



Date	Focus Area	Announcements	Key Links
13 May	My Vaccine Pass	<p>An updated My Vaccine Pass will be available for download from 24 May for people over the age of 12 who are up to date with recommended vaccinations, and those over 18 who have had their booster. It will also be available for people with a temporary medical exemption.</p> <p>Transport operators or businesses who still use vaccination as a condition of entry or carriage should make themselves aware of the information in the attached links.</p>	<p><a href="#">UAC</a></p> <p><a href="#">Beehive update</a></p>
27 April	Face mask guidance	<p><b><u>Face mask exemption</u></b></p> <p>From 31 May, people who can't wear a face mask can order a new Exemption Card through the MoH website. The new cards will be entirely optional and legally recognised as conclusive proof that someone is exempt from wearing a face mask.</p> <p>People unable to wear a mask and who already have a non-personalised exemption card issued by MoH or Disabled Persons assembly can continue using that card (though these cards do not have legal standing).</p> <p>The new cards should be accepted by transport operators because they have clear legal status as proof of exemption</p>	<p><a href="#">UAC</a></p> <p><a href="#">Beehive update</a></p> <p><a href="#">MoH</a></p>

		<p>from wearing a face mask.</p> <p>At the orange setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework, face masks are required on public transport including taxis, in shops and supermarkets, and at public health facilities.</p> <p>The Transport Operator Guidance will be updated after the COVID-19 Protection Framework Order has been amended.</p>	
23 March	<p>Traffic light update</p> <p>Omicron variant response</p> <p>Vaccinations and boosters</p>	<p><b><u>COVID-19 Protection Framework changes</u></b></p> <p>From 11:59 pm on Friday, 25 March, New Zealand will enter another phase in its response to COVID-19 with a new and highly simplified traffic light system. It's important to note that future waves of Omicron and new variants of concern are expected to emerge and that a flexible strategy will be maintained to manage uncertain future risks.</p> <p>The Transport Operator Guidance will follow outlining specific impacts on transport. A summary of the announcements is below:</p> <p><b><u>Workforce vaccination orders and My Vaccine Pass:</u></b></p> <p>&gt; <b>Vaccine mandates</b> are to be retained for border and MIQ workers who are at higher risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19 and new variants (to be reviewed again by 27 June 2022 and 26 September 2022).</p> <p>&gt; <b>My Vaccine Pass</b> is no longer required from 11.59pm, 4 April as a Government mandated measure in the post-peak phase (especially given context of high vaccination rates and the</p>	<p><a href="#">Media conference</a></p> <p><a href="#">UAC</a></p> <p><a href="#">Beehive update</a></p>

imminent peak in hospitalisations).

**Covid-19 Protection Framework:**

Removal of the My Vaccine Pass from the COVID-19 protection Framework presents an opportunity to simplify measures, with the following changes to red, orange, and green sections of the COVID-19 Protection Framework to be implemented by Friday 25 March.

See below changes to the framework colour levels.

**Red**

To retain current requirements for:

- > the use of face masks indoors (including public transport such as buses and trains, and transport terminals)
- > specified public-facing workers to wear medical-grade masks.

To remove:

- > QR codes and contact tracing  
(QR codes will no longer need to be displayed and individual cases no longer need to be contact-traced. This means we can remove the obligation on businesses and the public to maintain records for contact tracing purposes. Note, this system may need to return if another variant of concern arrives in NZ).
- > outdoor face mask requirements (including outdoor departure and arrival points for public transport).
- > outdoor capacity limits.

And:

- > Indoor capacity limits at red for events, gatherings, food and drink businesses and gyms to be increased from up to 100

		<p>people to up to 200 people based on one-metre physical distancing (when using MVP).</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Current indoor capacity limits at Red for public facilities, retail and some education entities to be retained and continue to be determined based on one metre physical distancing.</li> </ul> <p><b>Orange</b></p> <p><u>To retain current requirements for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; workers use of face masks indoors</li> </ul> <p><u>To carry over the requirement at Red for:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; specified public-facing workers to wear medical-grade masks</li> </ul> <p><u>To remove all outdoor:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; face mask requirements</li> <li>&gt; capacity limits</li> </ul> <p><u>To remove all indoor:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; capacity limits, but strongly encourage allocated seating or one metre physical distancing, particularly for events of 500 or more people.</li> </ul> <p><b>Green</b></p> <p><u>To remove:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; all face mask requirements (their use will be guidance only).</li> </ul> <p>The current traffic light levels (i.e. colours) will be reviewed on Monday 4 April based on latest public health advice.</p>	
9 March	<p>Omicron variant response</p> <p>Vaccinations and boosters</p>	<p><b>Media announcement: Covid-19 isolation period reduced to seven days:</b> The isolation period for Covid-19 cases and their household contacts is reducing from 10 to seven days, as of 11:59pm this Friday 11 March.</p>	<p><a href="#">Media conference</a></p> <p><a href="#">UAC</a></p>

