Auckland are being utilized (266 people in 139 rooms). There remain a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (43 and 10 rooms respectively). There are no MIQ quarantine rooms currently in the Waikato/BOP region. Work is being done to understand what could be achieved if MIQ quarantine is needed in those locations noting original concerns raised by Iwi with having quarantine in these areas.

There is growing public frustration with the capacity constraints on MIQ, both domestically and internationally. Last week, almost 23,000 people signed a petition urging the government to create a fairer managed isolation system. Recent reports suggest that the waiting list for MIQ currently exceeds 30,000. Although Government is conscious of bottlenecks and recently opened a further 3,700 MIQ rooms, the fact that approximated 25,000 overseas New Zealanders competed for these spots indicates that demand significantly outweighs supply. Some people are calling for a more tailored approach, which prioritises those returning to the country for certain reasons – e.g. to give birth or for bereavement.

MBIE, 6 October 2021 11.30 AM and 01 October 11.52 AM; RNZ, 5 October 2021 6.32 PM; Guardian, 21 September 2021 12.55 AM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Work is underway to identify future MIQ options. If there are more community cases the system would need to flex again, noting that there are MIQ facilities in only some locations. Work is being done to understand what could be achieved if quarantine is needed in those locations noting original concerns raised by Iwi with having quarantine in these areas.

Vaccination Hesitancy – Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of new bookings for vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 1,009,471 future bookings, of which the vast majority (934,230) are for second doses. This implies the emerging risk of 'hard' vaccine hesitancy among the remaining population, with 19% of the eligible population yet to be either vaccinated or to have booked a vaccine.

Recent findings from Horizon Research reveals that the average anti-vaccine citizen is more likely to be younger, poorer, less educated, unemployed, rural, and Pakeha than the nationwide average. The primary concerns raised by anti-vaccine citizens include worries about unknown side effects, uncertainty about long-term side effects, and the idea that current vaccines will not be effective against new variants. Given the evidence to counter these claims, the breadth of global vaccine application, and the orientation of current vaccine bookings, these attitudes may be less flexible than may have been previously thought.

Vaccination levels among Māori and Pacific communities are 58% and 74% respectively for the first dose, compared to 80% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori (25) and Pacifica (24) well below Pakeha (41).

Questions of accessibility are also being raised, particularly in relation to Māori, low-income, and elderly groups.

Ministry of Health, 4 October 2021 10.43 AM, 6 October 8.20 AM; NZ Herald, 3 September 2021 5.00 AM; Newsroom, 1 October 2021

•Next steps or mitigations if known: There is ongoing work to encourage COVID-19 vaccination uptake, and this is increasingly linked to the lifting of COVID-19 restrictions.

Phased Approach to Reopening Receiving Mixed Response

There appears to have been a mixed response to the planned approach to reopening announced on Monday. Some people in vulnerable communities report being concerned about the changes as vaccine rates remain low in some communities and the new rules could create a high-risk situation for them. Calls to Healthline reflected unclear communications and people wanting clarification of what they could do under the new approach. Several epidemiologists also report being unhappy about the phased approach, seeking more evidence that the health system could cope with a rise in COVID-19 cases or making remarks that there needed to be a higher level of vaccination prior to loosening restrictions. Internationally, some media outlets have framed the decision as New Zealand 'giving up' on the elimination strategy.

Stuff: 5 October 12.55 PM; NZ Herald: 5 October 10.19 AM RNZ: 5 October 12:11 PM Ministry of Health: 5 October 2.16 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications are ongoing to clarify the new approach with the public.

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Key System Issues & Risks

Anti-Vaccine Sentiment and Anti-Compliance Activism Occurring

Protests against COVID-19 public health measures and vaccines continues, with some 1,000 people recently gathering in Auckland for this purpose. This is underpinned by a growing weariness regarding the length and nature of restrictions as well as the differing compliance requirements across inter-regional boundaries. Police have also noted a small rise in protests at vaccination centers.

New Zealand Police, 5 October 2021, 1.15 AM, 6 October 7.14AM; Ministry of Health, 4 October 2021 10.43 AM; Newsroom, 1 October 2021

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Police continue to engage with communities and applying de-escalation measures at protests.

Pacifica Food Security Issues Reducing

Agency coordination regarding food supply has begun to alleviate the immediate issue of food security for the Pacifica community. However, the larger systemic issues regarding the overall need for food support remain. These issues include delays and bottlenecks related to the various levels of the multi-agency response; accessibility issues for smaller providers; and overall equity issues that Pacifica peoples face (such as lower income, higher levels of digital exclusion, etc).

DPMC, 5 October 2021 11.00 AM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: MPP, NEMA, and MSD are working to address food security and distribution issues.

Increasing Mental Health Needs

Ongoing alert level and travel restrictions are having an impact on mental health, particularly for those with pre-existing vulnerabilities. Many of the indicators of distress measured by the Ministry of Health COVID-19 Health and Wellbeing Survey have been worsening over the last five weeks. There continue to be themes in the media around increased mental health needs as a result of the COVID-19 response such as mental health needs in MIQ and the strain on business owners.

Ministry of Health, 5 October 2021 2.16 PM NZ Herald, 1 October 2021 6.38 AM Stuff, 4 October 2021, 5.25 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Ministry of Health is progressing work with the Mental Health Foundation including a wellbeing campaign for Auckland. The Mentemia app and the Wellbeing Sessions continue to be available to the public. The Suicide Prevention Office established a \$1.4 million Youth Mental Wellbeing Grants Fund, which was specifically targeted at grassroots, community level initiatives. The purpose of the fund is to help alleviate youth mental distress and ultimately lead to a reduction in suicide risk. The focus is on youth (12 – 24 years) and priority populations disproportionately impacted by the outbreak, including youth living in Auckland/Northland and Pacific youth. Funding has been distributed.

Business Frustration

Some businesses are indicating that they are frustrated with the persistence of COVID-19 restrictions, particularly in the South Island. Hospitality New Zealand notes that many of its members are struggling to break even under Level 2, with limits on gatherings set at 100. While the Canterbury Employers' Chamber of Commerce acknowledges that the extension of AL2 was not unexpected, it is exerting strains on constituents. The emerging risks, in light of the lack of cases identified in the South Island in the present outbreak, include eroding understanding of the rationale for ongoing restrictions, a reduced sense of national solidarity in tackling COVID-19, and an increasing focus on the economic impact of public health measures.

Stuff, 4 October 2021 7.15 PM; DPMC: 3 October 2021 5.17 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: The changes to the hospitality restrictions, and introduction of the phased approach to alert levels may to go some way towards relieving frustration.

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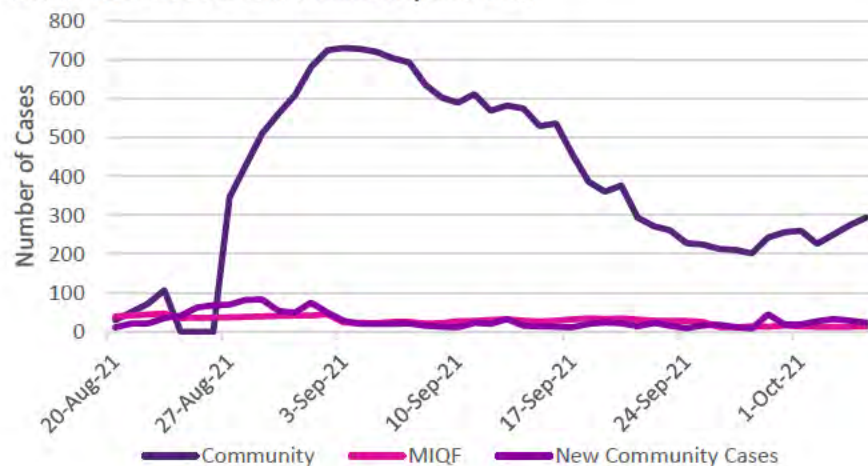
Health

Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

After peaking at 731 cases on 3 September, the number of active cases recently declined to 202 on 28 September, before increasing to 294 (as of 5 October). There were 24 new cases detected in the community as of 9 AM Monday, with the rolling 7-day average at 28 cases per day. By contrast, the average daily caseload in the previous week (22-28 September) was 14.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.46 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



Health System

There are 32 hospitalised cases. 7 cases are in ICU, and 1 requires ventilation. These are all in Auckland region.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.46 PM

ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is less than 20 ICU beds and just over 60 ventilators. Waikato DHB has less than 15 ICU beds and approximately 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.16 PM

PPE

The current usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 11.59 PM

Critical Medical Supplies

There are 2 weeks of critical medical supplies at medium pandemic usage rates.

