

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

21 December 2021

Key System Issues & Risks

Questions Regarding How to Accommodate People if Reconnecting is Delayed

Some people have recently left New Zealand on the understanding they will be able to re-enter New Zealand without MIQ from mid-January, and there will also be other people who left earlier and are keen to enter the country. If reconnecting is delayed there are likely to be challenges to accommodate them given the limited MIQ capacity. Work is underway to estimate the likely numbers of people that would be impacted.

DPMC: 21 December 2021 10.38 AM

Concern the Omicron Variant Will Get into the Community

It is possible the Omicron Variant will evade MIQ and get into the community. The Omicron Variant is rapidly spreading overseas, with 22 people entering New Zealand MIQF testing positive for Omicron. Community spread of the Omicron variant would likely result in a surge of cases across the country, as emerging data indicates the vaccine is less effective at preventing breakthrough infections.

Ministry of Health: 20 December 2021 1.44 PM; Pfizer: 8 December 2021 6.54 AM

Previously identified risks that remain ongoing include:

- Social cohesion challenges regarding COVID-19
- Lengthy PCR Test Result Turn-around Times
- Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases is Constrained
- MIQ Capacity is Limited
- Forgery and Improper Use of Vaccine Passes
- Certain Groups are Facing Difficulties Accessing My Vaccine Pass
- Some Confusion Around the CPF Traffic Light System
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing Capability is in Demand
- Limited Contingency for DHB Staffing Over Summer
- Concerning Pockets of Low Vaccination Coverage
- Hostility Directed at Customer Facing Staff Enforcing Vaccine Passes
- Police Capacity to Enforce Vaccine Passes Over Summer is Likely to be Stretched
- Risks Associated With Cases Isolating Outside of a Managed Facility

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Health Factors

Active COVID-19 Cases Decreasing, Likely to Increase

The amount of active COVID-19 cases is decreasing, however case numbers will likely increase over the holiday period as restrictions ease and there is increased travel. The number of COVID-19 community cases has decreased from 2,303 cases on 15 December to 1,762 cases on 20 December. The rolling 7-day average of new cases from 14 – 20 December has decreased to 72 cases per day compared to an average of 91 per day in the previous week.

Please note, the new line of active COVID-19 case numbers in orange reflects a change to how the Ministry of Health classifies an active case, which are COVID-19 cases that are listed as 'not recovered' within the past 21 days. Those listed as 'not recovered' after 21 days are no longer considered active cases, resulting in the significantly lower numbers for this figure compared to prior weeks.

Ministry of Health: 21 December 2021

Hospitalisations

The number of hospitalisations continues to decrease. However, it is likely that hospital and ICU admissions will increase over the holiday period, as domestic travel restrictions from Auckland ease under the CPF and people travel, some of whom may have COVID-19, increasing transmission. There has been an average of 57 people in hospital over the last week due to COVID-19 (down from 63 the week before), and 5 cases in ICU (up from 4 in the previous week). There was one COVID-19 patient on a ventilator in Waikato. Currently there are 7 patients in ICU in Auckland and Waikato.

Ministry of Health: 20 December 2021 1.44 PM

ICU Beds and Ventilators

ICU capacity is under pressure, and will likely be constrained in the event of a rise in COVID-19 cases. There is currently no ICU capacity at Wairarapa DHB, with all beds in use for conditions other than COVID-19. There is limited ICU capacity available across most other DHBs with half of the beds in use for patients unrelated to COVID-19. ICU availability is particularly low in Hutt Valley, Waikato, MidCentral and Whanganui. There is ventilator availability across all DHBs. Available capacity at Auckland DHB is approximately 15 ICU beds and over 55 ventilators. Waikato DHB has under 5 ICU beds and approximately 30 ventilators available.

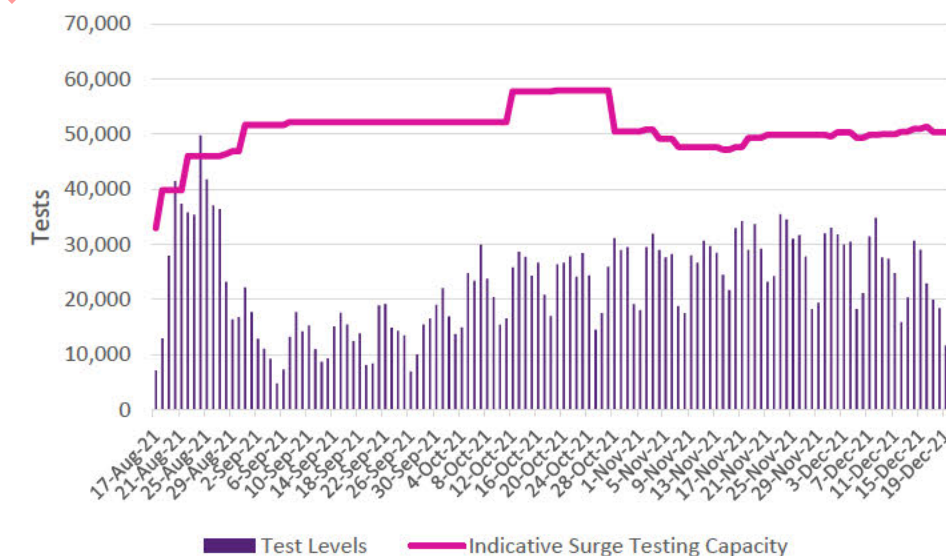
Ministry of Health: 20 December 2021 5.17 PM

Testing Levels

It is likely testing levels will continue to decrease across the holiday period. Testing levels have steadily decreased, with the 7-day rolling average at 21,812, compared to 25,998 for the previous week. There is a possibility that people may be deterred from testing for COVID-19 to avoid disruptions to travel bookings and avoid isolation requirements while away from their primary residence.

Ministry of Health: 20 December 2021 10.01 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



Vaccination Amongst Those Infected Since August

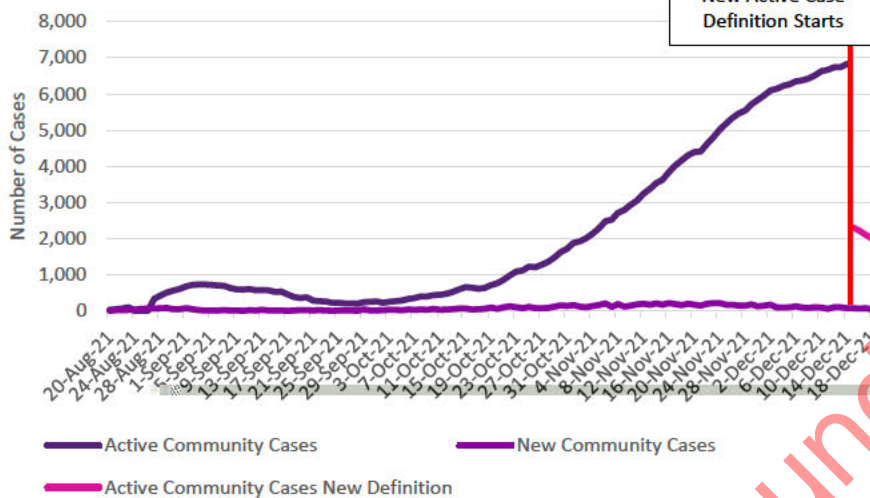
It is likely that COVID-19 infection and hospitalization rates will increase, including amongst those vaccinated against COVID-19, particularly if the Omicron variant spreads to the community.