		<p>Household contacts need to have a RAT on days three and seven of their isolation.</p> <p>Household contacts will not need to isolate if they had been a case within the past 90 days - an increase from the current 28-day rule.</p> <p>&gt; The latest version of our guidance framework has been updated on our website.</p>	<p><a href="#">Beehive update</a></p> <p><a href="#">Guidance framework</a></p>
24 Feb	Reconnecting New Zealand	<p><b>MAJOR ANNOUNCEMENT:</b> New Zealand will move to Phase 3 of the Omicron response from 11.59pm Thursday 24 February, 2022.</p> <p>&gt; A record 6,137 cases recorded today.</p> <p>&gt; Currently around 25,000 cases with a hospitalisation rate of 1%, in line with international trends.</p> <p>&gt; Key metric to now be hospitalisations vs case numbers.</p> <p><b>This shift to phase 3 means that:</b></p> <p>&gt; only confirmed cases and their household contacts will be required to isolate.</p> <p>&gt; all other contacts now asked to monitor symptoms – though aren't required to isolate.</p> <p>&gt; <b>For critical workers:</b> Critical workers who are identified as household contacts are still able to use RATs to return to work if they are fully vaccinated and don't have any covid19 symptoms. They will need to return a negative RAT before they go to work.</p> <p>All individuals who test positive are required to self register at <a href="#">myCovid record</a> and to inform their employer of their covid</p>	<p><a href="#">Media conference</a></p> <p><a href="#">Beehive media release</a></p> <p><a href="#">UAC update</a></p>

status.

These changes will ease some of the pressure on our testing and contact tracing services over the next 3-6 weeks, while helping to ensure our critical services and supply chains remain operational.

**Three major changes with the shift to phase 3:**

**Isolation**

Non-household close contacts are no longer required to self-isolate, with only confirmed cases and household contacts of a confirmed case required to do so.

Confirmed cases and household contacts should isolate for 10 days but can now self-release after day 10, providing any testing requirements are met. They are also encouraged to test if they develop symptoms.

***For critical workers:*** The critical worker exemption scheme will enable eligible household contacts who are fully vaccinated to return to work by returning a daily negative RAT.

**Testing**

RATs will become the primary form of testing in the community, with PCR test no longer required to verify a positive RAT result. PCR testing will be also be reserved for people where it's clinically indicated they need it.

		<p>The Govt is expecting another 10 million RATs within the next week, with retailers able to sell approved RATs to the public from March. The <a href="#">Healthpoint website</a> is being updated with locations to obtain a RATs.</p> <p><b>Contact tracing</b> With widely available use of new self identification tool that supports positive cases to self-notify contacts, and a shift to stronger self-management, contact tracing will be largely used in high-risk sites such as rest homes and hospitals.</p>	
22 Feb	Legislation update	<p>The Health Order enabling critical workers to leave their place of self-isolation to return to work under the Close Contact Exemption Scheme (CCES) is available at the link to the right.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Clause 7(2)(a)(ii) excludes Household Close Contacts from utilising the CCES.</p>	<a href="#">Requirements for Close Contacts Order</a>
21 Feb	Omicron variant response	<p>Finance Minister Grant Robertson also outlined new financial supports to help businesses impacted by the red settings.</p>	<a href="#">Beehive media release</a>
18 Feb	Reconnecting New Zealand	<p>From 11:59 pm 27 February, NZ is expanding QFT to travellers from Nauru, Tuvalu and American Samoa (recognising that these countries have no COVID-19 community cases).</p> <p>Travel will initially be open to people who have a right to reside here and those covered by border exemptions.</p> <p>Eligible travellers from these countries can enter New Zealand without entering MIQ or self-isolation. No pre-departure test is required, but non-New Zealand citizens must be vaccinated.</p>	<p><a href="#">Beehive media release</a></p> <p><a href="#">UAC update</a></p>

		<p><b>Note:</b> We currently have QFT for travellers coming to New Zealand from Niue, the Cook Islands, Samoa, Tokelau and Vanuatu.</p>	
15 Feb	Self isolation rules released for travellers entering New Zealand	<p>From 28 February, travellers to New Zealand – starting with Kiwis and other current eligible travellers from Australia – will be able to enter without staying in MIQ as long as they are fully vaccinated, return a negative test before flying and spend seven days in self-isolation, taking two rapid antigen tests.</p> <p>The full details for the traveller journey and self-isolation process for individuals and groups are <a href="#">here</a>.</p>	<p><a href="#">Beehive media release</a></p> <p><a href="#">UAC update</a></p>
14 Feb	Phase 2 of Omicron plan	<p>New Zealand will move to Phase 2 of the Omicron response from 11.59pm, Tuesday 15 February.</p> <p>Phase 2 of New Zealand’s omicron plan will shorten the self-isolation periods for both positive cases and close contacts, and allow essential workers exemptions from self-isolation rules if they have a negative RAT test and are asymptomatic.</p> <p><b>Under Phase 2:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Positive cases and their families will only have to self-isolate for 10 days, rather than 14 days, and can self-isolate concurrently, meaning larger family groups don’t have to self-isolate for weeks on end;</li> <li>• Close contacts will only need to self isolate for seven days, rather than 10 days; and,</li> <li>• Workers deemed essential can be exempted from self-isolation if they have a negative RAT test result and are asymptomatic.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Media conference</a></p> <p><a href="#">UAC update</a></p> <p><a href="#">Advice for RAT testing for critical workers</a></p>