There is a full rapid review of C-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

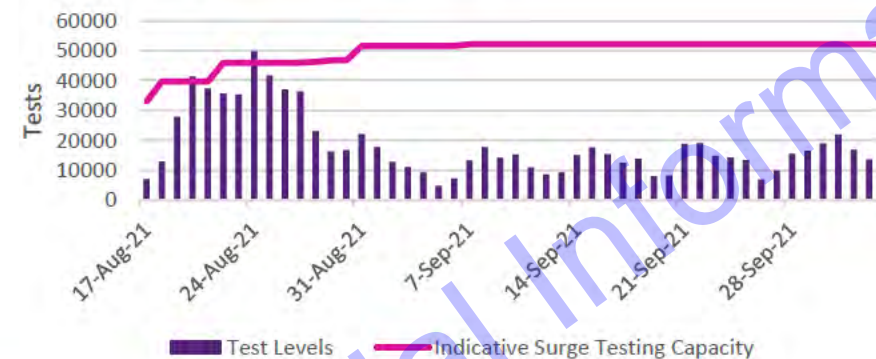
Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 1.00 PM

Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Since then, daily testing levels have varied between 6,906 and 22,041.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 10.00 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

There were 5,416 calls to Healthline on Monday (an increase of 803 from Sunday) with 3,912 to the dedicated COVID-19 info line. 19% were sent for testing and 76% were seeking information.

Healthline staff received a number of calls expressing frustration and confusion around the changes announced on Monday for the staged reopening. Staff were unable to answer these as they had not been briefed. Themes included confusion about the rules around visitors using a household toilet, the size of the household bubble, boating and the ability to drink alcohol in public.

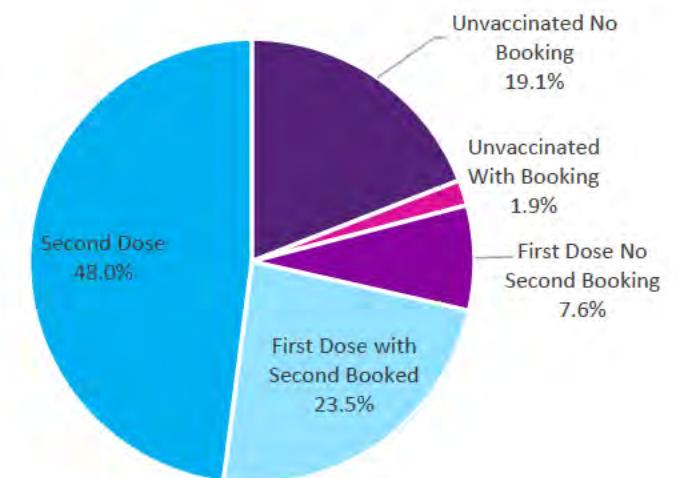
Calls also continued to be received about a perceived lack of policing of restrictions. The line has seen an increase in callers seeking information about the recent cases in the Waikato around testing and the boundary. Mental health calls were primarily related to anxiety about the alert level and travel restrictions.

Ministry of Health: 5 October 2021 2.16 PM

Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,361,425 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,105,686 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 1,009,471 future bookings. This is approximately 81% of the eligible population that have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 19% of the eligible population have not received at least a first dose and do not have a booking. 934,230 future bookings are for second doses, with only 75,241 first bookings registered.

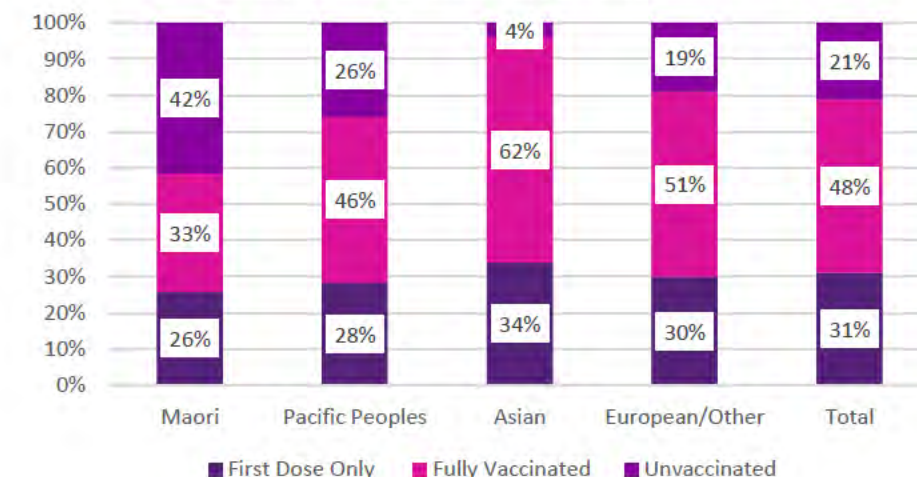
Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 10.48 AM



Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. However, Māori, and Pacific populations have a lower average age, which will contribute to the disparity.

Ministry of Health: 6 October 2021 10.48 AM





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Social & Community

Public Sentiment

While the overall volume of COVID-19 conversation remains stable, there have been significant increases in attention to the public health restrictions over the past four days, including the timeframe (31%) and enforcement (24%). A 5% rise in negative sentiment in the Team of Five Million category implies a perceived loss of shared experience, likely as a result of the differential distribution of cases and restrictions across the country. Following mental health awareness week, mental health remains a focal point of negative sentiment (53% of recorded activity) along with domestic violence (56%) and the vaccine rollout (52%).

DPMC: 3 October 2021 5.17 PM

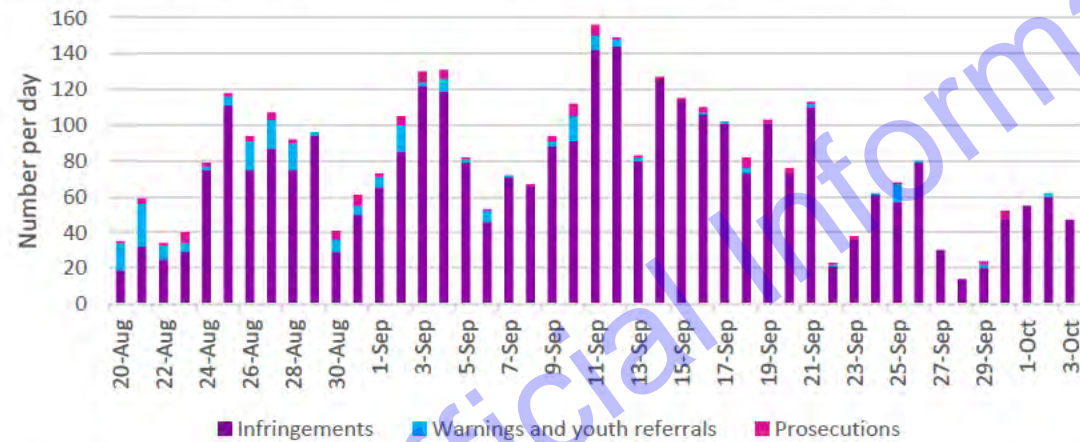
Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements has reduced significantly since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with the last week recording the lowest number since the outbreak began. Recent increases in infringements were recorded over the weekend of 2-3 October, in line with trends in previous weeks regarding weekend activity.

New Zealand Police: 5 October 2021 1.15 AM. Information as of 4 October 5.00 PM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders of the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

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Released under the Official Information Act 1982

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

6 October 2021

Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

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Key System Issues & Risks

Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Active cases have reached 452, the highest level since 17 September, and with the R value at 1.2, numbers are expected to continue to rise.