The majority of those infected with COVID-19 since August have been unvaccinated (39%). A further 24% of cases were ineligible for vaccination as they were under 12 years of age. 20% of cases had received one dose of the vaccine, and 24% were fully vaccinated. Preliminary data shows COVID-19 vaccinations are less effective against the Omicron variant.

The majority of those hospitalised with COVID-19 remain unvaccinated (52%), with an additional 4% being ineligible due to being under 12 years of age. 11% had received just one dose of the vaccine. There has been a marked increase in the percentage of fully vaccinated people in the hospital, with a peak of 27%, up from 7% last week.

Ministry of Health: 20 December 2021 11.44 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in Community



Contact Tracing

It is likely that contact tracing will continue to be under pressure. The Ministry of Health aims to have 80% of 'close plus' contacts in isolation/quarantine within 96 hours of exposure. Between 13 – 17 December, 62% of close plus contacts were in isolation or entered quarantine within this time. This is down approximately 9% from the week prior.

Ministry of Health: 20 December 2021 1.44 PM

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

21 December 2021



Effects on Economy and Society

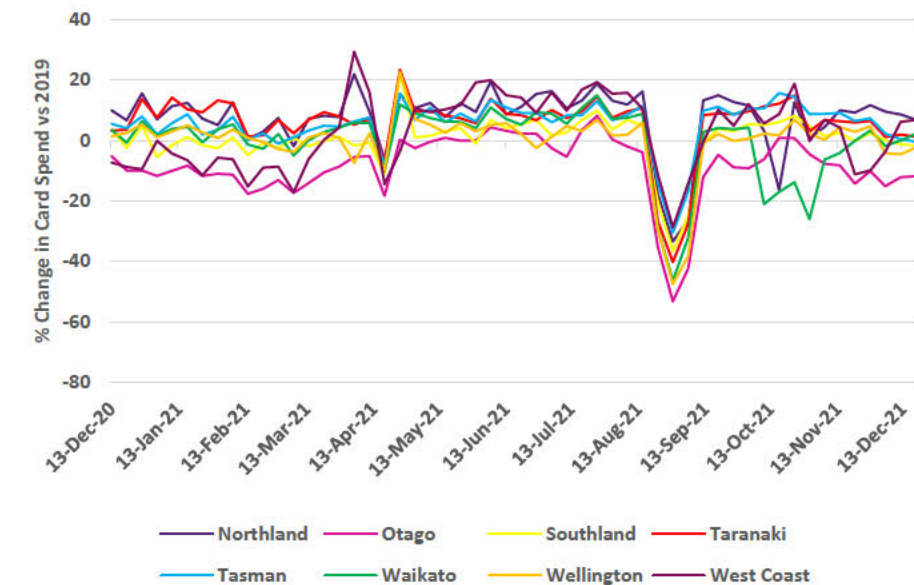
Card Spend

In the week ending 19 December 2021, the largest declines in card spend compared to the same week in 2019 were in Otago (-11.9%), Auckland (-8.5%) and Nelson (-7.3%). The largest increases were in Northland (+6.9%), West Coast (+6.7%) and Manawatu-Wanganui (+6%).

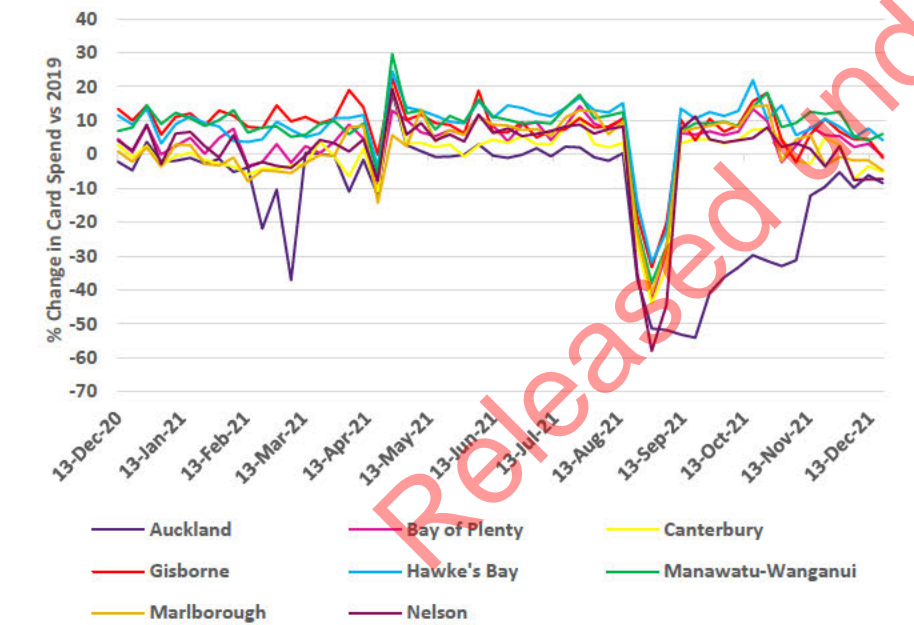
Source: MBIE, 19 December 2021,

Card spend is likely to continue to recover toward pre-COVID levels, unless restrictions are tightened.

Weekly Card Spend vs Same Week in 2019 by Region



Weekly Card Spend vs Same Week in 2019 by Region



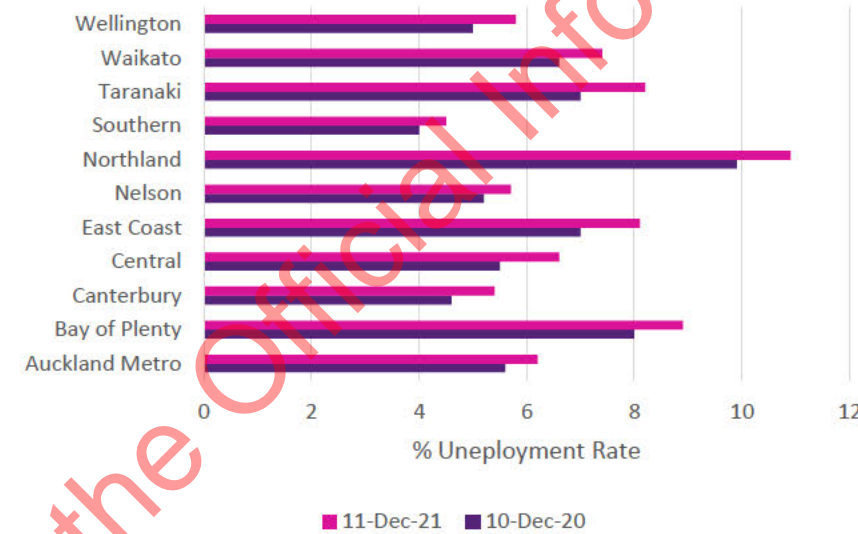
Unemployment

Unemployment across all regions of New Zealand was lower in the week ending 10 December 2021 than the same week in 2020, with the biggest declines in Central, East Coast, Northland and Taranaki.

Source: MSD, 10 December 2021

As restrictions are reduced, it is likely employment will increase as businesses are able to operate more easily and people are able to move around in greater numbers.