10 Feb	Close Contact Exemption Scheme and Bubble of One Scheme announcement	<p><b>BACKGROUND:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• New exemption scheme established with aim of keeping critical supply chains running</li> <li>• Close contacts can keep going to work instead of isolating if they return a negative rapid antigen test</li> <li>• Businesses will self-assess against criteria to join scheme</li> <li>• In addition, government confirms close contacts who work alone can continue to operate in a bubble of one</li> </ul> <p>The Government has put in place two initiatives for businesses and services, to mitigate the impacts of likely high levels of absenteeism driven by close contact isolation at Phases 2 &amp; 3 of the Omicron response.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. <u>Close Contact Exemption Scheme</u>, which will ensure critical services continue to operate, using daily rapid antigen testing</li> <li>2. <u>Bubble of one</u>, which will allow any workers to return if they can stay isolated while working</li> </ol> <p>Detailed information about these two schemes is available on the <a href="https://www.business.govt.nz">business.govt.nz</a> website</p> <p>This webpage includes a link to the registration portal.</p>	<p><u>Beehive media release</u></p> <p><a href="https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/close-contact-exemption-scheme/">https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/close-contact-exemption-scheme/</a></p>
3 Feb	Reconnecting New Zealand	<p>The PM has announced that our borders will be open to the rest of the world from 27 February with five stages. Travellers to self-isolate and MIQ required for the unvaxxed.</p> <p>&gt; Key stages, settings and requirements as outlined below:</p> <p><b>FIVE STAGES:</b></p>	<p><u>Media conference</u></p> <p><u>Beehive media release</u></p>

**Step 1.**

**Timing:** From 11.59pm, Sunday 27 Feb 2022

**Travellers:** Reopen to fully vaccinated New Zealanders and other eligible travellers under current border settings (e.g. people with border exceptions) from Australia.

**Step 2.**

**Timing:** From 11:59pm, Sunday 13 March 2022

**Travellers:** Reopen to fully vaccinated New Zealanders and other eligible travellers under current border settings from the rest of the world. Open to skilled workers earning at least 1.5 times the median wage. Open to Working Holiday Scheme visas.

**Step 3.**

**Timing:** From 11:59pm, Tuesday 12 April 2022

**Travellers:** Open to current offshore temporary visa holders, who can still meet the relevant visa requirements,  
Open to up to 5000 international students for semester two  
Further class exceptions for critical workforces that do not meet the 1.5 times the median wage test will be considered.

**Step 4.**

**Timing:** By July 2022

**Travellers:** Open to anyone from Australia. Open for visa-waiver travel. **From July** - The Accredited Employer Work Visa will open, meaning the skilled and health worker border exception can be phased out.

**Step 5.**

**Timing:** October 2022

**Travellers:** Border fully reopens to visitors from anywhere in the

world, and all visa categories fully reopen.

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**KEY SETTINGS AND TRAVELER REQUIREMENTS FOR ENTERING NEW ZEALAND:**

**Note:** These settings will change as we progress through the phase of managing Omicron, learn more about COVID and respond to new variants. Unless a new variant emerges, these settings are likely to be the maximum requirements and settings may be eased over time.

**Pre departure testing:**

48hrs prior negative PCR test or 24hr negative RAT/LAMP test

**Vaccinations:**

Evidence of being fully-vaccinated with an approved vaccine.

**Declaration:**

- > Contact-tracing information – declaration in Nau Mai Ra or New Zealand Traveller Declaration system from 31 March 2022.
- > 14 day Travel History – declaration in Nau Mai Ra or New Zealand Traveller Declaration system from 31 March 2022.

**Testing:**

- > Day 0/1 test self-administered, self declared RAT.
  - If positive result, PCR test @ a Community Testing Centre.
- > Day 5/6 test – self-administered, self-declared RAT.
  - If positive result, PCR test at a Community Testing Centre.

**Self-isolation:**

- > Duration - 10 days, moving to 7 when New Zealand moves to

		<p>phase two of the Omicron Response plan. If test positive, continue to self-isolate.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Location - Minor limitations or requirements e.g. no self-isolation in shared accommodation venue that requires use of facilities shared with someone that the traveller does not know. No travel restrictions to accommodation.</li> <li>&gt; No visitors</li> <li>&gt; Household members do not have to isolate unless traveller is positive</li> <li>&gt; Unvaccinated children under 17 travelling with adults will enter via same pathway as adult guardian.</li> </ul> <p><b>Welfare support</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>&gt; Limited (traveller-initiated) welfare support for people undertaking self-isolation.</li> </ul>	
2 Feb	Vaccination and boosters	<p>PM media conference announcement = vaccine booster interval to be shortened from four to three months (decision made on advice of the Vaccine Technical Advisory Group). To take effect Friday 4 Feb.</p> <p>The earlier booster will also help reduce the impact of Omicron on workforces and supply chains.</p>	<p><u>Media conference</u></p> <p><u>Media release</u></p> <p><u>MoH advice – rapid antigen testing</u></p>
26/01	Outline of 3 phase Omicron response plan	<p>High vaccination rates and the COVID-19 Protection Framework means NZ has reduced the spread of Delta and is now in a good position to manage spread of Omicron. When COVID-19 changes, we change. The response will adjust as the outbreak changes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Reducing isolation period for cases and close contacts at Phase Two and Three to 10 and seven days</li> </ul>	<p><u>Media conference</u></p> <p><u>Media release</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Definition of close contact required to isolate changes to household or household like contacts at Phase Three</li> <li>• Increased use of rapid antigen tests with test to return policy put in place for health and critical workforce</li> <li>• Greater use of technology, including text notifications for cases and close contacts and automated contact identification</li> </ul> <p>3 phase plan to respond to Omicron as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1.) Continue using ‘stamp it out’ tools. Intensive approach to contact testing. Encouraging all symptomatic people to be tested.</li> <li>2.) Public health aim to reduce spread of virus, reduce cases to a level the health system can cope with. The system will identify the small percentage of people at the most severe risk. Reduce isolation period to 10 days for cases and 7 for contacts. Most people will be self-managing through digital tools. Text message, no longer a phone call, for positive cases and contacts. Ensuring critical services such as food distribution and electricity generation continue. Rapid Antigen Testing will become the go-to for a quick result without drawing on the lab system, to enable PCR testing to be protected for key workforces.</li> <li>3.) Focus on minimising widespread outbreak (10,000’s cases). Locations of interest and push notifications paused but record keeping remains important. Public health focused on the most high risk population. Self-service and RAT important, majority of cases self-manage at home. Clinical and welfare support prioritised. Focus on critical services and workers continuing.</li> </ol>	
25/01	Testing	<u>Testing</u>	<a href="#">Media release</a> (testing)