Current ICU capacity is already constrained in some regions for non-COVID-19 reasons. There is no available ICU capacity in Hawkes Bay and Whanganui. There is less than 5 ICU beds available in Capital and Coast, the Bay of Plenty, the Hutt Valley, the West Coast, Lakes, Midcentral, and South Canterbury regions. There is a risk should a major COVID-19 outbreak occur in any of these regions given the ICU bed availability. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use, and ventilators are available in all regions.

Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 2.17 PM, 11 October 2021 3.12 PM,

- Next steps or mitigations if known: There is a full rapid review of COVID-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

COVID-19 Cases Entering Hospital Emergency Wards

Some people who have COVID-19 have been arriving at hospital emergency rooms. This increases the risk of passing COVID-19 to others in the hospital. These individuals appear not to have a General Practitioner, and are likely to be using emergency or transitional housing and social services, increasing the risk of transmission of the virus.

Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 2.17 PM, 11 October 2021 3.12 PM; Stuff NZ, 1 October 2021, 5.00 AM; RNZ 8 October 2021, 2.09pm.

- Next steps or mitigations if known: There is messaging asking people to call ahead before arriving at medical facilities if they suspect they have COVID-19, and to sanitise and use a mask.

MIQ Capacity Limited

There are limited spaces in quarantine, with Jet Park currently full and the 110 rooms at the Distinction Hamilton expected to be full by Wednesday.

80% of available quarantine capacity in Auckland is utilised. There are 107 MIQ quarantine rooms available in the Waikato region. There remain a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (9 and 42 rooms respectively). The overall MIQ system is 97% utilised (rooms that are available fluctuate daily depending on a number of things including cohorting arrangements, flight schedules and rooms being repurposed for community cases). Cohorting is done on public health advice to reduce the risk of late in stay in-MIF transmission events. It means that a facility will only take people from different flights within a 4 day window. Once that window closes, no other people will be put in that facility. This means that some rooms cannot be used because the facility is "closed". Cohorting cycles are approximately 20 days in duration.

MBIE, 6 October 2021 3.35 PM, 7 October 12.04 PM, 12 October 1.55 PM (data as at 9.30am on 12 October); Ombudsman, 17 August 2021

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Options are being explored as to approaches once quarantine capacity is reached. One option is to implement caring in the community for those who have COVID-19. In response to rising complaints about MIQ the Office of the Ombudsman has commenced an investigation that focuses on how MBIE has addressed, or proposes to address future planning and allocation of spaces in the MIQ system.

COVID-19 Vaccination Hesitancy – Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of new bookings for COVID-19 vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 773,169 future bookings, of which the vast majority (716,335) are for second doses. This implies the emerging risk of 'hard' vaccine hesitancy amongst the remaining population, with 16% of the eligible population yet to be either vaccinated or to have booked a vaccine. 84% of the eligible population have had a COVID-19 vaccine or are booked to receive it. If all current bookings are fulfilled 75% of the population will be fully vaccinated, 9% will have had one dose and 16% will remain unvaccinated.

Vaccination levels amongst Māori and Pasifika communities are 61% and 77% respectively for the first dose, compared to 82% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori (25) and Pasifika (24) well below Pakeha (41).

Recent reports have pointed to these disparities in vaccination rates between ethnic groups. In Marlborough, for example, 95% of the population of Blenheim have had their first dose, compared to 62% of the local Māori population, although it should be noted that vaccination rates amongst Māori have been increasing in recent days. It is thought that causes for this disparity in Marlborough include mistrust of the health sector as well accessibility issues including difficulty getting to vaccination centers.

Ministry of Health, 10 October 2021, 10.41 AM, 1.00 PM; RNZ 11 October 2021, 12.48 PM; Stuff 11 October 2021, 12.54 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Some Health Trusts have taken steps to increase accessibility to the COVID-19 vaccine. For example, Ngati Hine Health Trust has been organising mobile campervans where people can receive the vaccine. A nationwide push for COVID-19 vaccination, 'Super Saturday', is planned for Saturday 16 October. Several organisations and businesses are promoting this.

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12 October 2021

Key System Issues & Risks

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Increasing Mental Health Needs

Ongoing alert level and travel restrictions continue to have an impact on mental health. Calls to Healthline remain at elevated levels with callers seeking to understand alert level and boundary rules as well as having a general level of weariness and uncertainty which is translating into a large proportion of abusive calls.

Ministry of Health, 10 October 2021 1.39 PM; New Zealand Police, 8 October 2021 1.55 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Ministry of Health is progressing work with the Mental Health Foundation including a wellbeing campaign for Auckland. The Mentemia app and the Wellbeing Sessions continue to be available to the public. The Suicide Prevention Office established a \$1.4 million Youth Mental Wellbeing Grants Fund, which was specifically targeted at grassroots, community level initiatives. The purpose of the fund is to help alleviate youth mental distress and ultimately lead to a reduction in suicide risk. The focus is on youth (12 – 24 years) and priority populations disproportionately impacted by the outbreak, including youth living in Auckland/Northland and Pasifika youth. Funding has been distributed.

People Are Concerned About the Move Away from a COVID-19 Elimination Strategy

There have been reports that many New Zealanders are concerned about the move away from a COVID-19 elimination strategy. There is particular concern amongst vulnerable communities, given their relatively lower vaccination levels. One Samoan community representative and Auckland councillor reported members of his community feeling that a higher prevalence of comorbidities will put them at greater risk in any outbreak. This is counter balanced by a feeling of lockdown weariness amongst other communities in Auckland.

Abc News, 11 October 2021, 10.29 AM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the strategy are ongoing.

Lack of Understanding of COVID-19 Rule Changes

Some people are confused regarding the COVID-19 rules and restrictions, particularly as alert levels change, and Auckland goes through its three-step reopening strategy. Some experts including academics in the field have also reported concern that the rule changes associated with the phased reopening of Auckland region are unclear and could exacerbate the recent outbreaks. Another example comes from the hospitality sector with industry associations reporting events being cancelled after confusion around the new limits on attendee numbers of social distancing rules at indoor events. Recent calls to the Ministry of Health's Healthline number also suggest confusion around recent rule changes with many callers seeking clarification on the new Auckland alert level rules and the wider Waikato alert level rules.

Ministry of Health, 10 October 2021, 1.33 PM; Newshub, 11 October 2021, 10.53 AM; Stuff, 11 October 2021, 10.54 AM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the alert level requirements is ongoing.

COVID-19 Amongst the Prison Population

Three prisoners who entered Mt Eden prison in October have tested positive for COVID-19, with one of the cases in hospital and the other two in prison in quarantine. Two of the three prisoners were found to have COVID-19 prior to entering the prison and the third is an associate of a positive case. This comes after another prisoner who had been bailed was found to have been carrying COVID-19 when he was brought back into custody; the prisoner in question, who was gang affiliated, has now recovered.

Stuff, 12 October 2021 1.41 PM

•Next steps or mitigations if known: Corrections are implementing process to reduce transmission, such as placing the individuals in quarantine within the prison.

COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

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Health

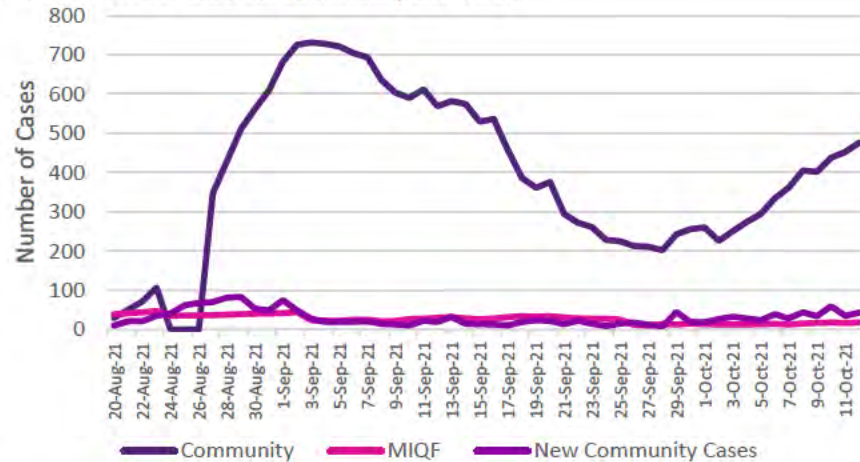
Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

After peaking at 731 cases on 3 September, the number of active cases recently declined to 202 on 28 September, before increasing to 476 (as of 12 October).