Change in Unemployment Rate vs Same Week Last Year



Impacts on at Risk Populations

Māori

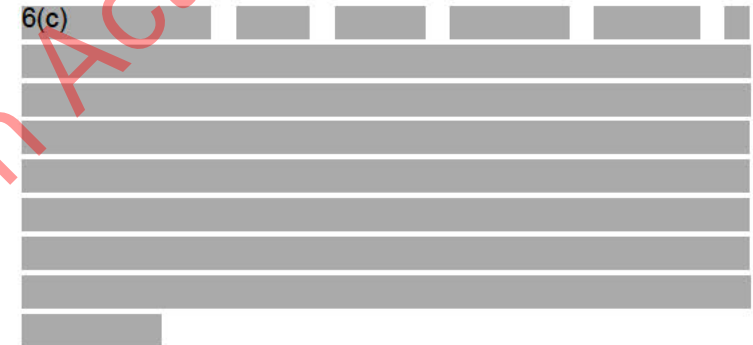
The Waitangi Tribunal released the findings of a hearing held earlier this month, stating that the government breached the Treaty principles of active protection and equity by not prioritising Māori during the vaccine roll out. The findings of the report state that whilst the shift to the traffic light system was necessary, the rapid transition put Māori at risk and put Māori health providers under extreme pressure. The report recommended better ethnicity data collection, resourcing and support for Māori providers and communities and a more equitable rollout of boosters and paediatric vaccines.

Source: Newsroom 21 December 2021, 10.31 AM

As Māori remain less vaccinated than the rest of the population they are likely to be disproportionately impacted going forward.

Public Attitudes

Protests



There are reports that a protest will occur in Tairua to align with a potential visit from the Prime Minister. Although a date has not been confirmed for the protest or the visit, 2 January has been identified as a possible date. It is unclear who is organising the protest.



Source: RNZ 16 December 2021, NZ Police 15 December 2021, 3.13 PM

Protest activity is likely to remain significant, but peaceful over summer. It is possible activity will begin to lose momentum as new measures are normalised.

Sentiment Towards Restrictions

Social media discussion volumes around the pandemic increased by 21% over the 4 days to 16 December. The biggest increase in volume of discussions was around the virus and around timeframes, which increased by 29%. The subject of the COVID response was the most prevalent topic of conversation on social media, followed by the virus and vaccine rollout.

Overall, the sentiment of discussion on social media about the pandemic has been more positive over the last 4 days with the biggest shift away from negative sentiment related to financial stability.

Source: DPMC: 20 December 2021, 9.46 PM

If cases rise sharply and restrictions are reimposed it is likely sentiment towards all aspects of the pandemic will decline again.

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

21 December 2021

Operational Considerations

Self Isolation

There are currently 516 active cases self isolating, equating to 28.6% of all active cases. The definition of active cases recently has changed, and is now defined as cases identified within the last 21 days.

Source: Ministry of Health: 14 December 2021 1.29 PM

It is likely that the number of people self isolating will continue to increase as modelling suggest that cases will increase over summer as people travel and the number of exposure events increase.

Quarantine

There are 185 community cases in quarantine, occupying 87 rooms. The total number of people in quarantine is 242, occupying 137 rooms. There are a 555 rooms available rooms remaining, with a further 160 under maintenance, being cleaned or repaired, there is also a small number of rooms available for overflow. There are also 33 close contacts occupying 13 rooms.

It is likely that that more cases and close contacts will have to quarantine at home given the limited availability.

Cases in Quarantine

Site	Region	Total Community Pax in Q	Total Community Rooms Occupied	Total Pax in Quarantine	Total Quarantine Rooms Occupied	Quarantine Rooms Allocated, in Maintenance, Cleaning or Repair	Available Quarantine Rooms	Total Quarantine Capacity
Jet Park	Auckland	43	19	78	49	27	115	202
Novotel IBIS	Auckland	30	20	30	20	37	178	235
Holiday Inn	Auckland	74	37	74	37	35	165	237
Amohia	Hamilton	29	5	45	19	27	59	110
Grand Mercure	Wellington	0	0	1	1	0	12	13
Commodore	Christchurch	7	4	7	4	2	9	15
Sudima	Christchurch	2	2	7	7	32	17	56
Total		185	87	242	137	160	555	868

Close Contacts in Quarantine

Site	Region	Total Close Contacts	Close Contacts Rooms Occupied	Close Contacts Rooms in Cleaning	Close Contact Rooms in Maintenance and Repair	Close Contact Rooms Available	Total Close Contact Capacity
Naumi	Auckland	13	8	1	2	33	44
Amohia	Hamilton	16	5	0	0	0	5
CRIQ	Christchurch	4	0	0	0	-2	0
Total		33	13	1	2	31	49

Source: MBIE 20 December 2021, 8.05 AM

Care in the Community

Ministry for Social Development are working to refine the data and this will be shared when available.

Source: Ministry for Social Development 21 December 10.57 AM

Supply Chain Issues

Global shortages of Diesel Exhaust Fluid (DEF) caused by export restrictions imposed by China and Russia have raised concerns as 15% of the New Zealand domestic heavy vehicle fleet rely on DEF. New Zealand imports significant amounts of DEF, though some is produced locally. Despite local producers of DEF indicating they can match the domestic demand, it is possible that shortages of imports will lead to panic and stockpiling which will impact the transport sector.

Source: MOT: 17 December 2021, 1.16 PM

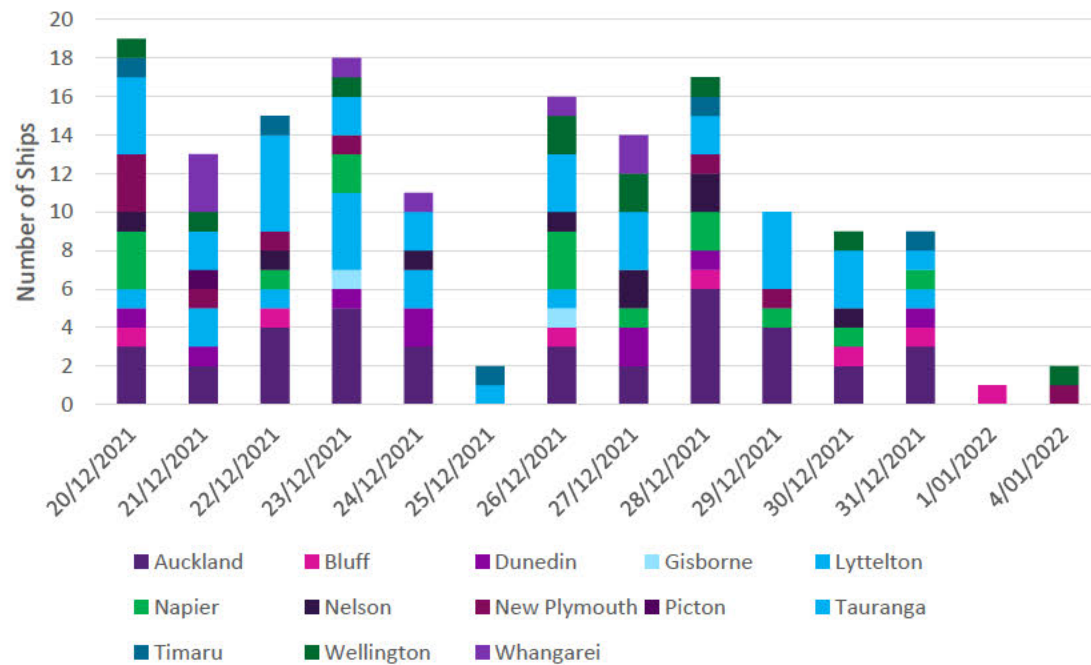
Workplace Notifications to WorkSafe

It is likely that vaccination pass and mask/PPE breaches will continue over the holiday period. According to WorkSafe data there have been 4,918 notifications of workplace breaches of COVID-19 rules since 18 August 2021. This is an increase of 477 notifications from the last 7 days, compared to 365 notifications from the week prior. Over the week partial week from 13 – 15 December the largest proportion of notifications were for vaccination pass breaches (136), and mask/PPE breaches (85).

