

Reconnecting New Zealanders to the world: Next steps

Our approach is guided by five objectives:

1. Maintaining our elimination strategy to stamp out the virus and keep our options open.
2. Ensuring every eligible New Zealander is offered the opportunity to be vaccinated.
3. Reducing the need for further lockdowns as much as possible by continuing to strengthen our health and contact tracing systems.
4. Maintaining strong public health tools.
5. Developing new ways to enable people to travel safely to and from New Zealand.

STEP
1

Immediate response and pre-general population vaccination

- 14 days' MIQ required for everyone (except QFT zones)
- Travel restricted to New Zealand citizens and residents, and limited economic/humanitarian exemptions
- Testing required pre-departure and once in New Zealand
- Alert level restrictions are primary method of controlling outbreaks
- Health measures like mandatory face coverings and QR scanning are key prevention tools
- Priority groups (border workers, at-risk populations) vaccinated

STEP
2

General population vaccination and development of additional tools

- Vaccination of general population underway
- Pilot scheme of new flexible pathways into New Zealand, testing safe alternatives to 14 days' MIQ
- 14 days' MIQ remains compulsory for everyone else (except QFT zones)
- Additional testing requirements to monitor reduced time in MIQ
- ICU/health capacity and contact tracing systems strengthened, in response to Delta and other variants
- Alert level restrictions remain primary method of controlling outbreaks
- Work to develop traveller declaration for vaccine and testing information

STEP
3

New travel pathways reflecting risk

- Phased implementation of three new pathways into New Zealand:
 - LOW RISK: Vaccinated travellers from low risk countries: no isolation required
 - MEDIUM RISK: Vaccinated travellers from medium risk countries: modified isolation requirements
 - HIGH RISK: Unvaccinated travellers and all travellers from high risk countries: 14 days' MIQ
- Testing regime remains in place
- Countries regularly assessed for risk
- Alert levels and public health measures are still in place, but lockdowns are less likely

STEP
4

QFT for all vaccinated travellers

- Quarantine free travel for vaccinated travellers who return a negative test
- 14 days' MIQ for the majority of unvaccinated travellers
- Resilient population and resilient health systems
- Testing at the border and public health measures like QR scanning still in place
- Booster vaccinations may be required

WHERE
WE ARE
NOW

What we're looking for to give us confidence to move steps:

Highest risk populations vaccinated, and vaccine rollout ramping up

- High coverage of vaccine in New Zealand within high-risk populations and across regions
- Vaccine remains effective
- We're able to maintain elimination strategy

- Vaccine remains effective
- Behaviour of variants stabilised
- Strong confidence in our system