



AIDE MEMOIRE

Self-declared vaccination status in MIAS

Date:	22 September 2021	Priority:	High
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-1023

Information for Minister

Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)

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

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, New Zealand Customs Service, Immigration New Zealand, Ministry of Transport

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 Withdrawn |



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Purpose

To inform you of how self-declared unverified vaccination status could be implemented in the managed isolation allocation system (MIAS) by 1 November 2021.

Kara Isaac
General Manager
MIQ Policy, MBIE

22 / 09 / 2021

Background

Cabinet is considering making vaccination a mandatory requirement for non-New Zealand citizens to enter New Zealand

1. On 11 September 2021, you agreed for officials to prepare a Cabinet paper seeking agreement to make vaccination a mandatory requirement for non-New Zealand citizens to arrive in New Zealand (with some exceptions) [DPMC-2021/22/251 refers]. You agreed this will operate under a high trust model and be in place from 1 November 2021. Cabinet is expected to consider this proposal on 4 October.
2. It is expected that airlines will be required to sight a form of vaccination certification, or a relevant exemption from the New Zealand government, before allowing any non-New Zealand citizens to travel to New Zealand.
3. The limitations of using MIAS as a way for travellers to self-declare their vaccination status was outlined in DPMC's briefing [DPMC-2021/22/251 refers].
4. The Ministry of Health currently collates the self-declared vaccination status of border arrivals when they enter MIQ. Of the 2,348 people who entered MIQ from the border for the period of 24 August – 9 September a total of 2,218 stated they were fully vaccinated (90.8%), 184 were partially vaccinated (7.8%), 14 (0.6%) were not vaccinated and 22 (0.8%) declined to answer.

A longer term solution for verifying traveller vaccination status is underway

5. Customs is currently working to implement the Traveller Health Declaration System, a robust and automated verification model for the vaccine status of travellers. Customs are planning to implement the system incrementally from the first quarter of 2022.

Self-declaration of vaccination status in MIAS

6. You have requested that officials further explore the option of adding a vaccination status self-declaration feature to MIAS.

Basic functionality could be delivered by 1 November, but it has substantial limitations.

7. It is possible to update the MIAS portal to require people to self-declare vaccination status when they are registering a new MIAS account. This simple mechanism could be provided by 1 November. This option would provide a minimum viable product within the desired timeframes.
8. This option would not apply to people who have existing registered MIAS accounts (approximately 250,000 accounts). There is no automatic way to prompt those users who have already registered to provide this information. This means that the self-declared vaccination status of users who are seeking MIAS vouchers in coming months, or any of those who have already secured vouchers, will not be held in MIAS. Self-declared status will continue to be collected when people arrive at MIQ.
9. The declaration would require a person to indicate that they are either already fully vaccinated or will be fully vaccinated at the time of travel to New Zealand. We consider that the 'intention to be vaccinated' is appropriate considering the substantial lead time that is often present between creating an account in MIAS and undertaking travel.
10. There would be no requirement to upload evidence of vaccination status, nor would a person be prevented from booking an MIQ voucher based on their vaccination status. It is not

possible in the timeframes for MIAS to tag a person's vaccination declaration (where it exists) to their citizenship status so as to identify whether they are required to be vaccinated or not.

11. The declaration would be entirely high-trust and there would not be any verification through MIAS. Assurance would rely on steps by airlines and Customs to verify vaccination status.
12. More advanced functionality (e.g. requiring all registered users to complete vaccination status, requiring already existing registered users to provide status before they can access a voucher) would require a complete redesign of the architecture of MIAS. This would not be possible until February/March 2022 when the Customs work on the Traveller Health Declaration System is also expected to commence implementation.

We will communicate with travellers about the change in requirements

13. If Cabinet agrees to proceed with this proposal, we will take steps to communicate the requirement for non-New Zealand citizens to be vaccinated before arrival in New Zealand from 1 November via both website messaging and other communication channels.

Next steps

14. Officials will feed this information about MIAS into the draft Cabinet paper which will be provided to your office by DPMC on Friday 24 September.
15. The Cabinet paper outlines the vaccine requirement and proposed validation, enforcement and communication methods.