Source: WorkSafe 20 December 5.32 PM

Operational Considerations

Count of Ship Arrivals by Port and Arrival Date



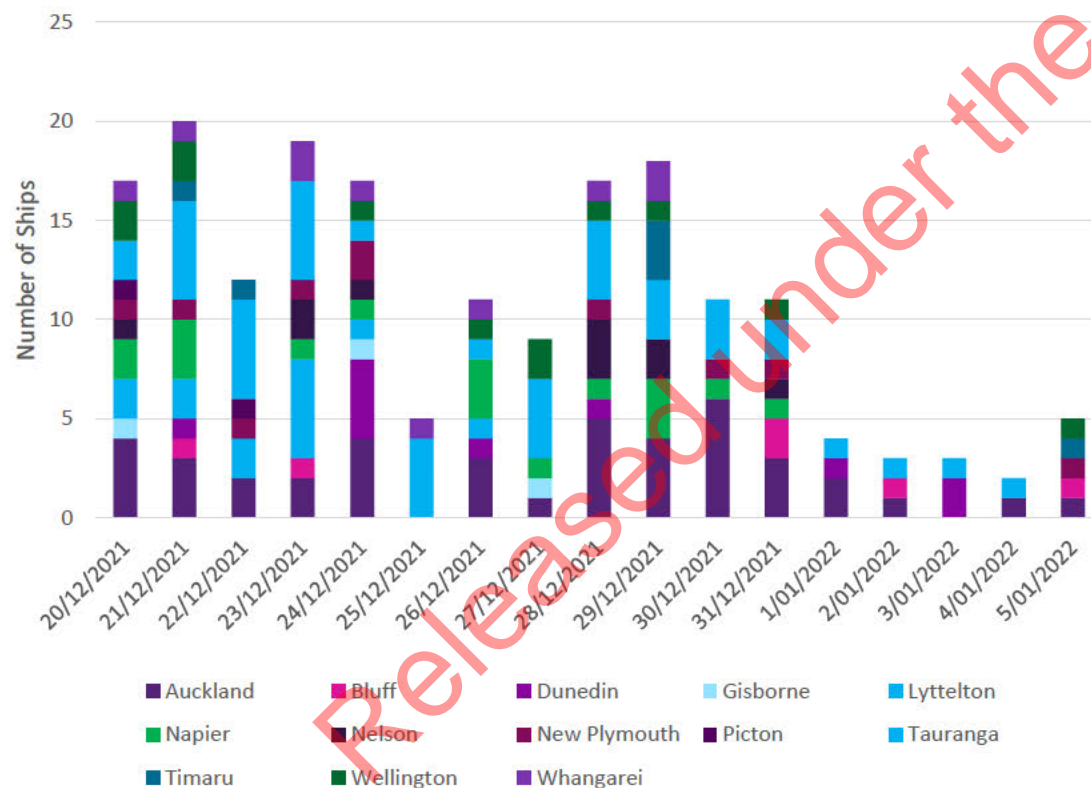
Shipping Arrivals and Departures

Over the next two weeks the ports of Auckland, Tauranga, and Napier will be the busiest ports in terms of arrivals and departures of ships. In terms of numbers of ships expected, Auckland is expected to have 37 arrivals, and 42 departures, Tauranga is expected to have 32 arrivals, and 40 departures, and Napier is expected to have 15 arrivals and 17 departures.

If disruption to ports due to COVID-19 cases occurs, it is likely that this will cause disruption to supply chains as these are the main ports of entry of ships into New Zealand.

NZ Customs 20 December 11.45 AM

Count of Ship Departures by Port and Departure Date



COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

21 December 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

Key System Issues & Risks

Recommended Use and Type of Face Coverings Unlikely To Be Effective to Stop the Spread of Omicron

There is a growing evidence that facial coverings made from cloth materials are not sufficient in preventing or reducing infection of Omicron, as viral particles have been shown to travel through several types of fabric masks. Use of N95, KN95, KF94 and three-ply surgical masks are recommended in some countries overseas to reduce the likelihood of COVID-19 transmission, with some European countries mandating use of these types of facial coverings in public. This is likely to lead to shortages of these types of masks, given existing pressures on the supply chain. s9(2)(c)

Mitigations if known: Ministry of Health continue to evaluate public health guidelines.

Source: New York Times, 14 January 2022 11.14AM; Washington Post, 14 January 2022 7.37 PM; MOH, 21 December 2021; The Economist, 16 December 2021

Booster and Child Vaccination Coverage Make New Zealand Vulnerable to Omicron in the Community

New Zealand is likely to be vulnerable to any Omicron outbreak, given the relatively low proportion of booster coverage, and paediatric coverage of those under 12 years of age. Although two doses of vaccines have been shown to help against hospitalisation and severe disease, research shows that it is less effective at preventing infection, which will likely enable the virus to spread to more vulnerable communities. Reports also indicate that since much of New Zealand's population has not already been exposed to prior waves of COVID-19, most will not have any protective immunity benefits that may arise from prior infection.

Mitigations if known: The booster and child vaccination programs are underway.

Source: 15 January 2022 6.19 PM; NZ Herald 17 January 2022 6.07 AM

Panic Buying in Onset of an Omicron Outbreak Will Likely Exacerbate Existing Supply Issues

It is likely that panic buying of food, medication and PPE will occur if Omicron spreads further into the community and as the government introduces measures to adapt with a prospective outbreak. Several countries overseas, including Australia, have seen surges in panic buying and stockpiling behaviour in the wake of Omicron's rapid spread with the reintroduction of restrictions, and in preparation for self-isolation. This may lead to significant shortages of key items mentioned above including PPE, over the counter medication like paracetamol and food items. This may be further exacerbated by existing supply chain issues preventing the ability to restock items quickly.

Mitigations if known: Some retailers have introduced and maintained purchase limits on some items.

Source: Stuff NZ 9 January 2022; The Guardian 27 December 2021 5.29PM;

Omicron Likely to Impact Business Continuity

It is likely that current isolation requirements for close contacts will lead to high rates of work absenteeism in the event of an Omicron community outbreak. Given the speed and ease in which Omicron is transmitted, there is a high likelihood that under current settings that entire workplaces may be required to self-isolate, which for close contacts is a currently a minimum of seven days. This is particularly problematic for workplaces which cannot operate remotely such as critical workers in hospitals, transportation, and emergency response, as well as hospitality and some retail venues. This will also be an issue for small businesses that may not have adequate staff to roster on in the event of a COVID-19 exposure and may be forced to close for the duration of self-isolation.

Mitigations if known: Agencies are working to prepare and minimise the impacts of workforce absenteeism related to isolation requirements and infection.

Source: MOH, 12 January 2022

Number of NZDF Personnel Available to Assist with Concurrent Events Limited

Reallocation of New Zealand Defence Force personnel to respond to concurrent events may result in personnel shortage for the COVID-19 response; however, it should be noted that reallocation of NZDF resources away from MIQ would require cabinet-level direction to reprioritise these events over MIQ. Limited NZDF staff have been deployed to assist in the rescue effort following the recent Hunga-Tonga-Hunga-Ha'pai volcanic eruption that occurred off the coast of Tonga; which presently has not affected the conduct of other tasks. However, should a large scale NZDF response be required during the cyclone season—or other domestic/regional event—this may result in a prioritisation of tasks being needed; including the level of support to MIQ. Furthermore, the current health settings may affect the delivery of NZDF tasks, including MIQ, should there be an Omicron outbreak due to increased chances of virus transmission and isolation requirements.

