

Travel Health Pass Workshops

10 and 18 February 2021

- This note should be read in conjunction with the Power Point Slides (attached).
- Appendix list the attendees at the 10 February and 18 February Workshop.
- To date, the workshops and associated documentation have used different terminology to describe the work – i.e. passenger facilitation / travel pass. The name for this programme of work going forward is “Travel Health Pass”
- The Travel Health Pass Work Programme is focussed on how vaccines could be used to facilitate the resumption of international passenger travel, including the policy and operational settings that are needed to support this, and timing.
- The Programme is facilitated by the Ministry of Transport (MoT), and involves the Ministry of Health (MoH), the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE - including Immigration New Zealand), the New Zealand Customs Service (Customs), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade (MFAT), the Department of Internal Affairs (DIA) and the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC). Other agencies will be included as required, and on specific areas of work.
- The Ministry will develop a glossary of terms to support shared language and understanding across the Green Traveller Work Programme (including in relation to naming conventions, technical descriptions, and international bodies).

1. Background

1.1 Purpose of the workshops.

- flush out the key policy and operational questions end to end
- understand the areas of work, lead and support agencies, and identify who else should be involved
- inform a programme of work, timelines and interagency engagement process.

2. Policy objectives and governance

2.1 See power point slides.

2.2 This work stream is a key component of the “Keep it out” Pillar of the Elimination Strategy.

2.3 Conversation with the Border Executive Board Chair that this work would report in under the BEB.¹

¹ The BEB as an interdepartmental executive board serviced by the New Zealand Customs Service. It was established in 2020 as part of New Zealand’s defence against COVID-19 and other risks. It is intended to help co-ordinate the management of New Zealand’s borders, for example by assisting the relevant departments to

3. Agency Interests

3.1 Appendix 2 lists the updated Agencies interests.

4. End-to-end process summary

4.1 See power point slides. This is the first iteration, and is expected to evolve as the work progresses.

5. Defining the policy and operational questions

5.1 Health and Border Settings

5.1.1 Key questions (health-related information gathering):

- What do we know about the effect of vaccines on transmissibility?
- When will we know more?
- What work is underway in this area and by whom?
- What is the process for updating our knowledge and reflecting this in our work?

Health confirmed that the science on transmissibility is still developing.

Action: MoH to clarify within the Ministry work underway in this space. MoH to include an update at the show and tell session. Process for updating knowledge and reflecting this in our work outlined below.

5.1.2 Key question (scenario planning)

- Under what conditions could vaccines allow us to adjust health related entry requirements?
- Depending on the risk what are the best public health risks to wrap around this?

Suggest three scenarios:

- fully mitigates transmission
- some risk of transmission
- high risk of transmission.

Consider what public health measures (layers) would wrap around under these scenarios. Suggest focus on b. some risk; and consider whether and how the Elimination Strategy and associated toolkit would inform health measures. (For example, is it a combination of pre-departure testing, post arrival testing and reduced level of MIQ / self-isolation).

Ultimately, we will need to test with Ministers' their risk tolerance level.

Action: MoH lead to develop-up scenarios and consider what public health measures applicable, in partnership with AoG agencies. Continue to refine these as more is known on transmissibility (see above) and vaccine efficacy (see below).

— remove gaps in border processes; ensure that future risks from people, goods, and craft arriving at the borders are addressed; make strategic improvements to border systems.

5.1.3 Key question: (vaccine approvals)

- Which vaccines could allow us to adjust entry requirements?
- Who makes those decisions, what are the 'standards', and what is the approval process?

We don't have an answer to this yet. Medsafe² will approve the vaccines for use in NZ. But it is unclear on the approval body and process to recognise vaccines used offshore but not approved for use in NZ. Outstanding question about the role of Medsafe. Would we be looking at WHO and its accreditation process, but question about what that process is and how quickly is it moving?

Action: MoH to advise on whether and what work is underway in this space. MoH lead, with strong MFAT interest.



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5.2 Health certificates (health credentials)

5.2.1 Key characteristics identified for NZ health credentials discussed:

- Simple, and cost effective
- Needs verifiable information about the what (e.g. vaccine) and the who (identity)
- Potential to capture both vaccine and testing information
- Needs to be digitally based, and digital credential needs to be verifiable
- Needs to meet domestic uses, and at the border to facilitate travel
- Accessible to the traveller so they have access and can share this

5.2.1 Key questions:

- What information would need to be included about the vaccine/vaccination? (e.g. vaccine type, batch number, date and place administered)
- Who issues the credential and who verifies the credential? Individual needs access to a verified credential to transact with employer, government agencies, airlines, other.

² Medsafe is NZ's medicine and medical devices safety authority and a business unit of MoH. It is responsible for the regulation of therapeutic products including vaccines in New Zealand.

- For travel purposes:
 - o when does it need to be shared (e.g. at time of booking, check-in, pre-departure, on-arrival)?
 - o who shares it and with whom?
 - o how is it shared?
- Will we end up with a paper-based certificate to begin with? And when do we expect a digital certificate to come on stream? Ultimately we want a digital certificate.
- What happens in an overseas jurisdiction if the State does not have the requisite technology and/or process to transact a digital certificate?
- [REDACTED] Need to confirm there's scope and identify the business requirements
- Are there other examples we can learn from; for example APEC business travel card, phytosanitary certificates?
- How are health credentials being considered and rolled out in other jurisdictions and what can we learn from this.