The rolling 7-day average is 41 cases per day compared to 28 per day on average in the previous week (29 September – 05 October).

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



Health System

There has been an average of 29 hospitalised cases a day based on the last week, 6 cases in ICU, and 1 on ventilation. All those currently in ICU are in the Auckland area, with 1 ICU case each in Waikato Base and Palmerston North. There has been one COVID-19 related death in hospital in the past week, a person with underlying health conditions.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Whanganui and Hawkes Bay where all ICU beds are taken by non-COVID-19 patients. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is approximately less than 25 ICU beds and 55 ventilators. Approximately half of the nations ICU beds are in Auckland. Waikato DHB has less than 15 ICU beds and just over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

PPE

The current PPE usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 3.12 PM

Critical Medical Supplies

There is a full rapid review of COVID-19 medical devices and consumables within domestic supply underway with a view to centralisation under urgency.

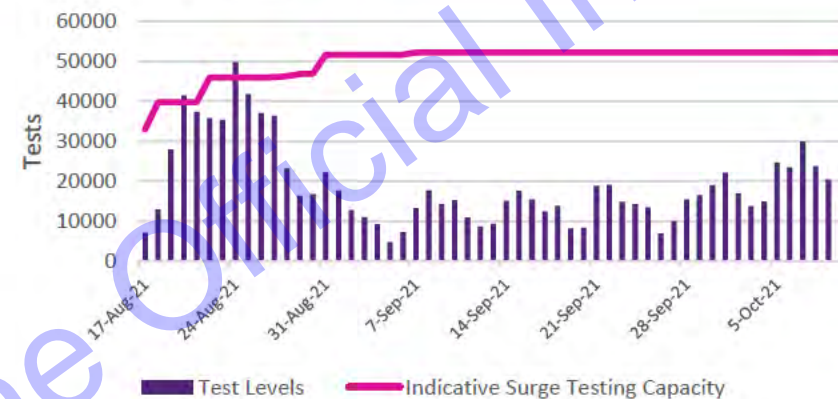
Ministry of Health: 11 October 2021 3.12 PM

Testing Levels Relatively Low

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing levels have since increased, particularly over the past week after recent outbreaks, reaching 29,925 on 8 October 2021.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 10.10 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

On average there were 4,579 calls to Healthline each day in the last week. 16% were sent for testing and 77% were seeking information. There is unmet demand due to the call volumes.

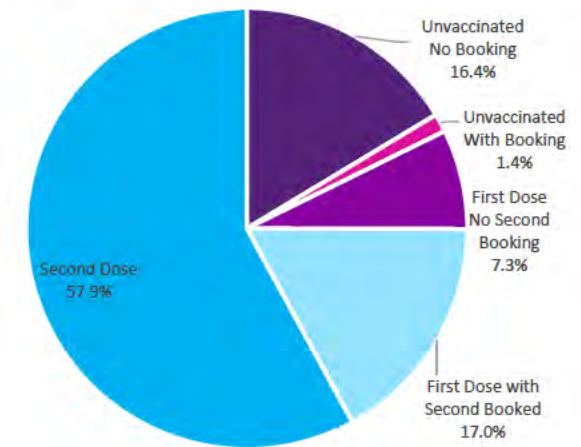
Calls yesterday spiked after the 4PM announcement continuing the Auckland alert level. This resulted in a large proportion of abusive calls to frontline staff and also one of the highest volumes of calls to Mental Health and addiction services since lockdown commenced. There was also an increase in requests from people wanting information on crossing the alert level boundaries after the extensions in Waikato and Northland.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 2.02 PM

Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,463,004 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,439,100 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 773,169 future bookings. This is approximately 84% of the eligible population that have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 16% of the eligible population have not received at least a first dose and do not have a booking.

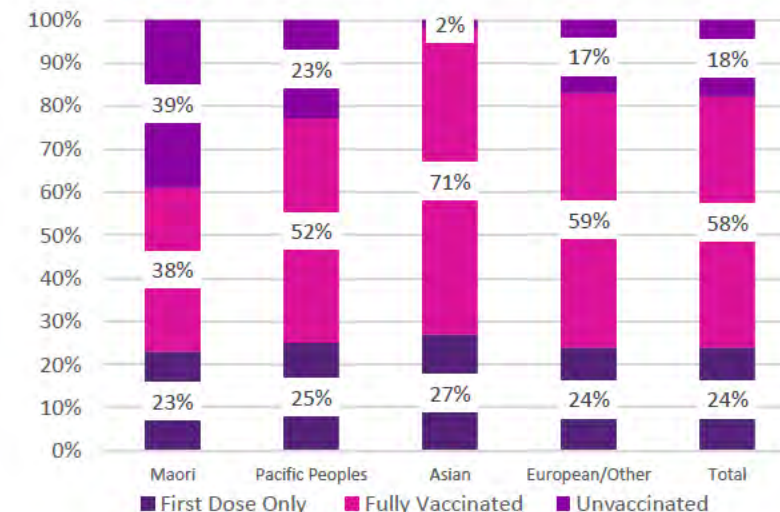
Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 11.48 AM



Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. The proportion of those vaccinated with at least the first dose rose by 4% amongst Māori and Pasifika over the last 7 days. The least vaccinated demographic are Māori under 30.

Ministry of Health: 12 October 2021 10.41 AM



COVID-19: Across Government Daily Situation Report

12 October 2021

Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand
This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.		COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

Key System Issues & Risks

COVID-19 Cases Increasing

Active COVID-19 cases are expected to increase in the coming days with the R value approximately 1.34 (as of 15 October). There are currently 633 active COVID-19 cases, just 18 less than the peak observed on 3 September 2021.

Ministry of Health: 18 October 2021, 12.01 PM, stuff 7 October 2021, Our World in Data: 19 October 2021

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Alert level restrictions are in place to help mitigate community spread.

Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Whilst ICU capacity can currently meet demand, ICU availability is limited in most regions and is likely to be an issue should a major outbreak occur. There is ICU capacity at all DHB's except for Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and South Canterbury where all ICU beds are taken by non-COVID-19 patients. The majority of ventilator capacity remains available nationwide. Current PPE usage remains at low pandemic usage, however, there have been increased orders from the primary care sector. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use. There are supply challenges for particular items.

Ministry of Health: 18 October 2021, 12.01 PM, stuff 7 October 2021, Our World in Data: 19 October 2021

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The Ministry of Health has reported that they are able to expand ICU capacity during outbreaks and have trained 713 non-ICU medical staff to help with a pandemic response (as of 7 October 2021). Orders for supplies such as further needles and pulse oximeters have been secured under urgency.

COVID-19 Vaccination Bookings Declining

The number of new bookings for COVID-19 vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 487,123 future bookings, of which the vast majority (457,203) are for second doses. This fall in bookings in of itself does not imply vaccine hesitancy as bookings are expected to decline as people get vaccinated. Additionally, some people will opt for a "walk-in" vaccination without a booking, whilst others will have booked directly with vaccination sites and not through the central booking system.

The number of eligible people who are yet to be vaccinated or book is 596,315.

The combined number of people either getting vaccinated or booking to get vaccinated remained steady over the last couple of weeks. This may have been affected by the Vaxathon.

86% of the eligible population have had a COVID-19 vaccine or are booked to receive it. If all current bookings are fulfilled 78% of the population will be fully vaccinated, 8% will have had one dose and 16% will remain unvaccinated.

