



AIDE MEMOIRE

10% Critical Worker target – Report for September 2021

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|---------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Date: | 28 September 2021 | Priority: | Medium |
| Security classification: | | Tracking number: | 2122-1136 |

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

| Name | Position | Telephone | 1st contact |
|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|-------------|
| Privacy of natural persons | Manager, Allocation and Supply, MIQ Policy Unit | Privacy of natural persons | ✓ |
| | Senior Policy Advisor | | |

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

- | | |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Declined |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Noted | <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Seen | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by Events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |

Comments



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Purpose

This aide memoire provides the September report on progress against the Government's commitment to ensure that Critical Workers are occupying at least 10% of spaces in Managed Isolation and Quarantine (the 10% Critical Worker target).

Privacy of natural persons

Manager, Allocation and Supply, MIQ Policy
Managed Isolation & Quarantine, MBIE

28 / 09 / 2021

10% Critical Worker Target

Context

1. In December 2020 Cabinet agreed to set a 10% operational target for Critical Workers' use of allocable managed isolation rooms over a rolling three month period, starting 1 January 2021 [CBC-20-MIN-0137 refers].
2. In April 2021, officials reported on progress in developing information to track progress against this target. Following that briefing you indicated you wished to receive monthly reports, which would then be publicly released [briefing 2021-2756 refers].

September Report

Key findings

3. The September report against the 10% Critical Worker Target is attached as Annex One.
4. On average, critical workers and their accompanying family used 8.3% of occupied rooms in August 2021.
5. Following updated information, the figure for July has been revised to 9.6% (rather than 10.4% as initially reported).
6. Table one, below, sets out the average daily occupancy of MIQ rooms by critical workers for each month reported thus far.

| Month | January 2021 | February 2021 | March 2021 | April 2021 | May 2021 | June 2021 | July 2021 | August 2021 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Average CW occupancy | 13.3% | 18.8% | 14.3% | 10.3% | 13.7% | 10.5% | 9.6% | 8.3% |

Table 1: Average MIQ occupancy of critical workers by month

7. The average over a rolling three month period (1 June to 31 August 2021) was 9.5%.

Observations of note

8. The proportion of MIQ rooms used by critical workers is consistently sitting below the 10% target for the first time.

- a. At no point during August did critical workers occupy more than 10% of MIQ rooms;
- b. It is likely that the large number of New Zealanders returning from the Olympics contributed to this lower rate of critical workers in MIQ rooms;
- c. This effect would be magnified by the fact that Olympic athletes (422 people) were assigned rooms via the group allocation process, which otherwise frequently admits large numbers of critical workers (such as fishing crew, RSE workers and international sporting teams);
- d. There is also likely an element of critical workers being 'crowded out' by New Zealanders seeking to return to New Zealand – as reported previously [briefing 2021-4418 refers], New Zealanders have made up a large and growing proportion of new MIQ bookings over the second half of 2021.

9. Upcoming arrivals of large groups of workers may somewhat reverse this trend. Over the coming months, Ministers have approved group allocations for a number of groups of critical workers. This includes:

- a. Deep sea fishing crews (September to November – 450 people); and
- b. Antarctic researchers (September to January – 1300 people).