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5.2.2 MoH advise that it works with existing standards around the type of information to be captured; these standards vary across the globe. Health is also working with the WHO, who are looking to develop consistent international standards in this area.

5.2.3 MoH also advise programme of work underway to inform health credentials, including from a user, issuer and verification perspective. MoH to brief agencies on this at the show and tell session.

5.2.4 Action: further AoG meeting to shape up the work and timeframes; particularly around the design and interaction of the credential at the border to facilitate travel. Health, MBIE/Immigration, Customs and DIA as critical participants; and:

- Health lead on health credentials and
- MBIE/Immigration lead on the transaction of health credentials at the border.

5.3 International standards and processes

5.3.1 Key questions:

- What is New Zealand's current involvement in multilateral and industry-related vaccine related and passenger facilitation efforts?
- How do we coordinate and prioritise New Zealand engagement?
- How do we develop New Zealand positions?
- How can we inform standards development and who should we coordinate with?

5.3.2 Need to improve our collective understanding of international and the industry bodies, their areas of interest and roles, will help to inform how we coordinate and target out engagement. Mapping exercise underway.

5.3.3 Key distinction identified between:

- The World Health Organisation (WHO) which is responsible for directing and coordinating international health within the United Nations Systems; and currently developing Smart Vaccination Certificate technical specifications and standards. (Health Lead)

- The International Civil Aviation Organisation (ICAO) which sets international Standards and Recommendations Practices (SARPs) for civil aviation within the United Nation system. This includes landside formalities associated with the clearance of aircraft, passengers, goods and mail, with respect to the requirements of customs, immigration, public health and agricultural products.³ Has prepared detailed guidance to States, on settings across all facets of civil aviation; developed in collaboration with the WHO and industry bodies. NZ represented on the Asia Pacific Grouping of States who have come together to specifically coalesce around COVID. (MoT lead, with the Civil Aviation Authority and DIA)

- [REDACTED]

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- The Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) initiative to develop a framework for mutual recognition of COVID-19 tests. [REDACTED] (MFAT Embassy lead – watching brief).

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- Range of industry bodes and private organisations developing travel passes / vaccination passports.

5.3.4 Action:

- MoT, working with MFAT, to finalise map of international bodies and associations, work underway, linkages and leads into an A3 (living document)
- MoT, Health and DIA to connect and identify participants on WHO and ICAO bodies, including the Collaborative Arrangement for the Prevention and Management of Public Health Events in Civil Aviation (CAPSCA).
- MoT, working with MFAT to consider protocol to inform effective engagement between agencies

- [REDACTED]

Agency leads to ensure appropriate level of engagement and opportunities to comment on documents coming through the international bodies they are engaged with.

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³ Annex 9 of the Chicago Convention on Civil Aviation which NZ is a party too.

Attendees at the 10 February Workshop

- MoT: Kirstie Hewlett, Bev Driscoll, Mel Beatson
- DPMC: [REDACTED]
- MoH: [REDACTED]
- MFAT: [REDACTED]
- INZ: [REDACTED]
- Customs: [REDACTED]
- MPI: [REDACTED] Withheld under section 9(2)(a) of the Official Information Act 1982
- MBIE: [REDACTED]
- DIA: [REDACTED]

Attendees at the 18 February Workshop

- MFAT: [REDACTED]
- MoT: Bev Driscoll, Mel Beatson
- DPMC: [REDACTED]
- MoH: [REDACTED]
- INZ: [REDACTED]
- Customs: [REDACTED]
- MBIE: [REDACTED]
- DIA: [REDACTED]

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AGENCY AND INDUSTRY INTERESTS

Agency	Responsibility/Interest	International engagement (multilateral)
MOT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International aviation connectivity and sustainability Aviation industry engagement Transport regulations With CAA lead role in ICAO who sets aviation travel standards, and with Maritime IMO who sets maritime travel standards 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) International Air Transport Association (IATA) Five Country Aviation Security (A5) International Maritime Organisation
MOH	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Elimination strategy Public health interests Domestic vaccine approval and roll-out Set health requirements for entry (testing and vaccination) Technology solutions (inc records of vaccination) Health regulations 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Health Organization (WHO)
MFAT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Post network (international access), NZ Inc staff network, engagement with diplomatic corps Trade links and people movement (including QFT links) Consular International/bilateral relationship impacts Pacific 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) Five Country COVID-19 Vaccines Recognition Group
Customs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Border process – data-sharing, on-the-ground verification, data protection 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> World Customs Organisation Customs Administrations
MBIE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigration - border process for non-New Zealanders, alignment of passenger facilitation processes Policy links to economic prosperity and rebuilding ██████████ MIQ impacts 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Five Country Human Biosecurity Group (HBG5)
DIA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Passports and digital travel credentials Pacific (capacity-building) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> International Air Transport Association (IATA) ICAO Digital Travel Accreditation subgroup (Chair) ICAL facilitation group
MPI	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bio-security- border process and how it fits with future model 	
DPMC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Relationship to wider Government strategy, how it fits in and how it will work 	

Treasury	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links to Living Standards Framework • Economic policy
NZTE	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting exporters/links to business travellers

Stakeholder Interests

Stakeholder	Responsibility/Interest	International engagement
Airlines	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalise health measures and aviation standards • Critical to industry recovery 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • International Air Transport Association (IATA) • International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)
Maritime/ Cruise Industry	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Operationalise health measures and aviation standards • Critical to industry recovery 	
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