Vaccination levels amongst Māori and Pasifika communities are 67% and 81% respectively for the first dose, compared to 86% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori (25) and Pasifika (24) well below Pakeha (41). It should also be noted that ethnicity data for those who receive "walk-in" vaccinations may not be collected.

Ministry of Health, RNZ 17 October 2021, 12.35PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications are ongoing to increase vaccination rates. Recent events such as the Super Saturday Vaxathon have helped to increase vaccination rates. There have been calls for further events including smaller less centralised events focusing on particular communities.

MIQ Capacity Limited

MBIE are currently operating three quarantine facilities in Auckland. There were 210 quarantine rooms available out of 554 (38%) but with the trajectory of cases in Auckland (87 today) these will likely soon be full. MBIE intend to add approximately 100 additional rooms at one of these facilities tomorrow (mostly single rooms). There remain a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (13 and 42 rooms respectively). There are 93 MIQ quarantine rooms available of the 110 in the Waikato region.

The current surge in community cases, and their close contacts, and availability of quarantine rooms continues to be a challenge. The numbers of people required to go to MIQ continues to rise meaning the remaining rooms in Auckland are quickly running out. It has been observed that attendees are remaining longer than usual in MIQ with positive cases joining existing bubbles. MBIE also report a lack of visibility around planning across the rest of the country from entities other than MIQ for quarantine should there be outbreaks outside of Auckland. There has been an increase in complexities in managing 'higher needs' people within MIQ. This includes managing mental health, people with drug and alcohol addictions, people with gang affiliations and exhibiting violent and aggressive behaviour. This is placing strain on facilities and staff.

MBIE, 15 October 2021 2.38 PM and 19 October 2021 2.55 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Enhanced security measures have been implemented to mitigate risk from 'higher needs' people in MIQ. This will require a wider level of support from government agencies. Options are being explored as to approaches once quarantine capacity is reached, this includes possibly moving returnees early from a facility to release quarantine spaces in facilities.

Key System Issues & Risks

Section 6(c)

Staff Shortages

Some organisations have been unable to train staff during the high alert levels, and are now experiencing labour shortages. This has been raised by the Transport industry, with trainee bus drivers in Auckland unable to sit Class 2 licence tests due to the COVID-19 restrictions. This is compounded by a significant driver shortage and it is anticipated that normal services will not be able to resume when alert levels are lowered. In August, 1,754 bus services in Auckland were cancelled due to this issue and similar issues emerged in Wellington in June. Reduced services due to driver shortages are likely to create further issues such as overloading remaining capacity, imposing extended delays, preventing workers (including critical roles) from getting to work, increasing traffic congestion and raising general societal stress levels and frustrations.

Ministry of Transport, 15 October 2021, 1.51 PM; Stuff, 11 August 2021 1.31 PM; Stuff, June 01 2021, 8.30 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: The issue has been raised with the General Manager of Regulatory Services and Director of Land Transport to work through any potential mitigations. The Ministry of Transport is seeking clarification from Waka Kotahi about the scope of the issue and will then determine the next steps.

Increasing Mental Health Needs

Call volumes to Healthline have increased to a consistent level of up to 4,500 calls per day with non-COVID-19 calls (primarily mental health and addiction) an increasingly unmet demand. Common themes in recent calls to Healthline were frustration and anger at isolation and ongoing lockdowns; reports of breaches due to protest activity in Auckland Domain; as well as people concerned about being exposed to the virus as a result of being at the Domain; confusion on what the current alert rules mean; alarm and distress at Air New Zealand cancelling flights into and out of Auckland; and vaccinations.

Ministry of Health, 17 October 2021 1.33 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Work is being taken on medium term strategies for additional capacity to support teams answering the calls. Mental health services and support continue to be available through other mechanisms.

Lack of Understanding of COVID-19 Rule Changes

Some members of the public are expressing confusion about operating at, or transitioning to, a particular alert level, particularly regarding mixed travel requirements, and the staged reopening.

NZ Police, 15 October 2021, 12.57 PM; Ministry of Health, 17 October 2021, 1.33 PM; Stuff, 8 October 2021, 11.25 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the alert level requirements is ongoing.

Alert Level Boundary Breaches

The media is reporting that it is easy to bypass alert level boundary checkpoints (with people hiding in car boots for example). Some individuals associated with these breaches, who have tested positive for COVID-19 have not been cooperative with authorities in disclosing the locations they have visited which has made tracing newer outbreaks more difficult. Additionally, the complexity of travel exemptions make enforcement difficult to apply consistently and has the potential to erode public confidence.

NZ Police, 15 October 2021, 12.57 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Police have indicated the importance of continued messaging that enhances public understanding about the role of Police as well as the critical public role in supporting compliance initiatives.

Concerns About the Move Away from a COVID-19 Elimination Strategy

The recent lowering of alert levels has raised concerns about Māori and Pasifika being left more susceptible to the virus due to lower vaccination rates and reduced health outcomes overall. These concerns have been voiced by both the respective communities and some health experts. This raises tensions between those with concerns about reducing restrictions and those wanting them reduced (often due to the social and economic pressures created by them).

The Guardian, 4, 12 October 2021, 5.03 and 6.12 AM.

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications regarding the strategy are ongoing.

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

Health

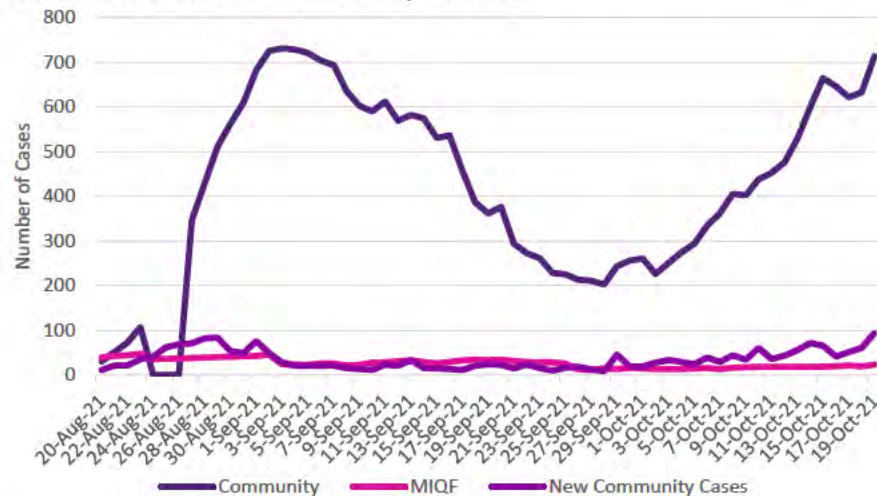
Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

The number of active COVID-19 community cases has increased to 713.

The rolling 7-day average is 62 cases per day compared to 41 per day on average in the previous week (6 October – 12 October).

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



August Community Cluster

56% of the August Community Cluster cases have been unvaccinated, with a further 20% ineligible for vaccination as they are under 12 years of age. 81% of those hospitalised were either unvaccinated or ineligible, and 17% had received just one dose of the vaccine.

Ministry of Health, 19 October 2021, 3.55 PM

Health System

There has been an average of 38 hospitalised cases a day based on the last week, 5 cases in ICU, and 1 on ventilation. All those currently in ICU are in the Auckland area.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs, except Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and South Canterbury where all ICU beds are taken by non-COVID-19 patients. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is approximately less than 20 ICU beds and 55 ventilators.

Waikato DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just over 30 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

PPE

The current PPE usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates.

