



AIDE MEMOIRE

10% Critical Worker target – Report for July 2021

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|---------------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-----------|
| Date: | 14 July 2021 | Priority: | Medium |
| Security classification: | | Tracking number: | 2122-0077 |

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

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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 Withdrawn |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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Purpose

This aide memoire provides the July 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

14.10.21

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].
3. This update is provided alongside briefing 2021-4418 (*Updated advice on MIQ booking trends and ring-fencing vouchers in MIAS*), which provides insights on bookings made on MIAS that are currently held, including the number of temporary migrants successfully securing vouchers.

July Report

Key findings

4. The July report against the 10% Critical Worker Target is attached as Annex One.
5. On average, critical workers and their accompanying family used 10.5% of allocable rooms in June 2021.

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 |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------------|------------|------------|----------|-----------|
| Average CW occupancy | 13.3% | 18.8% | 14.3% | 10.3% | 13.7% | 10.5% |

Table 1: Average MIQ occupancy of critical workers by month

7. The average over a rolling three month period (1 April to 30 June 2021) was 11.5%.

Observations of note

8. Critical worker occupancy of MIQ rooms continues to be broadly stable.

- a. In June's report we noted that the proportion of MIQ rooms used by critical workers appeared to have stabilised at between 10% and 12% from mid-May.
- b. This trend has continued throughout June, with occupancy remaining around 10-11% for the majority of the month.

9. The changing nature of group allocations agreed by Ministers may be starting to influence critical worker numbers.

- a. Group allocations arriving in early 2021 included large numbers of critical workers, in particular RSE horticulture and viticulture workers. This increased the percentage of rooms occupied by critical workers over January to March [aide memoire 2021-3425 refers];
- b. In contrast, groups allocated rooms by Ministers in mid-2021 include fewer critical workers, and larger groups of New Zealanders (returning Olympic and Paralympic athletes) and other temporary migrants (e.g. Antarctic researchers and refugees);
- c. We expect this will result in critical workers occupying a lower-than-usual proportion of MIQ rooms during mid-2021, although the scale of this effect will depend on final booking numbers and outstanding policy decisions.

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

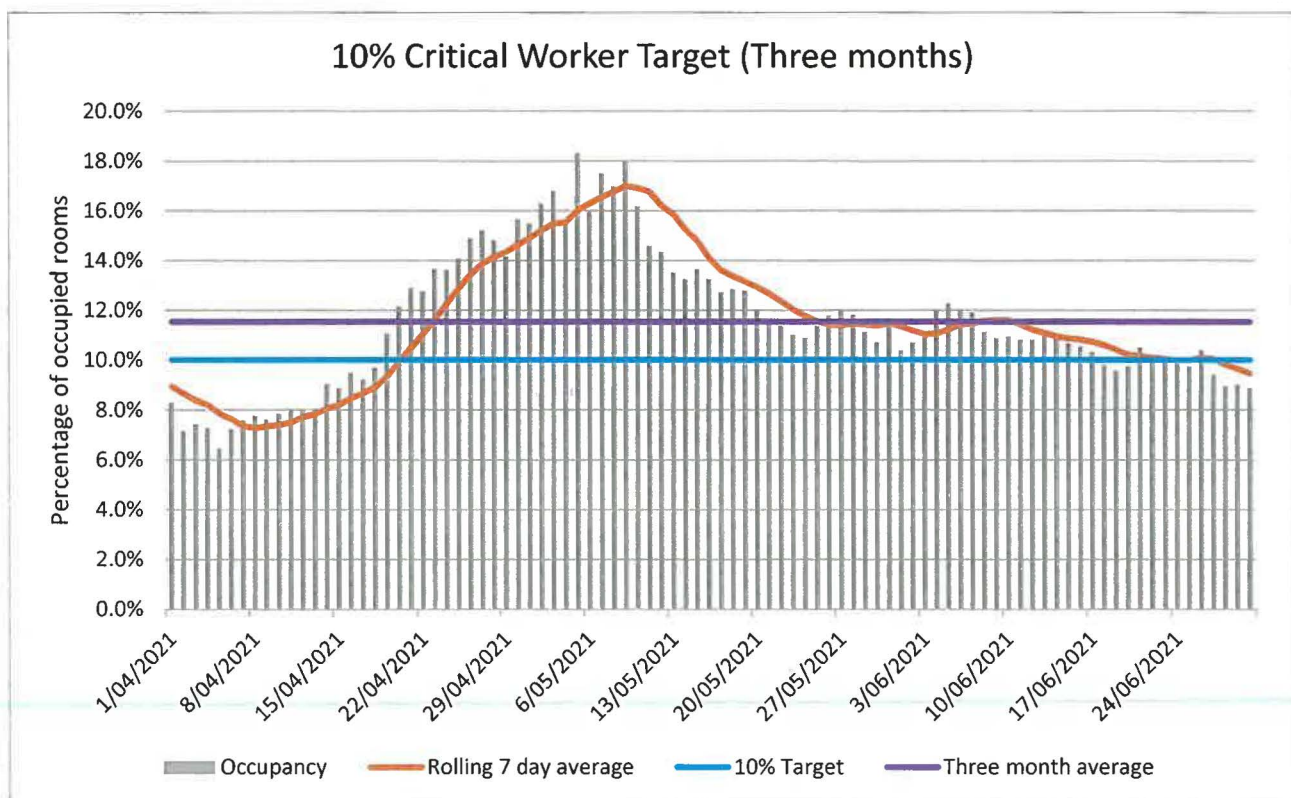


Figure 2: Daily and average MIQ occupancy by critical workers

Public release of the report

11. MBIE will update the information published on the MBIE website¹ with the latest figures in mid-July.

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 July 2021 will be provided to you in early August.

Annexes

Annex One: 10% Critical Worker Target – July 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 – July Report

Managed Isolation and Quarantine: Critical worker occupancy

July 2021

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

Report period: 1 January 2021 to 30 June 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 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.
- The start of Quarantine Free Travel with Australia reduced the total number of people entering MIQ. This saw rooms used by critical workers make up a higher proportion of the MIQ rooms that are occupied over April and May 2021.

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

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