10. Figure 2, below, illustrates this data of the last three months.

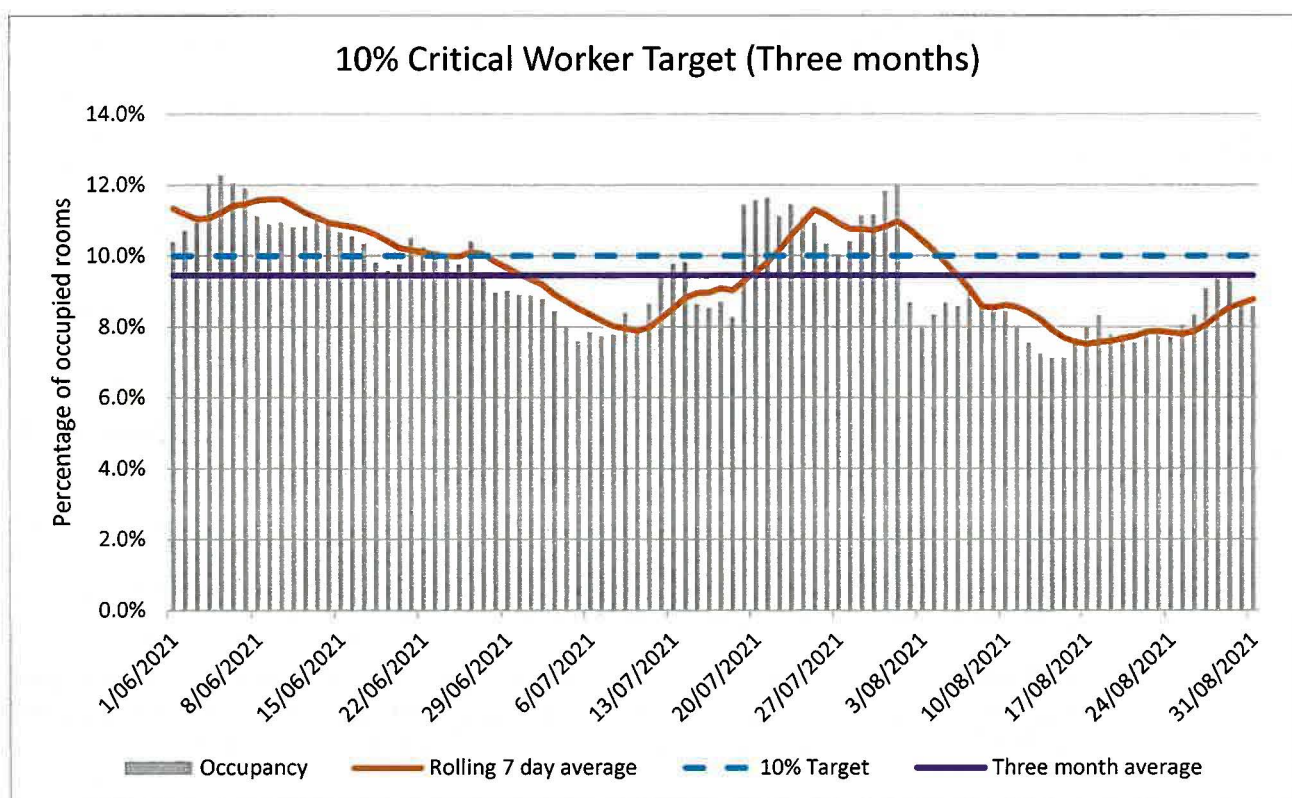


Figure 2: Daily and average MIQ occupancy by critical workers

Public release of the report

11. MBIE will update the information published on the MBIE website¹ with the latest figures on 30 September 2021.

12. We do not propose any proactive communications to mark the release of this report. We have not received any questions following the last monthly release of data.

13. You may wish to forward a copy of this aide memoire to the Minister of Immigration for his information ahead of the updated data being placed on the MBIE website.

Next report

14. The report updated to include data for September 2021 will be provided to you in early October.

15. Following the resumption of the release of rooms to MIAS on 20 September, a significant number of MIQ rooms will be booked over late September and early October. In the next report we will include updated information on trends of New Zealanders and temporary visa holders (which include critical workers) booking MIQ places over the remainder of 2021.

Annexes

Annex One: 10% Critical Worker Target – September Report

¹ <https://www.mbie.govt.nz/business-and-employment/economic-development/covid-19-data-resources/managed-isolation-and-quarantine-data/managed-isolation-and-quarantine-critical-worker-occupancy/>

Annex One: 10% Critical Worker Target – September Report

Managed Isolation and Quarantine: Critical worker occupancy

September 2021

| Month | January 2021 | February 2021 | March 2021 | April 2021 | May 2021 | June 2021 | July 2021 | August 2021 |
|---------------------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|-----------|-------------|
| Average occupancy by critical workers | 13.3% | 18.8% | 14.3% | 10.3% | 13.7% | 10.5% | 9.6% | 8.3% |

Report period: 1 January 2021 to 31 August 2021

- The above table sets out the proportion of occupied MIQ rooms that are occupied by a critical worker.
- This is calculated by averaging the percentage of rooms occupied by critical workers on each day in the calendar month.

Context notes

- Data for January 2021 to March 2021 includes the arrivals of large numbers of Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) horticultural and viticulture workers. This large group of additional critical workers resulted in a higher-than-usual percentage of MIQ rooms being used for critical workers during these months.

Caveats and Definitions

"Critical workers" include temporary visa holders entering New Zealand under the "other critical worker", "critical health worker", and "normally resident work visa holder" border exceptions, including any family members entering the country with that worker.

Data for reporting on critical worker occupancy in MIQ has been collated from 1 January 2021.

This report reflects a snapshot at a point time from various operational data sources.

Find out more at
Covid19.govt.nz

New Zealand Government

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