



BRIEFING

Title 10% Critical Worker target – Report for February 2022

Date:	25 February 2022	Priority:	Low
Security classification:		Tracking number:	2122-2793

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response	Note the critical worker occupancy update and agree to discontinue monthly reporting	28 February 2022

Contact for telephone discussion (if required)			
Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Privacy of natural persons	Policy Manager, MIQ Policy Unit	Privacy of natural persons	✓
	Principal Policy Analyst		

The following departments/agencies have been consulted

Minister's office to complete:

Approved

Declined

Noted

Needs change

Seen

Overtaken by Events

See Minister's Notes

Withdrawn

Comments



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Purpose

This briefing provides the February 2022 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).

Recommended action

The Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment recommends that you:

- a **Note** that the average daily occupancy by critical workers was 4% for December 2021 and 6.1% for January 2022

Noted

- b **Note** that MIQ will no longer be required for vaccinated critical workers entering the country under the new border settings.

Noted

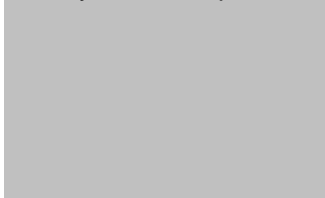
- c **Agree** that MIQ will no longer report on the critical worker target each month.

Agree / Disagree

- d **Agree** that this briefing is proactively released with appropriate withholdings under the Official Information Act 1982.

Agree / Disagree

Privacy of natural persons



**Policy Manager, MIQ
MBIE**

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Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

24 / 2 / 2022

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].

February Report

Key findings

3. The February report against the 10% Critical Worker Target is attached as Annex One. The report covers two months; December 2021 and January 2022.
4. On average, critical workers and their accompanying family used 4% of occupied rooms in December 2021 and 6.1% in January 2022. This compares to 10.2% in November 2021 and 16.3% in October 2021.
5. The table below, sets out the average daily occupancy of MIQ rooms by critical workers for each month reported thus far.

Month	Jan '21	Feb '21	Mar '21	Apr '21	May '21	June '21	July '21	Aug '21	Sep '21	Oct '21	Nov '21	Dec '21	Jan '22
Average CW occupancy	13.3 %	18.8 %	14.3 %	10.3 %	13.7 %	10.5 %	9.6 %	8.3 %	16.3 %	16.3 %	10.2 %	4.0 %	6.1 %

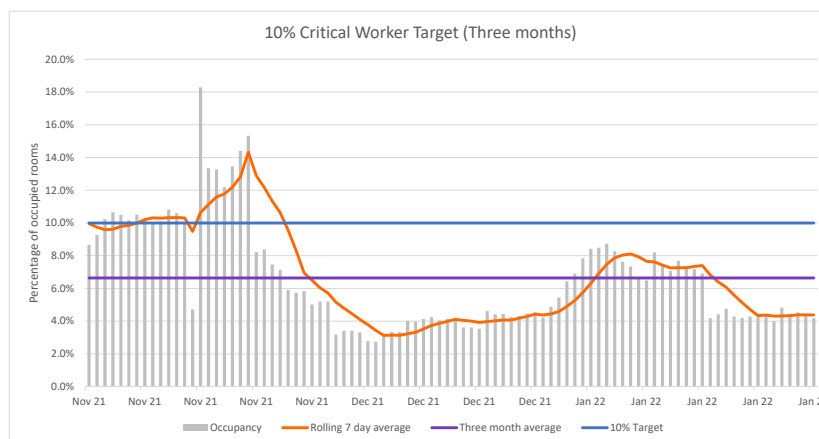
Table 1: Average MIQ occupancy of critical workers by month

6. The average over a rolling three-month period (1 November 2021 to 31 January 2022) was 6.6%.

Observations of note

7. Occupancy by critical workers fell away from mid-November. This coincides with the change from a 14-day MIQ stay to a 7-day MIQ stay (followed by 3 days of self-isolation) and the announcements about the staged opening of the border.
8. *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

9. MBIE will update the information published on the MBIE website¹ with the latest figures on 28 February 2022.
10. 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.
11. You may wish to forward a copy of this briefing to the Minister of Immigration for his information ahead of the updated data being placed on the MBIE website.

Next steps

12. MIQ recommends that these reports are discontinued, as MIQ will no longer be required for vaccinated critical workers entering the country under the new border settings.

Annexes

Annex One: 10% Critical Worker Target – February 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/>

Managed Isolation and Quarantine: Critical worker occupancy

December 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%	
Month	July 2021	August 2021	September 2021	October 2021	November 2021	December 2021	January 2022
Average occupancy by critical workers	9.6%	8.3%	16.3%	16.3%	10.2%	4.0%	6.1%

Report period: 1 January 2021 to 31 January 2022

- 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.

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

[New Zealand Government](#)

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