



AIDE MEMOIRE

10% Critical Worker target – Report for 1 March to 30 April 2021

Date:	10 May 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2021-3425

Information for Minister(s)

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Kara Isaac	General Manager, MIQ Policy	Privacy of natural persons	✓
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

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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 Withdrawn |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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10% Critical Worker target – Report for 1 March to 30 April 2021

Date:	10 May 2021	Priority:	Medium
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2021-2503

Purpose

To provide the May 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), which is currently tracking at 12.4% for the two months to 30 April 2021.

This is the first regular monthly report against this target, following initial advice on progress against the 10% Critical Worker target and improvements in reporting to enable officials to effectively track progress [briefing 2021-2756 refers].

Kara Isaac
General Manager, MIQ Policy
Managed Isolation & Quarantine, MBIE

10.5.21

10% Critical Worker Target

Previous information

1. In April 2021 officials reported on progress in developing information to track progress against the Government's target to have 10% of spaces in Managed Isolation and Quarantine used by critical workers (including family traveling with them).
2. That report also provided the first set of available data, indicating that from 1 January to 21 March 2021 an average of 15% of MIQ occupancy was occupied by critical workers [briefing 2021-2756 refers].
3. Following that briefing you indicated you wished to receive monthly reports, which should then be publicly released.

May Report

Key findings

4. The May report against the 10% Critical Worker Target is attached as Annex One.

5. It indicates that for the period 1 March to 30 April 2021 an average of 12.4% of MIQ occupancy was used for critical workers and their accompanying family.
6. Over the time period of this report this average trends downwards, from a high of 22% on 2 March to 16% at the end of April.

Observations of note

7. The proportion of MIQ rooms occupied by critical workers steadily falls from the start of this reporting period (1 March) until early-April, reaching a low of 6% on 5 April.
 - a. This correlates with the final groups of RSE workers, who arrived in January to March, completing their MIQ stay.
 - b. Officials have previously indicated that the size of the RSE cohorts would likely result in the number of critical workers in MIQ being elevated over that time, that we would expect numbers to fall back after the end of this period [briefing 2021-2756 refers].
8. The proportion of MIQ rooms occupied by critical workers rises again from early-April until the end of the period.
 - a. This correlates with a fall in the overall occupancy of MIQ rooms after the commencement of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia. This change may therefore be driven not by a larger number of critical workers arriving, but by the same number making up a larger proportion of the (falling) total occupancy.
 - b. If this trend continues, the next (June) report may see critical workers occupying a much higher percentage of MIQ rooms than the 10 per cent target.
9. 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
Average CW occupancy	13.3%	18.8%	14.3%	10.3%

Table 1: Average MIQ occupancy of critical workers by month

Public release of the report

10. MBIE intends to publish the attached May report on the MBIE website, as previously directed. MIQ Comms will liaise with your office regarding timing of this publication.
11. We do not propose any proactive communications to mark the release of this report. However, we note that there has been ongoing interest in the numbers of critical workers able to cross the border from both media and Members of Parliament. MIQ Comms will prepare reactive lines should they be required.