	Mask guidance	<p>New Zealand's PCR testing capacity can be increased by nearly 20,000 tests per day to deal with a surge in cases as part of our wider COVID-19 testing strategy.</p> <p>Nasopharyngeal PCR tests will continue to be used as the primary diagnostic test in our initial phase of dealing with Omicron in the community, but this will be supplemented by wider use of rapid antigen testing.</p> <p><u>Mask guidance</u> The Government has signalled the intention to make changes to face covering rules in the Red setting of the Covid Protection Framework – masks must now be worn at hospitality businesses, close proximity businesses and gatherings. Exceptions for when eating, drinking and exercising still apply. Face coverings must be 'an actual mask' not scarf, bandana etc. Workers mandated to be vaccinated must now wear medical grade mask in public facing roles. All primary and secondary students year four and up are all required to wear a mask including on public transport.</p>	<a href="#">Media conference</a> (including changes to face covering rules)
23/01	Traffic light update	<p>All of NZ moving to red at 11.59pm on 23/01/22</p> <p>All of New Zealand will move to the Red setting of the Covid Protection Framework as Omicron is potentially now transmitting in the community</p>	<a href="#">Media release</a>
23/01	Vaccination & boosters	<p>Mandatory boosters for key workers progressing well</p> <p>More than 5,785 (82%) border workers eligible for a booster vaccination at 6 months have received it so far</p>	<a href="#">Media release</a>
20/1	<p>Omicron variant response</p> <p>Vaccination &amp; boosters</p>	<p><u>Omicron variant response</u> Govt continues to make preparations for Omicron. This is the time for people to make plans for their households and workplaces,</p>	<a href="#">Media release</a>

	Traffic light update	<p>including getting a plan in place for isolating at home if needed. For the most part, people will be able to support themselves. New case management, close contact definition and testing rules that are fit for purpose for Omicron are being finalised and include plans to support business continuity. All of New Zealand to move into Red in the event of Omicron community outbreak.</p> <p><u>Vaccination and boosters</u> High levels of booster protection will reduce the spread and severity of Omicron when it arrives.</p> <p><u>Traffic light update</u> Northland moving to orange at 11.59pm on 20/01/22.</p>	
15/1	Legislation update	<p>The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Protection Framework) Amendment Order 2022 has been signed, gazetted and published. This amendment order has the effect of removing the testing and CVC requirements for travelling out of the 'Extended Auckland Area'. This order comes into force from 11:59PM on Sunday 16 Jan 22.</p>	<u>Amendment Order</u>
21/12	Omicron variant response	<p>Cabinet has confirmed several <b>measures to reduce the risk of the Omicron variant</b> spreading in New Zealand:</p> <p><u>COVID-19 vaccine booster shots</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>From January, the interval between the second dose and the booster shot is reduced from 6 months to 4 months,</b> meaning more than 82% of vaccinated New Zealanders will be eligible for a booster by end of Feb 2022</li> <li>- It will be <b>mandatory for border and health workers</b> to get a booster dose <b>by the end of January,</b> or not more than 6 months after their second dose</li> </ul>	<p><u>Media release</u></p> <p><u>Vaccine boosters</u></p>

- **Other workers subject to mandatory vaccination** will be required to have a **booster by 1 March**.

#### Settings for international arrivals

- The **pre-departure test** requirement to enter NZ **will be reduced from 72 hours to 48 hours before travel**. This is intended to take effect from 7 January.
- The phased **border re-opening with self-isolation for arrivals from Australia is pushed out from 17 January to the end of February 2022**
- **The length of stay in MIQ is temporarily increased to 10 days for all travellers, with no self-isolation component**
- Anyone on an international flight with a positive Omicron case will be treated as a close contact
- All countries are intended to be removed from the Very High Risk country list from 11.59pm on 23 December.

#### Vaccination for children

- Paediatric doses of **vaccination for 5-11-year-olds will start from 17 January** before schools reopen in 2022.