Mitigations if known: Government continues to prioritise workforces as necessary.

Source: NZDF 18 January 2022, 10.00 AM, Stuff 18 January 2022

Key System Issues & Risks

Previously Identified Risks That Remain Ongoing Include:

- Risks if Omicron Spreads in the Community:
 - a) Details regarding the Omicron variant are still emerging
 - b) The CPF system was set up to manage the Delta variant, whereas the Omicron variant appears more transmissible
 - c) The testing and tracing system is at capacity and is likely to be overrun if a major outbreak of Omicron occurs
 - d) The expected increase in cases is likely to result in a higher impact on the health system
 - e) It is likely that more cases will be unreported
 - f) Other countries have observed issues with business continuity as a result of the high cases
- Children Returning to School May Increase Transmission
- MIQ Quarantine Shortage
- Possible Future Rapid Antigen Test Shortage
- Social cohesion challenges regarding COVID-19
- Capacity to Treat Large Numbers of Severe COVID-19 Cases is Constrained
- MIQ Capacity is Limited
- Forgery and Improper Use of Vaccine Passes
- Some Confusion Around the CPF Traffic Light System
- COVID-19 Contact Tracing Capability is in Demand
- Concerning Pockets of Low Vaccination Coverage
- Risks Associated With Cases Isolating In the Community

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

18 January 2022

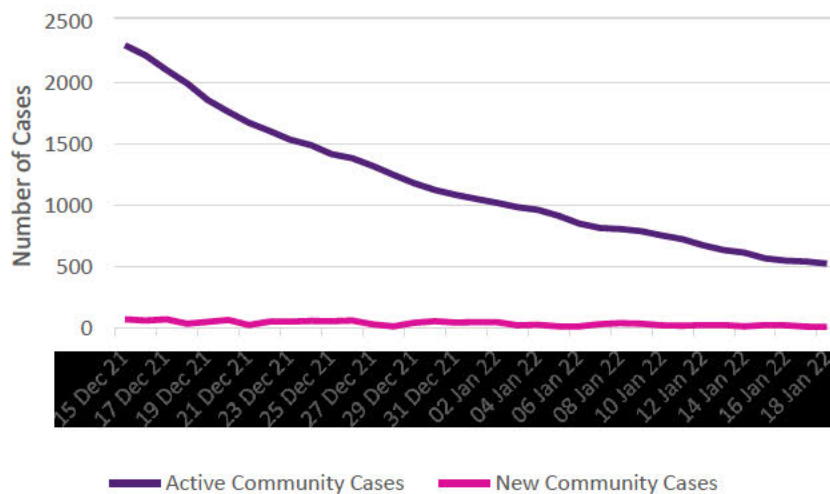
Health Factors

Community Cases

Cases of COVID-19 in the community continue to decrease, while cases detected in MIQ continue to increase. While it is likely that cases in MIQ will overtake those in the community over the following week, this is not expected to last as Omicron spreads into the community. In the event of community transmission of Omicron, community cases will almost certainly experience a sharp increase in a short time-frame. The rolling 7-day average of new cases from 12-18 January 2022 has decreased to 23 cases per day compared to an average of 28 in the week prior. Cases in managed isolation have risen to 499 on 18 January, compared to 322 in the week prior.

Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 1.32 PM

Active COVID-19 Cases in the Community



PPE, Pulse Oximeters, and Rapid Antigen Tests (RATs)

There are currently just over 4 million RATs in stock, which equates to 27 weeks of supply at current usage levels and 5 weeks at high pandemic usage levels. A further 9 million tests are due to arrive before the end of January 2022, and 17 million tests arriving in February 2022, 21.9 million of the 26 million test in these two orders will be self-test kits. A total of 49 million RATs are currently on order.

There is currently 94 weeks supply of pulse oximeters at current usage levels and 5 weeks supply at high pandemic usage levels. It is assumed that a proportion of pulse oximeters could be returned after use which is currently not happening, communications are under way to improve this process. A further 10,000 pulse oximeters have been ordered. There is currently between 4 and 24 weeks worth of PPE at high pandemic usage depending on the type of PPE.

Source: Ministry of Health: 17 January 2022, 9.34 PM, 13 January 2022

Hospitalisations

The number of COVID-19 related hospitalisations has decreased slightly over the last week. It is likely this rate will increase as Omicron spreads into the community. There has been an average of 30 people in hospital over the last week due to COVID-19 (down from 36 the week before). There are currently two COVID-19 patients in ICU, and one patient requiring a ventilator.

Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 1.32 PM; 18 January 2022 9.53 AM

ICU Beds Limited, Many Ventilators Available

ICU capacity is under pressure from non-COVID-19 related patients, and will likely be constrained if there is an Omicron outbreak. Across all DHBs approximately one-third, or 108 ICU beds (36%) are currently available. There is currently no ICU capacity at West Coast and Hawkes Bay DHBs. ICU capacity is very limited at Whanganui, Canterbury, Waikato and Nelson Marlborough, with less than 3 beds currently available in each DHB. Available capacity at Auckland City DHB is approximately 8 ICU beds and over 45 ventilators. There are 342 ventilators (82%) available across all DHBs.

Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 9.53 AM

Proportion of Contacts Contact Traced Increased

The proportion of close-plus COVID-19 contacts that are contact traced have increased slightly. Given the speed of Omicron transmission, it is likely that contact tracing will remain under strain as the variant moves into the community. The Ministry of Health aims to have 80% of 'close plus' contacts in isolation/quarantine within 96 hours of exposure. Between 11 – 15 January, 23% of close plus contacts were in isolation or in quarantine within this time. This slight increase from 14% in the prior reporting period from 31 December – 4 January.

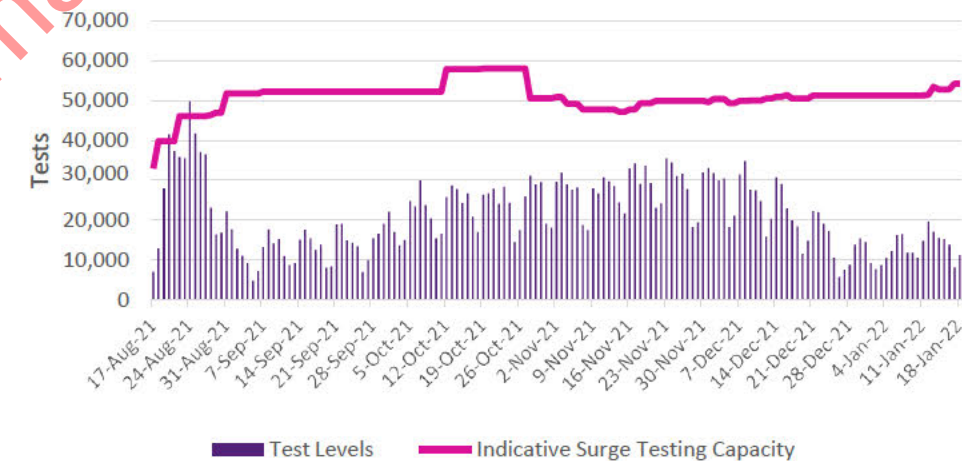
Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 1.32 PM

Testing Levels

Average testing levels increased slightly in the post-holiday period. The rolling 7-day average increased slightly by 18 January, with 14,368 tests completed, compared to 13,408 for the week prior. In the event of a large-scale community outbreak of the Omicron variant, it is almost certain that testing demand will increase, placing further pressure on PCR testing capacity and test turn-around times.

Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 8.15 AM

Testing Capacity vs Tests Administered



Fully Vaccinated People and Omicron Infection/Hospitalisation

Fully vaccinated people are making up a growing proportion of those infected and hospitalised with COVID-19. This will likely continue as Omicron spreads into the community. Of the new community cases identified, approximately 50% are fully vaccinated, 14% are unvaccinated, and 0% are partially vaccinated. For cases that require hospitalisation, 39% of patients are fully vaccinated, 32% are unvaccinated, and 14% are partially vaccinated. Preliminary evidence suggests that vaccinations are less effective in preventing infection from the Omicron variant, though it does reduce the likelihood of severe disease. Despite this, the higher volume of infections associated with the more contagious Omicron variant will likely reach a wider quantity of the public overall, and impact fully vaccinated vulnerable groups.

Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 1.32 PM

Booster Shots Administered

The rate of booster shots administered has plateaued following a peak 7-day average of 36,587 doses administered on 12 January 2022. The rolling 7-day average for the week of 12 January is 34,160 doses. It is almost certain that this will increase as more people from group 4 of the vaccination rollout become eligible for booster shots in the coming weeks.

Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 8.15 AM



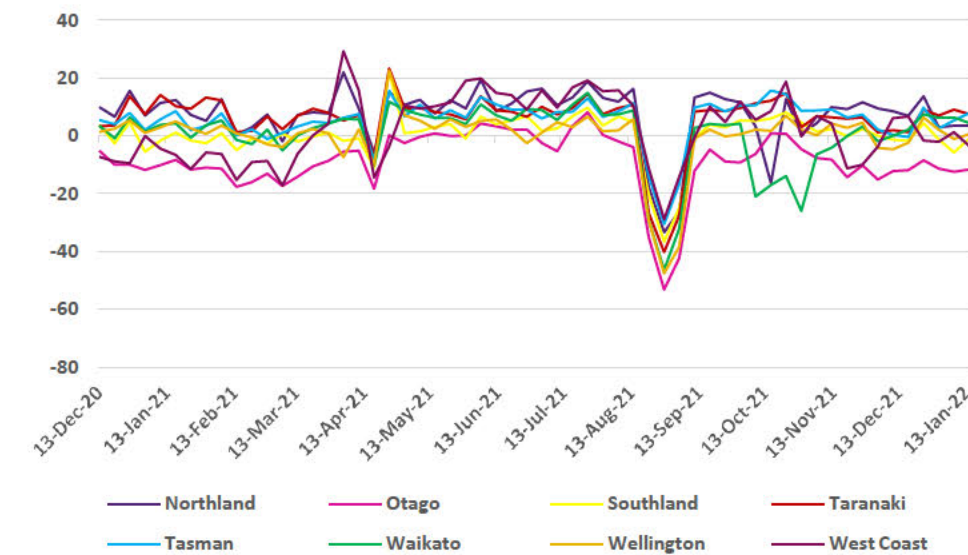
Effects on Economy and Society

Card Spend

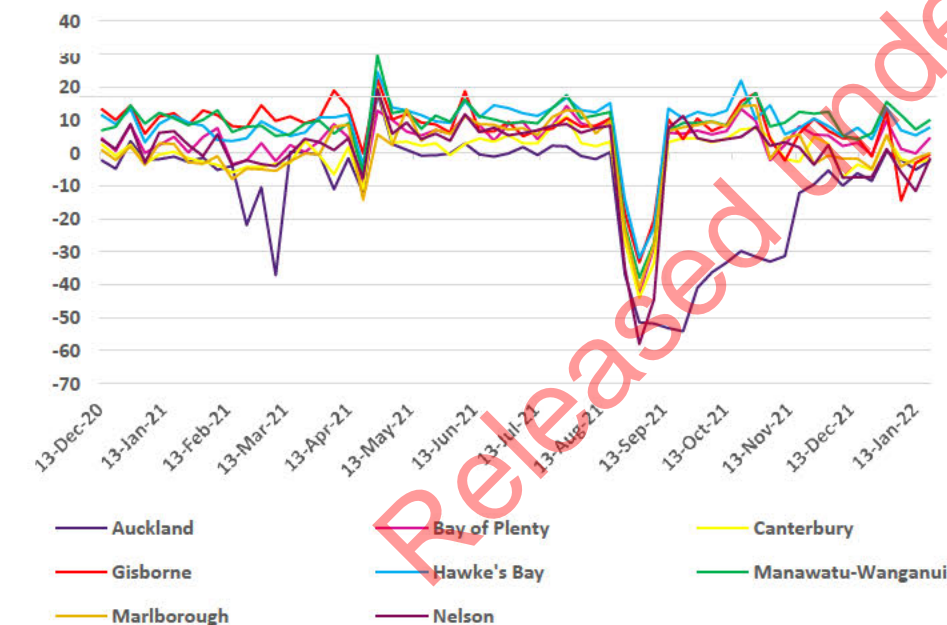
In the week ending 16 January 2022, the largest declines in card spend compared to the same week in 2020 were in Otago (-11.7%), West Coast (-3.5%) and Auckland (-2.3%). The largest increases were in Manawatu-Wanganui (+10.7%), Tasman (+7.9%), Hawkes Bay (+7.7%) and Taranaki (+7.5%). It is likely that recovering to pre-COVID levels of card spend will be slowed if there is community transmission of Omicron and if greater restrictions are implemented.

Source: MBIE, 18 January 2022

Card Spend vs Same Week in 2020 by Region



Card Spend vs Same Week in 2019 by Region



Impacts on at Risk Populations

Māori

The Karawhiua Team, the Ministry of Health and Te Hīringa Hauora Health Promotion Agency have planned a rollout for tamariki vaccinations from 17 January. It is expected that 60% of providers will offer tamariki vaccinations by 17 January, with remaining providers offering vaccinations in the following weeks. Healthpoint is currently working with MoH and DHBs to promote accurate vaccine information and provide advice around which providers are offering vaccination services to tamariki.

Currently BookMyVaccine does not allow for group or whānau bookings, which can potentially be a good option for booster and tamariki shots to be administered at the same time. Karawhiua is currently managing bookings for whānau, providing information to communities as it comes available.

Source: Te Puni Kōkiri, 17 January 2022 2.42PM

Unemployment

Levels of unemployment in the week ending 7 January 2022, were lower in all regions than over the same period in 2021. The biggest falls in unemployment were observed in Taranaki, Central and East Coast regions.

It is likely that unemployment levels will continue to fall compared to last year, unless changes to public health measures are required in the wake of a major omicron outbreak.