Next report

12. The report for the period 1 April to 31 May 2021 will be provided to you on or about Friday, 4 June 2021.

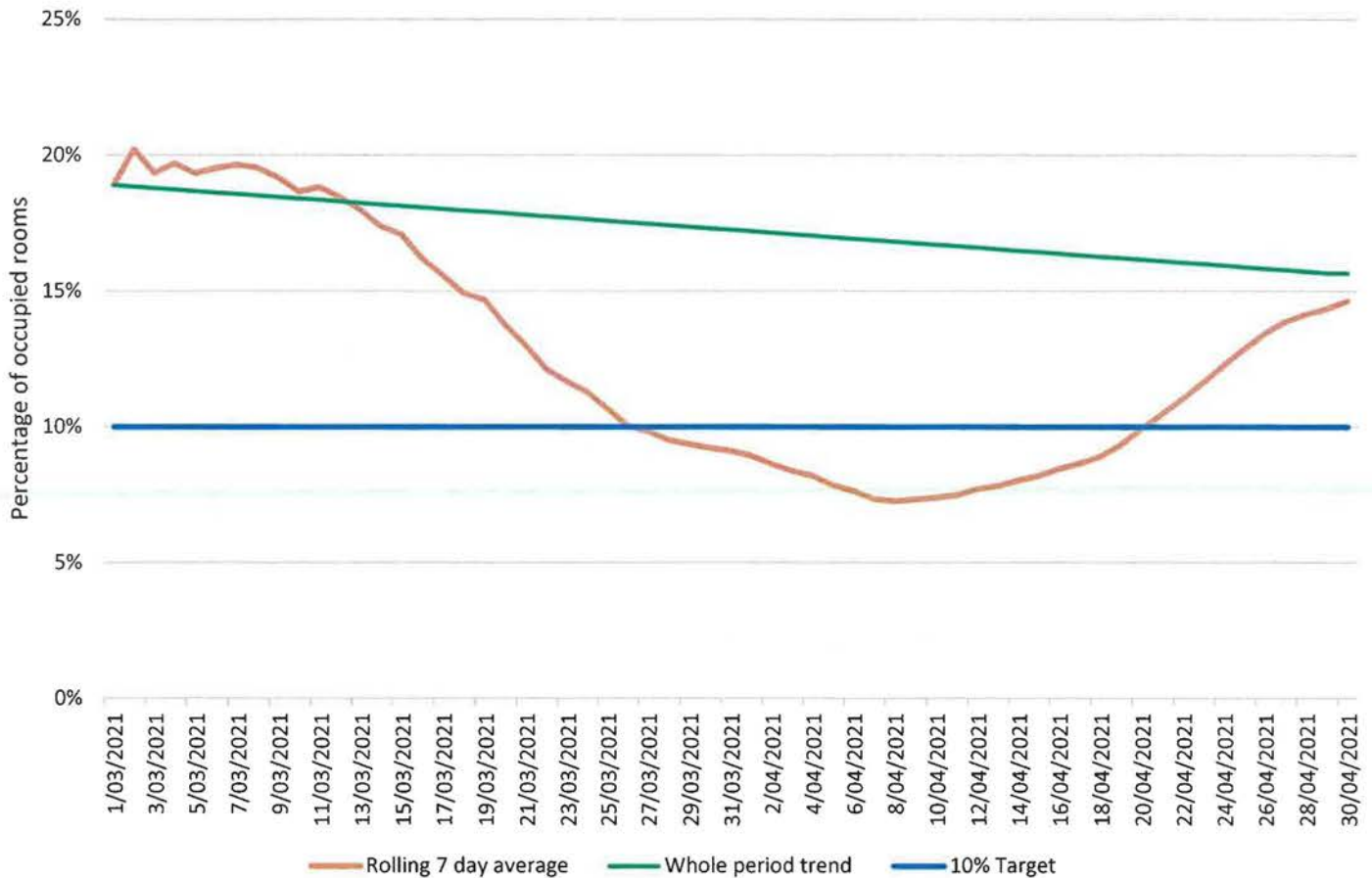
Annexes

Annex One: 10% Critical Worker Target – May Report

Managed Isolation and Quarantine: 10% Critical Worker Target

May 2021

10% Critical Worker Target



Report period: 1 March 2021 to 30 April 2021

The above graph illustrates the proportion of occupied MIQ rooms that are occupied by a critical worker on that day. It is expressed as a seven-day rolling average (orange line). The average for the whole period is 12.4%.

Notes and Caveats

- Data for March 2021 includes the final arrivals of Recognised Seasonal Employer (RSE) horticultural and viticulture workers. This large group of additional critical workers is expected to result in a higher-than-usual percentage of MIQ rooms being used for critical workers during the months of January to March.
- The start of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia has reduced the total number of people entering MIQ. This is expected to result in the rooms occupied by critical workers to make up a higher proportion of the MIQ rooms that are occupied.

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

Find out more at
[Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

[New Zealand Government](https://www.govt.nz)

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