#### Traffic lights

- Cabinet will use the traffic light system to manage any outbreaks

#### Vaccination for children

#### Traffic lights



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- In the event of <b>Omicron outbreaks</b> areas will move into the <b>red traffic light</b> setting.</li> </ul>	
13/12	Traffic light update	<p>At <b>11:59pm on Thu 30 Dec:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Auckland and all other areas currently in Red apart from Northland</b> will move to <b>Orange</b></li> <li>- Cabinet will next review traffic light settings in the week of <b>17 January 2022.</b></li> </ul>	<u>UAC update</u>
13/12	Legislation update	<p>The <b>CPF Order</b> was amended to give effect to <b>changes at 11:59pm on 14 December:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Auckland ‘hard’ boundary will lift, meaning there will <b>no longer be permitted reasons or exemptions</b> needed to cross the boundary.</li> <li>- People travelling out of Auckland will need: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o <b>My Vaccine Pass</b></li> <li>o <b>or a negative test within 72 hours of departure</b></li> <li>o <b>or evidence of having taken a COVID-19 test within seven days of their travel</b> (for workers only).</li> </ul> <p>(This does not apply to transit travel or to people under the age of 12 years and three months.)</p> </li> <li>- Transport operators will have the ability to check passengers meet these requirements, and to deny boarding to non-compliant passengers.</li> </ul>	<u>COVID-19 Protection Framework Order</u>
9/12	Rapid antigen testing	To meet domestic travel requirements, COVID-19 <b>rapid antigen testing</b> will be available at <b>no cost from community pharmacies</b> throughout New Zealand <b>until the end of January 2022:</b>	<u>Media release</u>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- When the <b>Auckland boundary lifts at 11:59pm on Tuesday 14 December</b>, testing for asymptomatic unvaccinated individuals 12 years and older <b>leaving Auckland</b> can be a supervised rapid antigen test at selected community pharmacies.</li> <li>- People travelling in other parts of the country with a transport company that requires unvaccinated individuals to be tested can also use rapid antigen tests</li> <li>- The Ministry of Health strongly recommends rapid antigen tests are administered as close as possible to the time of travel, preferably <b>within 24 hours before departure</b></li> <li>- Unvaccinated workers who are already part of a testing regime for crossing the Auckland boundary can <b>continue with their current regime</b>.</li> </ul>	
1/12	Legislation updates	<p><b>Two Orders</b> were published on <b>30 November</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The COVID-19 Public Health Response (<b>Protection Framework</b>) Order 2021 details the policy settings under the traffic light system</li> <li>- The COVID-19 Public Health Response (<b>Vaccinations</b>) Order 2021 was amended to update the workforces subject to mandatory vaccination.</li> </ul>	<p><u><a href="#">COVID-19 Protection Framework Order</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Vaccinations Order</a></u></p>
29/11	Move to CPF – traffic lights	<p><b>All of NZ will move</b> into the new traffic light system at <b>11:59 pm on Thursday 2 December</b>. The traffic light <b>colours that each region will move into</b> include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>RED</b> – Northland, Auckland, Taupō and Rotorua Lakes Districts, Kawerau, Whakatāne, Ōpōtiki Districts, Gisborne District, Wairoa District, Rangitīkei, Whanganui and Ruapehu Districts</li> </ul>	<p><u><a href="#">Media release</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">UAC update</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Life at Red</a></u></p> <p><u><a href="#">Life at Orange</a></u></p>

		<p>- <b>ORANGE</b> – rest of NZ</p> <p>Cabinet will review these settings and provide an update on <b>13 December</b>. The next update by Ministers will be on <b>17 January</b>, and will continue on a fortnightly basis.</p> <p>Other than the <b>existing Auckland boundary, which lifts on January 17</b>, there will be <b>no new restrictions on travel between regions</b>.</p>	<p><u>MBIE guidance for businesses</u></p>
28/11	Very High Risk countries	<p>To reduce the chance of the Omicron variant of COVID-19 entering New Zealand, from <b>11:59pm Sunday 28 November only NZ citizens, partners and dependent children of NZ citizens, or parents of dependent children who are NZ citizens, together with any children of those parents who are not NZ citizens from the below countries</b> will be able to enter:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- South Africa</li> <li>- Namibia</li> <li>- Zimbabwe</li> <li>- Botswana</li> <li>- Lesotho</li> <li>- Eswatini</li> <li>- Seychelles</li> <li>- Malawi</li> <li>- Mozambique.</li> </ul> <p>Arrivals from these countries will be required to stay in <b>managed isolation for a full 14-day period</b> and undergo testing.</p> <p>Brazil, Fiji, India, Indonesia, and Pakistan are no longer designated Very High Risk countries.</p>	<p><u>Media release</u></p> <p><u>UAC update</u></p>
26/11	Mandatory vaccination	<p>Additional vaccination requirements will cover sworn members, recruits and authorised officers of the New Zealand <b>Police</b>, and all New Zealand <b>Defence Force</b> staff:</p>	<p><u>Media release</u></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>First doses</b> of the vaccine for workers in these organisations are required <b>by 17 January 2022</b>, and <b>second doses by 1 March 2022</b></li> <li>- These groups are added to the list of sectors covered by vaccination, which includes MIQ and border work, healthcare, education, and prisons.</li> </ul>	
25/11	Testing and contact tracing	<p>The COVID-19 Protection Framework is supported by a new testing and contact tracing strategy which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Nasopharyngeal PCR tests will continue to be used as the primary diagnostic test, but will be supplemented by saliva-based PCR testing, rapid antigen testing and rapid PCR tests</li> <li>- <b>From 1 December</b>, businesses will be able to directly source rapid antigen tests for use within their workforce from authorised suppliers</li> <li>- <b>Rapid antigen tests will be available at pharmacies from 15 December</b>, with tests administered under the supervision of pharmacy staff. A PCR test will be required to confirm any positive results</li> <li>- <b>Daily laboratory capacity</b> will increase to <b>60,000 PCR tests in Q1 2022</b></li> <li>- A <b>new national telehealth case investigation service</b> with 475 investigators by the end of this month.</li> </ul> <p>Under the new framework, in regions at Red and Orange there will be a focus on symptomatic testing and surveillance testing in high-risk settings.</p> <p>Regions at Green will see a greater focus on surveillance testing, to quickly find any new clusters of cases.</p>	<u>Media release</u>