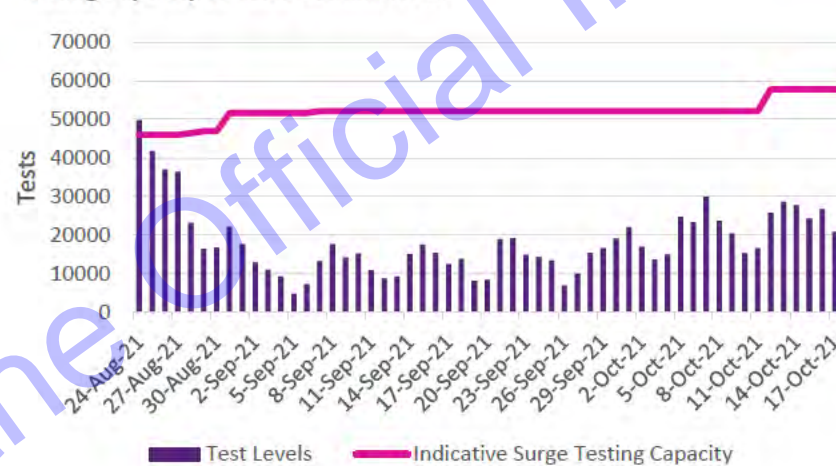
Ministry of Health: 18 October 2021 12.01 PM

Testing Levels Rising

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing levels were at 16,921 for 18 October with a rising 7 day rolling average of 24,413 compared to 22,014 for the previous week.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

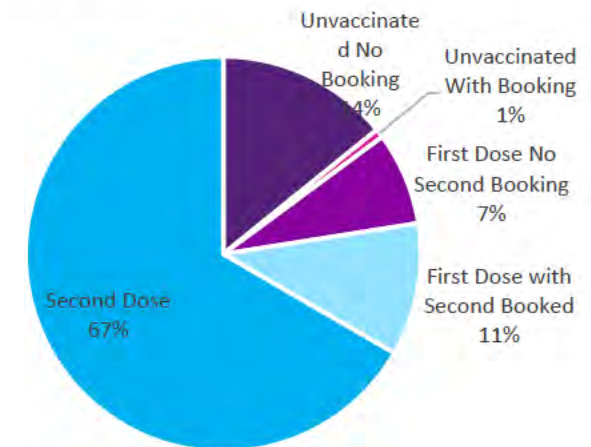
On average there were 4,352 calls to Healthline each day in the last week. 16% were sent for testing and 78% were seeking information. There is unmet demand due to the call volumes with mental health and addiction continuing to climb and the associated clinical risk as a result. Calls reflect a growing view and resentment from the public that "I have done my bit as I am double vaccinated why can't I...". There is also increasing anger about the impact of lockdown on Auckland for the upcoming long (labour) weekend.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM

Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,582,822 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,805,048 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 487,123 future bookings. This is approximately 84% of the eligible population that have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 16% of the eligible population have not received at least a first dose and do not have a booking.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM



Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. Young Māori continue to be the least vaccinated demographic.

Ministry of Health: 19 October 2021 1.42 PM





COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

Social & Community

Public Sentiment

Analysis of the online public conversation regarding responses to the alert level review were diverse, with themes including those who want more freedoms and others who want to move back to level 4 in Auckland given the increased case numbers. It was also noted that some people are feeling judged by others living outside of Auckland. Others are finding it difficult to grapple with the logic behind the current alert level.

Over the 4 days to 13 October, the volume of conversations around the vaccine rollout increased by 6%, and discussion regarding how long the current alert level restrictions will last increased by 13%, compared to the 4 days prior. The volume of conversation around all other related topics fell over this period. Overall, sentiment around COVID-19 related issues remained stable over the past 4 days

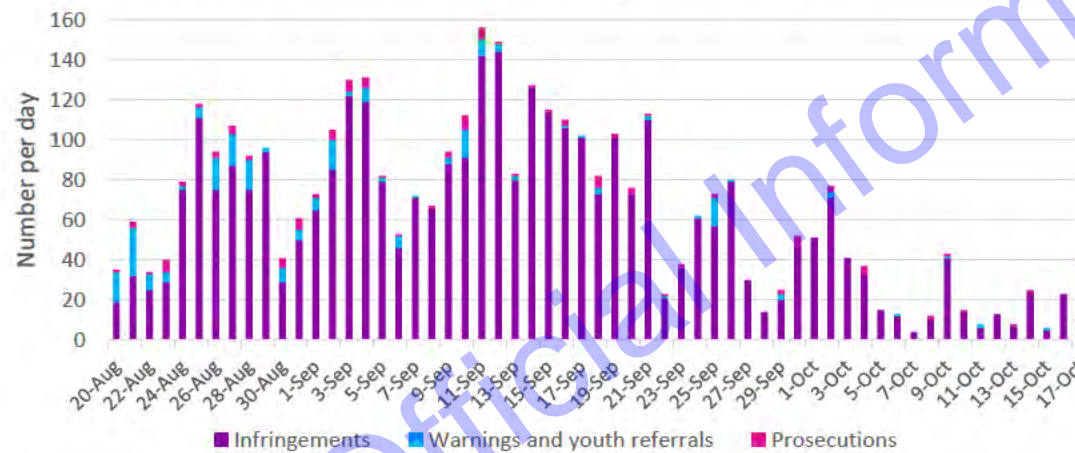
DPMC: 14 October 2021 7.00 PM

Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements continue to drop since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with the last week recording the lowest number since the outbreak began. Infringements over the 7 days to 17 October 2021 totaled 88, compared to 129 in the 7 days prior. Prosecutions, and warnings and youth referrals also remained low at 2 and 3 respectively.

New Zealand Police: 18 October 2021, 6:29 AM
 Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Section 6(c)

Section 6(c)

Section 6(c)

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

19 October 2021

Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

COVID-19insights@dpmc.govt.nz

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

Key System Issues & Risks

COVID-19 Cases Increasing

Active COVID-19 cases are expected to increase in the coming days with the R value approximately 1.49 (as of 22 October). There are currently 1,209 active COVID-19 cases, far higher than the previous peak in early September and the highest since the beginning of the outbreak (with the exception of yesterday).

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM; Our World in Data, 26 October 2021

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** Alert level restrictions are in place to help mitigate community spread, and the COVID-19 Protection Framework will facilitate the application of public health measures alongside the vaccination rollout.

Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases Constrained

Whilst ICU capacity can currently meet demand, ICU availability is limited in most regions and is likely to be an issue should a major outbreak occur. Although there is currently ICU capacity at all DHBs, Wairarapa, Hutt Valley, Hawkes Bay, Queenstown Lakes District Councils, and South Canterbury face severe constraints with almost all ICU beds taken by non-COVID-19 patients. By contrast, the majority of ventilator capacity remains available nationwide. Current PPE usage remains at low pandemic usage, however, there have been increased orders from the primary care sector. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response use. There are supply challenges for particular items.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021, 2.02 PM, stuff 7 October 2021

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** The Ministry of Health has reported that they are able to expand ICU capacity during outbreaks and have trained 713 non-ICU medical staff to help with a pandemic response (as of 7 October 2021). Orders for supplies such as further needles and pulse oximeters have been secured under urgency.

COVID-19 Vaccination Bookings

The number of new bookings for COVID-19 vaccinations have been declining since the start of September. There are currently 361,270 future bookings, of which the vast majority (341,260) are for second doses. This fall in bookings in of itself does not imply vaccine hesitancy as bookings are expected to decline as people get vaccinated. Additionally, some people will opt for a “walk-in” vaccination without a booking, whilst others will have booked directly with vaccination sites and not through the central booking system.

The number of eligible people who are yet to be vaccinated or book is 542,178.

The combined number of people either getting their first vaccination or booking to get vaccinated slowed over the last week compared to the previous week. The recent outbreak in Waikato also led to an increase in vaccine bookings in that area.

87% of the eligible population have had a COVID-19 vaccine or are booked to receive it. If all current bookings are fulfilled 79% of the population will be fully vaccinated, 8% will have had one dose and 13% will remain unvaccinated.

Vaccination levels amongst Māori and Pasifika communities are 67% and 83% respectively for the first dose, compared to 87% across the total population. However, this may be less a signal of vaccine hesitancy than demographic distribution, with the average ages of Māori(25) and Pasifika (24) well below Pakeha (41). It should also be noted that ethnicity data for those who receive “walk-in” vaccinations may not be collected.

Ministry of Health, 26 October 2021 10.24 AM, RNZ, 26 October 2021, 8.40 AM

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** Communications are ongoing to increase vaccination rates. Recent events such as the Super Saturday Vaxathon have helped to increase vaccination rates.