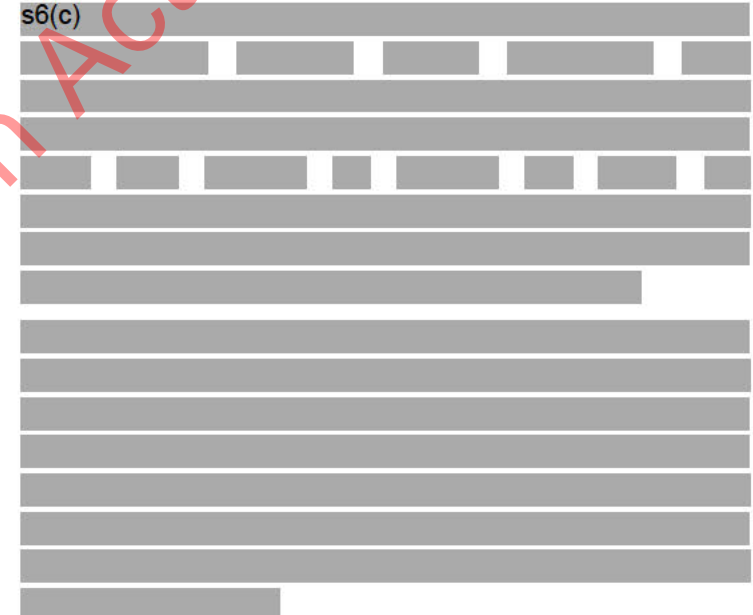
Source: MSD, 17 January 2022

Unemployment Rate vs Same Week Last Year



Public Attitudes

Protests



Groundswell NZ is planning a 'Groundswell Gathering' mass event in February 2022 at Parliament. No exact date for the protest has been established.

Source: NZ Police: 17 January 2022 1.23PM; 11 January 11.22 AM; Newshub: 14 January 2021

Sentiment Towards Restrictions

Analysis of social media commentary indicates that there has been a large increase in conversations around the Omicron variant, the risk it poses to New Zealand, and the ability of the current protection framework to minimise infection rates. Many commentators have indicated that Omicron will likely make it through the border imminently, suggesting people should be actively preparing their households with extra provisions and PPE. All categories of conversation showed an increase in negative sentiment.

Source: DPMC: 12 January 2022, 9.06 PM

Operational Considerations

Self Isolation

There are currently 149 active cases self isolating, equating to 14.5% of all active cases. The definition of active cases recently has changed, and is now defined as cases identified within the last 21 days.

It is likely that the number of people self isolating will begin to increase as case numbers increase.

Source: Ministry of Health: 18 January 2022 1.32 PM

Quarantine

There are 60 community cases in quarantine, occupying 37 rooms. The total number of people in quarantine is 623, occupying 370 rooms. There are a 400 rooms available rooms remaining, with a further 98 under maintenance, being cleaned or repaired, and there are 16 rooms available for overflow. There are also 12 close contacts occupying 10 rooms.

It is likely that that more cases and close contacts will have to quarantine at home given the limited room availability. It is also likely that the increase in cases at the border will continue to put pressure on the quarantine system. It should be noted that quarantine capacity increased from 642 last week to 884 this week.

Cases in Quarantine

Site	Region	Total Community Cases in Quarantine	Total Community Rooms Occupied	Total People in Quarantine	Total Quarantine Rooms Occupied	Quarantine Rooms in Maintenance, Cleaning or Repair	Available Quarantine Rooms	Total Quarantine Capacity
Jet Park	Auckland	4	3	172	108	17	73	202
Novotel IBIS	Auckland	0	0	74	39	40	156	235
Holiday Inn	Auckland	42	27	317	181	27	17	237
Amohia	Hamilton	14	7	14	7	9	67	83
Grand Mercure	Wellington	0	0	2	2	0	24	26
Commodore	Christchurch	0	0	7	5	1	9	15
Sudima	Christchurch	0	0	37	28	4	54	86
Total		60	37	623	370	98	400	884

Close Contacts in Quarantine

Site	Region	Total Close Contacts	Close Contacts Rooms Occupied	Close Contacts Rooms in Cleaning	Close Contact Rooms in Maintenance and Repair	Close Contact Rooms Available	Total Close Contact Capacity
Naumi	Auckland	5	5	2	2	35	44
Amohia	Hamilton	7	5	0	0	22	27
CRIQ	Christchurch	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total		12	10	2	2	57	71

Source: MBIE 11 January 2022, 7.56 AM

Workplace Notifications to WorkSafe

The rate of COVID-19 breaches received by Worksafe has increased in the last week, likely a result of a backlog in reports from over the holiday period. There were 275 breaches reported to Worksafe in the week ending 16 January 2022, compared to 125 notifications from the week prior. The majority of these breaches are around vaccination passes and masks/PPE. There have been 6,150 total notifications of workplace breaches of COVID-19 rules since 18 August 2021.

Source: WorkSafe 18 January 2022 1.04 PM

Compliance and Infringements

Worksafe have recorded an increase in threatening and aggressive behaviour towards staff who are enforcing COVID-19 related compliance with businesses. Between 1 December 2021 and 11 January 2022, 14 incidents were reported. Worksafe continues to proactively assess and mitigate risks associated with this activity, and may engage with Police when appropriate.

Source: WorkSafe 18 January 2022 1.04 PM

Ferry Crossings

s9(2)(b)(ii), s9(2)(ba)(ii)

12 January 2022 1.46 PM, 17 January 2022 6.02 PM

Supply Chain Issues

No update received at the time of reporting.