25/11	Care in the Community	<p>For <b>someone with COVID-19</b> who can <b>isolate at home</b>, Care in the Community will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Contact from a healthcare provider within 24 hours of a positive result to discuss any health, accommodation and wellbeing requirements. <b>Household contacts will also need to isolate</b>, with support on health advice and getting tested</li> <li>- A designated <b>point of contact</b> responsible for looking out for the person's health and wellbeing needs, including making a plan for checking in regularly while the person is infected.</li> <li>- A <b>health pack</b> tailored to the individual's health needs delivered within 48 hours to help the person manage recovery</li> <li>- <b>Clinical monitoring</b> during the isolation period to make sure the person is coping with symptoms and is safe to continue being cared for in the community</li> <li>- A <b>health assessment at Day 10</b> to determine whether the person can safely end isolation.</li> </ul> <p>At this point, household contacts will need to stay at home for at least 10 days, to make sure they remain free from the virus. The households' dedicated health contact will continue to check in on them during this time.</p>	<p><a href="#">Media release</a></p> <p><a href="#">UAC update</a></p> <p><a href="#">Self-isolating timeline</a></p> <p><a href="#">Readiness checklist</a></p>
24/11	Reconnecting New Zealand	<p>The border will open in <b>three steps</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fully vaccinated <b>Kiwis and other eligible travellers</b> can travel to NZ <b>from Australia</b> without staying in MIQ from 11.59pm Sunday, <b>16 January 2022</b></li> <li>- Fully vaccinated <b>Kiwis and other eligible travellers</b> can travel to NZ from <b>all other countries</b> from 11.59pm Sunday, <b>13 February 2022</b></li> </ul>	<p><a href="#">Media release</a></p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>All fully vaccinated individuals</b> will be able to travel to NZ from <b>30 April 2022</b> onwards, with the re-opening staged over time.</li> </ul> <p>All travellers not required to go into MIQ will still require:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- a negative pre-departure test</li> <li>- proof of being fully vaccinated</li> <li>- a passenger declaration about travel history</li> <li>- a day 0/1 test on arrival</li> <li>- a requirement to self-isolate for seven days</li> <li>- a final negative test before entering the community.</li> </ul>	
23/11	NZ vaccine pass verifier	The NZ Pass Verifier app for businesses to scan and verify My Vaccine Passes is now available to download from the Google Play and Apple App stores.	<a href="#">Media release</a>
23/11	Guidance on workplace vaccinations	The Government has developed a tool to help clarify what work should be covered by vaccinated workers and to create a simple and clear tool for assessing when it is reasonable to require vaccination for other work.	<a href="#">Media release</a>
22/11	Move to CPF	<p><b>All of NZ will move</b> into the new traffic light system at <b>11:59 pm on Thursday 2 December</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The traffic light <b>colours that each region will move into</b> will be confirmed on <b>29 November</b>.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">UAC update</a>
22/11	Saliva testing for workers	<p>The Ministry of Health has updated frequency requirements for saliva testing workers:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Effective immediately until 11:59pm on 14 December</b>, permitted workers crossing the Alert Level boundary who have chosen saliva testing to meet their testing</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Media release</a>