MIQ Capacity Limited

MBIE are currently operating three quarantine facilities in Auckland. As of 8:00AM on 26 October, there were 287 quarantine rooms available out of 674 (42.6%). With the continued implementation of community self-isolation MBIE’s quarantine occupancy has plateaued, despite rising case numbers. Additionally, the Naumi in Auckland is now being used for Community Close Contacts, where home self-isolation is not possible. There are currently 27 rooms available for this group (67% occupancy).

There remains a small number of quarantine rooms available in Christchurch and Wellington maintained for usual MIQ border operations (13 and 43 rooms respectively). There are 64 MIQ quarantine rooms out of the 110 available at Amohia in the Waikato region.”

MBIE, 26 October 2021 1.24 PM, Newshub 28 October 2021, 12.40 PM

- **Next steps or mitigations if known:** Options are being explored as to approaches once quarantine capacity is reached, this includes possibly moving returnees early from a facility to release quarantine spaces in facilities. In a recent interview, the COVID-19 minister noted that rules around MIQ for people entering New Zealand may also be relaxed in the coming months.

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

Key System Issues & Risks

Anti-Vaccine Sentiment and Anti-Compliance Activism Evolving

There have been several recent protests and petitions. A demonstration was held outside the Wellington High Court on Thursday 21 October in support of the hearing challenging the legality of vaccine mandates for frontline workers. The group of around 60 protestors gathered on the footpath outside the High Court. The group contained members of Voices for Freedom and the Outdoors Party. A number of other protests against lockdowns and vaccine mandates have also been reported in recent weeks in different locations.

Section 6(c)

Increasing Mental Health Needs

The Ministry of Health's Mental Health and Addiction phone line is at full capacity resulting in unanswered calls. Should unanswered calls continue to climb there is an increasing clinical risk. The phone line has been at full capacity for around three weeks now.

Ministry of Health, 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Healthline are awaiting further advice from the Ministry as to how to mitigate the problem.

Concerns Arising From Government's new COVID-19 Framework

There has been some concern raised by the organization representing the retail industry, Retail NZ, that there is no date announced for the move to the government's new COVID Protection Framework. They raised that this may make it difficult for businesses to plan and stay afloat. Restaurants Association NZ have also mentioned that there is concern amongst the hospitality sector on vaccine passports and that 30% of its members oppose a vaccine certificate system because they are concerned over how they can monitor customers entering the premises. Counterbalancing the desire from sectors of the business community to limit measures, there were concerns that new framework may leave some communities vulnerable to outbreaks. There was some concern that the vaccination threshold used to determine the easing of restrictions was based on population vaccine coverage and does not include a requirement for coverage amongst Māori and Pasifika communities.

Interest, 22 October 2021, 1.26 PM, Newshub 22 October 2021 2.00 PM, Stuff 22 October 2.00 PM, DPMC 25 October 2021 10.14 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Communications are ongoing to explain the new framework and its relation to the 90% vaccination level, with the main overall focus on encouraging New Zealanders to get vaccinated.

Secondary School Students Return to School – Issues facilitating Reopening

The New Zealand Post Primary Teachers Association (PPTA) have expressed some concerns around school returns in the midst of higher COVID-19 case numbers particularly in Auckland, and because vaccination levels amongst 12 – 19-year-olds remain low compared to the rest of the population. It was also noted at one school in Auckland which has a particularly high Māori and Pasifika population that things appear inconsistent as others in their community are being asked to limit travel and stay at home whilst the children are going to school. Some Auckland schools will continue online learning for senior students despite upcoming NCEA exams. One school principal announced that it would not be practical to open on 26 October and that the announcement contained some ambiguous messages. There has also been an increase in calls to Healthline relating to schools reopening.

RNZ, 20 October 2021, 7.55 PM, Stuff 21 October 2021 16.09 PM, Ministry of Health, 22 October 2021 1.57 PM

- Next steps or mitigations if known: Children, young people and staff at higher risk should stay at home unless vaccinated, face coverings are mandatory for staff and learners in years 9 to 13 as well as on school transport and records are kept for the purposes of contact tracing.

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

26 October 2021

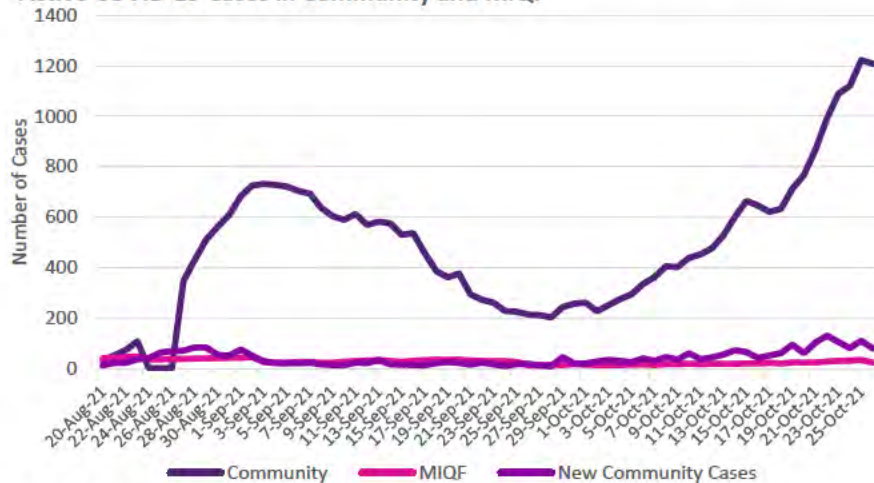
Health

Active COVID-19 Cases Increasing

The number of active COVID-19 community cases has increased to 1,209 on 26 October 2021, with a peak of 1,223 on 25 October 2021. The rolling 7-day average is 94 cases per day compared to 62 per day on average in the previous week (13 October – 19 October). The peak 7-day case fatality rate during this outbreak has been 0.92% compared an overall maximum during the pandemic of 9.10% recorded in February.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM, Our World in Data 26 October 2021

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community and MIQF



August Community Cluster

54% of the August Community Cluster cases were unvaccinated, with a further 20% ineligible for vaccination as they are under 12 years of age. 79% of those hospitalised were either unvaccinated or ineligible, and 19% had received just one dose of the vaccine. Only 1% of those hospitalised were fully vaccinated at least 14 days prior to the case being reported

Ministry of Health, 26 October 2021, 2.25 PM

Health System

There has been an average of 45 hospitalised cases a day based on the last week (up from 33 the week before), 5 cases in ICU (the same as the previous week), and 2 on ventilation (the same as the previous week). All those currently in ICU are in the Auckland area.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

ICU Beds and Ventilators

There is ventilator and ICU capacity available at all DHBs (no data available for Northland). Available capacity at Auckland DHB is approximately 20 ICU beds and 60 ventilators.

Waikato DHB has less than 10 ICU beds and just over 20 ventilators available.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

PPE

The current PPE usage rate is below low pandemic usage rates. There is currently eight weeks of PPE supply at high pandemic response usage rates, and 33 weeks at medium pandemic response usage rates.

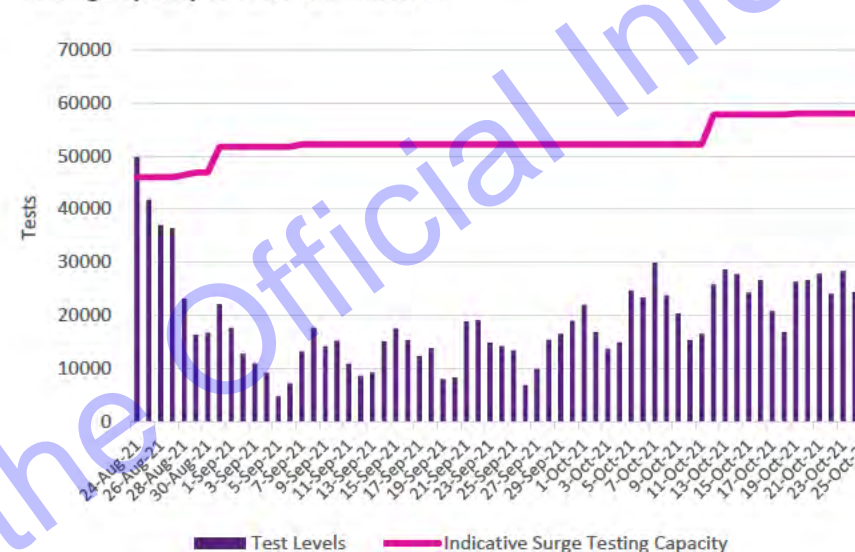
Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.24 PM

Testing Levels Rising

After testing levels peaked at 49,745 on 24 August 2021, they declined reaching a low of 4,750 on 5 September 2021. Testing levels were at 14,430 for 25 October with a 7-day rolling average of 24,579 compared to 24,413 for the previous week.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 10.11 PM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



Themes of Calls to Healthline and '1737 Need to Talk?'