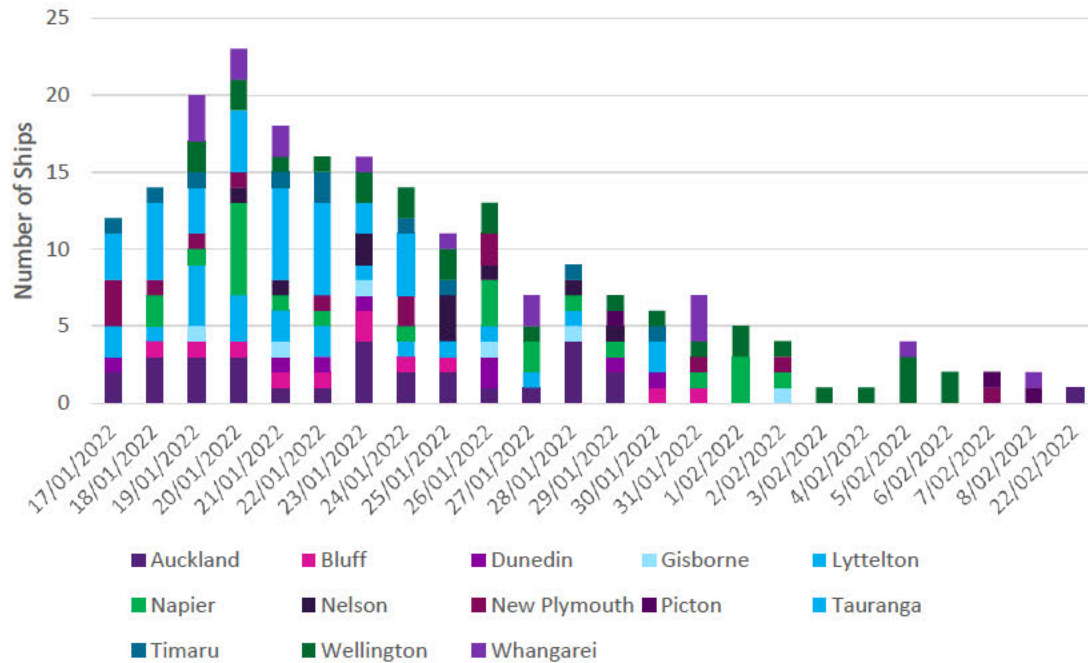
Source: MOT: 18 January 2022, 1.29 PM

COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

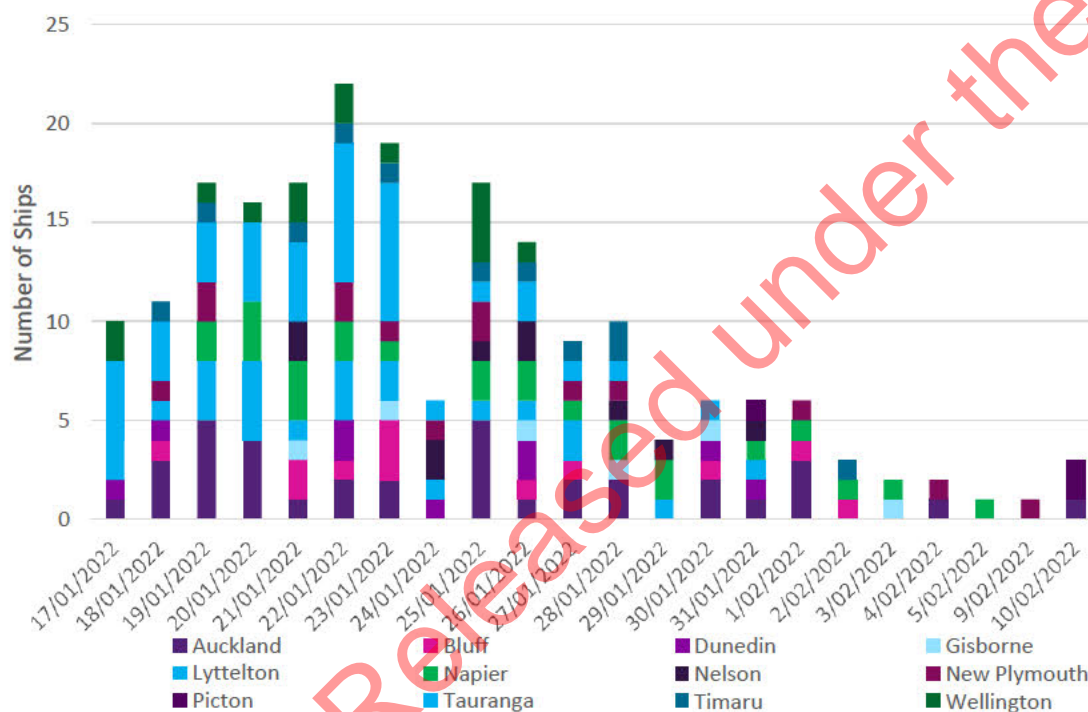
18 January 2022

Operational Considerations

Count of Ship Arrivals by Port and Arrival Date



Count of Ship Departures by Port and Departure Date



Shipping Arrivals and Departures

Over the next two weeks the ports of Tauranga (33), Auckland (30) and Wellington (28) will be the busiest ports in terms of arrivals of ships and Tauranga (38), Auckland (36) and Napier (25) will be the busiest ports in terms of departures of ships. If disruption to ports due to COVID-19 cases occurs, it is likely that this will cause disruption to supply chains as these are the main ports of entry of ships into New Zealand.

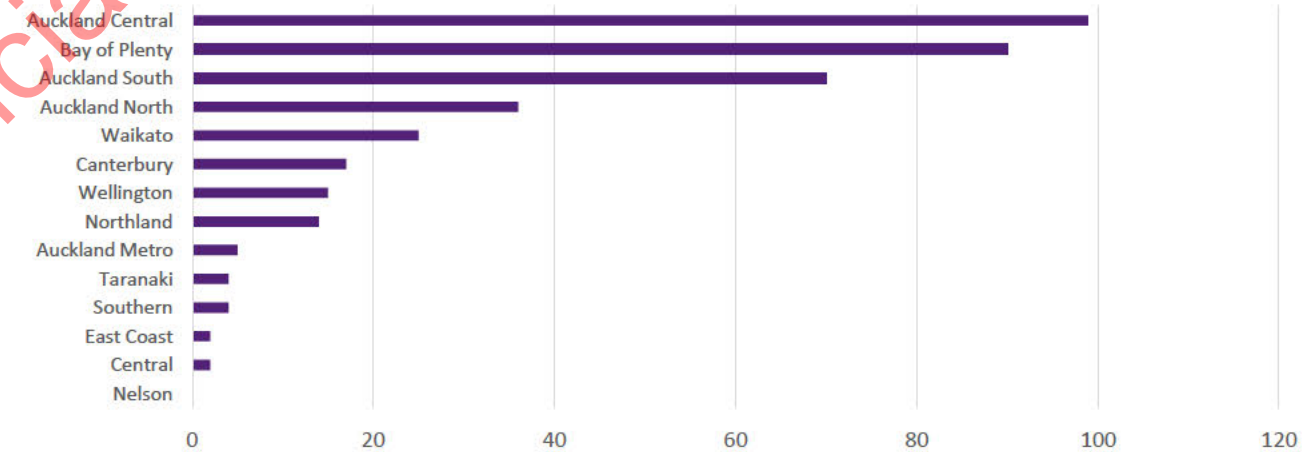
Source: NZ Customs 18 January 2022 3.10 PM

Welfare Support Referrals

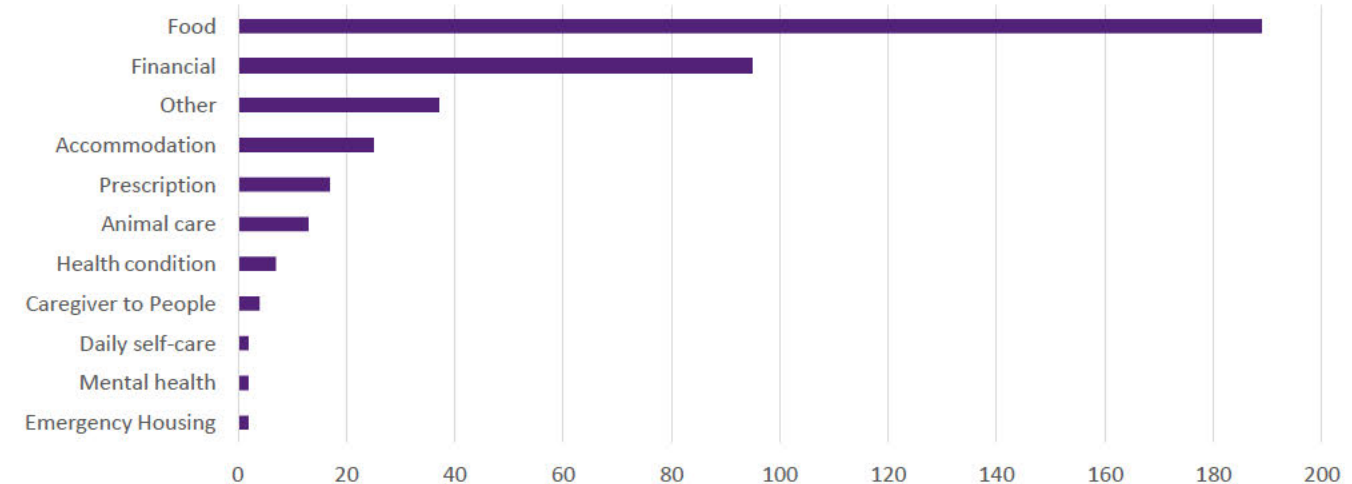
The highest number of welfare referrals under the CPF over the week ending 16 January 2022, were observed in the Auckland Central, Bay of Plenty and Auckland South regions. Food was by far the biggest individual need identified in referrals, followed by financial help, "others" and accommodation.

Source: MSD 17 January 2022 3.24 PM

Number of Welfare Support Referrals Under the CPF By Region – Week Ending 16 January 2022



Identified Needs in Welfare Support Referrals Under the CPF - Week Ending 16 January 2022



COVID-19: Across Government Situation Report

18 January 2022

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
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