		<p>requirements only need <b>one saliva test within a 7-day period – NOT two saliva tests.</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>From 15 December</b> these workers will need evidence of being <b>fully vaccinated OR of one test within 7 days</b> before crossing the boundary</li> <li>- <b>For border workers</b>, the current requirement of <b>two tests in a 7-day period remains unchanged</b> – this will be updated to one test when the Required Testing Order is updated later this month.</li> </ul>	
18/11	Vaccines – AstraZeneca	<p>From <b>26 November</b>, anyone aged 18 and older who wishes to have the AstraZeneca vaccine will be able to book an appointment on BookMyVaccine.nz or by calling Healthline</p> <p>A shipment of 100,000 doses of the AstraZeneca COVID-19 vaccine arrived in New Zealand.</p>	<a href="#">Media release</a>
17/11	Transition to CPF	<p>On <b>29 November</b> Cabinet will confirm its decision to move Auckland and the rest of NZ into the <b>new traffic light system</b> soon after that date:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Auckland</b> will initially move into <b>Red</b></li> <li>- The rest of NZ will move into the framework at the same time. <b>Parts of NZ with lower vaccination rates</b> will also move into <b>Red</b>.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Media release</a>
17/11	Auckland boundary	<p>The <b>Auckland boundary</b> will formally <b>lift at 11.59pm on Tuesday 14 December</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- People travelling out of Auckland from 15 December will need to be <b>fully vaccinated or be tested</b></li> <li>- Police will have operational discretion on enforcement and perform <b>spot checks on roads</b></li> </ul>	<a href="#">Media release</a>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- On the northern boundary, Police will work with iwi to ensure people can move, but also that the people of Northland have confidence in the checks that are in place</li> <li>- <b>Checks</b> for travellers out of <b>Auckland Airport</b> will be done <b>at check-in</b></li> <li>- The requirement will be in place <b>until 17 January</b>.</li> </ul>	
17/11	Vaccine certificates	<p><b>My Vaccine Pass</b> is an official record of COVID-19 vaccination status and will provide access to places in NZ that require proof of vaccination under the new COVID-19 Protection Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Fully vaccinated people can <b>log onto My Covid Record</b> to make a request for the free pass or call 0800 222 478</li> <li>- <b>My Vaccine Pass has a QR code</b> that can be scanned on arrival at a venue. The pass can be downloaded to a personal phone or printed out</li> <li>- A <b>separate International COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate</b>, which provides proof of your vaccination status to enter overseas countries, can also be requested</li> <li>- A process has been put in place to <b>recognise COVID-19 vaccinations people have had overseas</b>, and for them to apply for My Vaccine Pass. The process may take up to 14 days as details will initially be manually entered into the COVID-19 Immunisation Register.</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#"><u>Media release</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>My Covid Record</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>My Vaccine Pass</u></a></p> <p><a href="#"><u>International Certificate</u></a></p>
16/11	Community isolation	<p>Contact tracing categories have changed to reflect the vaccination status of confirmed COVID-19 cases and close contacts in the community:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The isolation period for <b>fully vaccinated</b> community cases has been reduced <b>from 14 days to 10 days</b>, and must include 72 hours symptom-free</li> <li>- The period for <b>partially vaccinated or unvaccinated</b> cases will <b>remain 14 days</b>, including 72 hours symptom-free</li> </ul>	<p><a href="#"><u>Media release</u></a></p>



		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>household contacts</b> will self-isolate for <b>10 days regardless of vaccination status</b>, because this group is at highest risk of contracting the virus</li> <li>- <b>Fully vaccinated close contacts</b> need to self-isolate for <b>7 days</b>, while <b>partially vaccinated or not vaccinated close contacts</b> need to self-isolate for <b>10 days</b>.</li> </ul>	
15/11	Waikato Alert Level	<p>At <b>11: 59pm on Tuesday 16 November</b>, the parts of Waikato at Alert Level 3 Step 2 will move to Alert Level 2.</p> <p>The rest of New Zealand is at Alert Level 2, except for Auckland.</p>	<a href="#">Alert Level 2 information</a>
15/11	Vaccine Boosters	From <b>29 November</b> , vaccine boosters will be available for anyone who has been fully vaccinated for 6 months or more. Pfizer vaccine boosters will be available regardless of which vaccine was used for earlier doses.	<a href="#">Media release</a>
15/11	Vaccine access	4.7 million Pfizer vaccine doses have been secured for 2022. This is expected to cover all demand, including if criteria is extended to include years 5-11.	
10/11	Post MIQ self-isolation	<p>The Ministry of Health has published guidance for border arrivals who <b>from Sunday 14 November</b> can leave MIQ after 7 days followed by home isolation until they return a negative day 9 test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Wherever possible people should use private transport to travel to the place of self-isolation</li> <li>- If people are being picked up, the person collecting them should be vaccinated, and both should wear face coverings for the duration of the journey, sanitise hands regularly and keep the vehicle well ventilated</li> <li>- If private transportation options are not available, people can take public transport to their place of self-isolation (e.g., a taxi or domestic flight)</li> <li>- People must travel as soon as possible and take the most direct route, wear a face covering during travel, and go</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Guidance overview</a>  <a href="#">Detailed guidance</a>