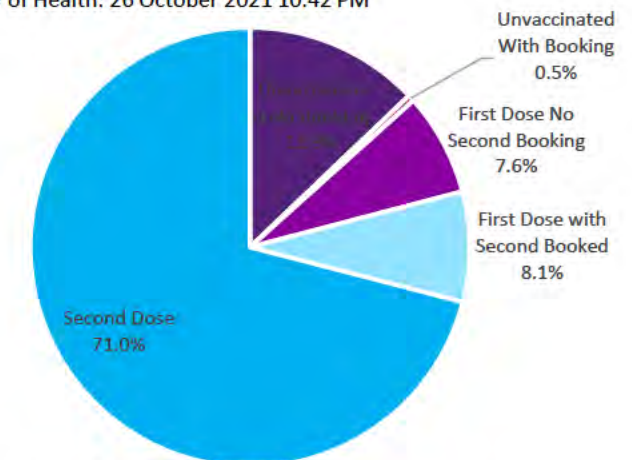
On average there were 4,159 calls to Healthline each day in the last week, up from 4,214 over the previous week. On average 16% were sent for testing. 24% were sent for testing on Sunday with a general increase in the numbers of people reporting cold/flu like symptoms. There has also been an increase in calls from Police to confirm testing for people arrested/in custody. There has also been an increase in calls from people who have tested positive, or are living with positive cases, regarding MIQ. Business owners have been making calls seeking advice after being identifies as exposure events. Abuse towards Healthline staff also rose over the weekend, indicating growing public frustration. Mental health and addiction contacts rose over the weekend with a number of contacts going unanswered.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 2.02 PM

Vaccinations and Bookings

There have been 3,646,869 first doses of vaccine administered and 2,987,389 people have now been fully vaccinated. There are 361,270 future bookings, with 20,010 for first dose and 341,260 for second. This means approximately 87% of the eligible population have had a vaccination or made a booking to be vaccinated. Approximately 13% of the eligible population have not received a first dose and do not have a booking. However, it should be noted that booking data does not account for those who receive walk-in vaccines.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 10.42 PM



Vaccination Rate by Ethnicity

Vaccination rates amongst Māori and Pacific Peoples remain below that of Asian and European ethnic groups. Young Māori continue to be the least vaccinated demographic.

Ministry of Health: 26 October 2021 10.42 PM





COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

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Social & Community

Public Sentiment

Analysis of the online public conversation during October 16-20 revealed a shift in emphasis away from the vaccine rollout, the impact of restrictions on businesses and consumers, and the virus itself, toward the COVID-19 response and the timeframe of public health restrictions. These two topics registered the largest increases in attention, up by 6% and 33% respectively. By contrast, online conversation dealing with the vaccine rollout fell by 20%, while focus on the virus reduced by 5%.

This reflects widespread public anticipation of the COVID-19 Protection Framework, launched on Friday. The overall volume of conversation increased by 2% throughout this period compared with previously, and there was a general tilt toward negative and neutral sentiment.

DPMC: 21 October 2021 6.40 PM

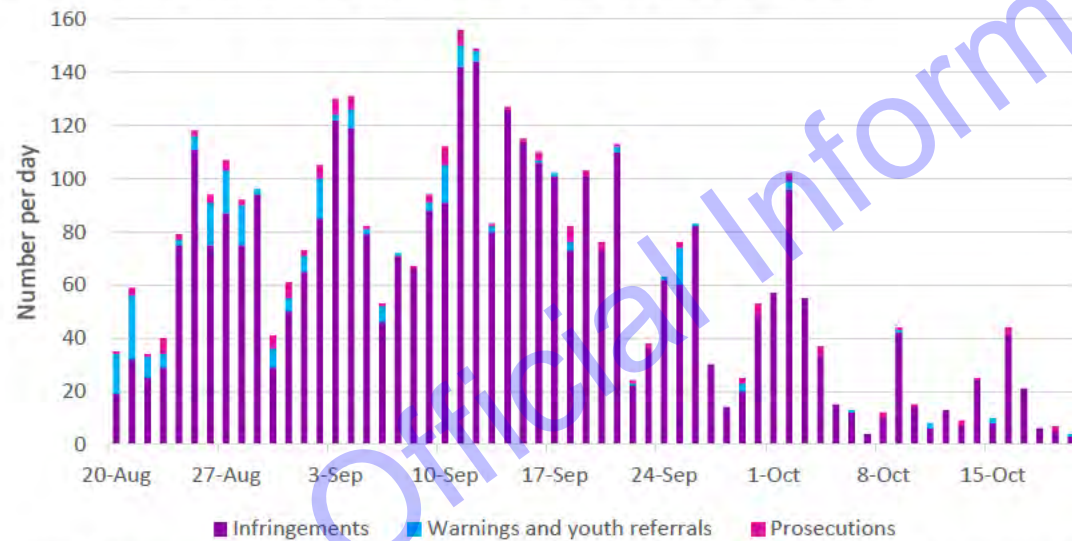
Infringements, Prosecutions, and Warnings – Low and Falling

The number of infringements continues to drop since Auckland shifted from AL4 to AL3, with last week seeing the lowest number infringements since the outbreak began. Infringements over the 7 days to 22 October 2021 totaled 92, compared to 116 in the 7 days prior. Prosecutions, and warnings and youth referrals also remained low at 5 and 3 respectively.

New Zealand Police: 22 October 2021, 6:58 AM

Note: As of 23.59 PM on 21 September, Auckland moved from AL4 to AL3.

Infringements, Warnings and Prosecutions under AL3 and AL4 – Auckland



Note: Infringements include non-essential travel, failure to physically distance, wear a mask in premises or on public transport, comply with Orders or the Health Act, close premises, display a QR code, and organising a gathering outdoors.

Section 6(c)

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Petitions against Vaccinations Garner Support

A petition against mandatory vaccinations in New Zealand has been posted on change.org, and had garnered 62,402 signatures as of 21 October. A similar petition submitted to Parliament, requesting that the House of Representatives pass legislation to ban any vaccine passport system in New Zealand, had received 55,675 signatures by the same date.

NZ Police: 21 October 3.25 PM

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Key Contacts

Purpose	Agency	Contact
Queries from Elected Officials	DPMC	electedofficials@dpmc.govt.nz s9(2)(a)
Business Queries	MBIE	AL4BusinessServices@mbie.govt.nz 0800 424 946
COVID-19 Health Advice	Healthline	0800 358 5453
To Report a Breach	Police	COVID-19 compliance Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)
Information/Apply for Wage Subsidy	MSD	https://www.workandincome.govt.nz/covid-19/wage-subsidy/index.html
Resurgence Payment Support	IRD	https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/resurgence-support-payment
Exemption requests for Alert Level 4 measures <i>Note that if you have a general enquiry where someone is simply asking whether or not something is permitted and you are able to respond based on the Order, you can do so. If you are unclear at all, please forward to this new email.</i>	MoH	https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-travel-within-new-zealand

This report is produced by the Insights and Reporting Team in DPMC's COVID-19 Group. If you have any questions, concerns, or feedback, please do not hesitate to contact us.

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