		straight to the place of self-isolation without stopping anywhere or visiting anyone.	
10/11	Alert Level 3 schools	All schools and kura in Auckland and parts of Waikato in Alert Level 3 can return to onsite learning from Wednesday <b>17 November</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Students <b>aged 12 and over must wear face coverings</b> on school buses, and on public transport services and at arrival and departure points.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Media release</a>
9/11	Air NZ domestic flights	<b>From 14 December</b> , Air NZ will require all domestic passengers aged 12 and over to be vaccinated or have a negative COVID-19 test within 72 hours of departure. At check-in: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Proof of vaccination can be presented digitally or in hardcopy from the Government’s My Vaccine Pass when available</li> <li>- A negative test can be either in the form of a text message or a letter from a medical professional.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Media release</a>  <a href="#">Guidance for travel within NZ</a>
8/11	Auckland Alert Level	<b>Auckland</b> to move to <b>Alert Level 3 Step 2 at 11:59pm</b> on Tuesday <b>9 November</b> : <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- outdoor gatherings can increase to 25</li> <li>- public facilities such as libraries and zoos, and retail can open with mask-wearing, contact tracing and physical distancing</li> <li>- Alert Levels will be reviewed again on 15 November.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">AL 3 Steps</a>
8/11	Northland Alert Level	<b>Upper Northland</b> to move to <b>Alert Level 2 at 11:59pm</b> on Thursday <b>11 November</b> .	
2/11	Northland Alert Level	<b>Upper Northland</b> to move to <b>Alert Level 3 at 11:59pm</b> on <b>2 November</b> .	<a href="#">AL3 information</a>  <a href="#">Alert Level boundary map</a>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- A boundary runs through the centre of the Hokianga Harbour to the Mangamuka Junction on SH1 to the Kaeo River Bridge on SH10 and East Bay.</li> <li>- The Alert Level will be in place until at least Monday 8 November.</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Advice for Northland</a>
01/11	Domestic Alert level	<p>Parts of <b>Waikato</b> in Alert Level 3 to <b>move to Step 2</b> on Tuesday <b>2 November at 11:59pm</b>:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- outdoor gatherings can increase to 25</li> <li>- public facilities such as libraries and zoos, and retail can open with mask-wearing, contact tracing and physical distancing.</li> </ul> <p>Cabinet has agreed in-principle to a shift down for <b>Auckland</b> to these same settings next Tuesday <b>9 November at 11:59pm</b>.</p>	<a href="#">Announcement on UAC</a>  <a href="#">AL 3 Steps</a>
28/10	Vaccine access	Medsafe has renewed provisional approval of Pfizer for 2 years to <b>2 Nov 2023</b>	<a href="#">Media release</a>
28/10	Alternative vaccine for border workers	<p>Vaccination Order for border workers now expanded to recognise additional vaccines administered overseas – to comply a worker must have one of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- 2 doses of AstraZeneca</li> <li>- 2 doses of Moderna</li> <li>- 1 dose of Janssen</li> <li>- 1 dose of AstraZeneca and 1 dose of Pfizer</li> </ul> <p>1 dose of Moderna and 1 dose of Pfizer</p>	<a href="#">Media release</a> <a href="#">Schedule 3 of Order</a>
28/10	Christchurch Alert Level	<b>Christchurch will remain in AL2</b> for the time being as no major exposure events have been found through contact tracing	
28/10	Pacific one-way QFT to NZ	<p><b>From 8 November</b>, travellers from low-risk Pacific Islands will no longer be required to enter MIQ or self-isolate on arrival:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Applies to arrivals from Samoa, Tonga, Vanuatu and Tokelau</li> <li>- Arrivals will need to be fully vaccinated</li> </ul>	<a href="#">Media release</a>

		RSE workers who are currently required to have a single dose will have to have a <b>2<sup>nd</sup> dose by 1 Jan 2022</b>	
28/10	MIQ reset	<p><b>From 14 November</b>, border arrivals to spend 7 days in MIQ followed by home isolation until they return a negative day 9 test:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Arrivals to be tested on day 0/1, day 3, and day 6/7 – rapid antigen test and health checks to be completed before leaving MIQ</li> <li>- PCR test on day 9 of home isolation, negative result will end isolation period</li> <li>- 1500 rooms freed initially, majority to accommodate community cases</li> </ul> <p>Phased easing of border restrictions will see home isolation increasingly used for overseas arrivals in Q1 2022</p>	<a href="#">Media release</a>
27/10	Waikato Alert Level	<p>Parts of Waikato in AL3 to <b>move to Step 1</b> from 11:59pm 27/10 – restrictions eased to allow:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Outdoor social gatherings between 2 households with a maximum of 10 people</li> <li>- Face-to-face specialised healthcare appointments</li> </ul> <p>Golf, hunting, sailing, fishing from a private vessel, scuba diving, jetskiing and recreational flying</p>	<a href="#">AL3 Steps</a>
26/10	Mandatory vaccination	<p>Range of measures to support business to mandate vaccination:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- All workers in businesses where vaccination certificates required must be vaccinated</li> <li>- New legislation to introduce clearer and simpler risk assessment process for requiring vaccination</li> <li>- 4-week notice period to get vaccinated before a non-vaccinated worker can be terminated</li> </ul> <p>Employers required to provide paid time off for workers to get vaccinated and to keep records about status</p>	<a href="#">Media release</a> <a href="#">Worksafe advice</a>
23/10	Mandatory vaccination	Vaccination Order expanded to include workers who face a high risk of exposure to COVID-19 in <b>health, disability, education and prison settings</b>	<a href="#">Media release</a>

22/10	Vaccine access	3 <sup>rd</sup> primary vaccine dose available for severely immunocompromised	<a href="#">Media release</a>
22/10	COVID-19 Protection Framework	<p>Traffic light system to replace Alert Level Framework:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Auckland to move to 'red' once all three DHBs reach <b>90% of eligible population fully vaccinated</b> (two doses)</li> <li>- Rest of NZ to move to 'orange' once all DHBs reach <b>90% of eligible population fully vaccinated</b></li> </ul>	<a href="#">PM's remarks</a> <a href="#">Framework overview</a> <a href="#">Business support to transition</a>