



## Proactive Release

The following document has been proactively released by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), on behalf of Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response:

### ***Advice on Requiring Non-New Zealand Citizens Entering Managed Isolation Facilities to be Vaccinated***

Some parts of this information release would not be appropriate to release and, if requested, would be withheld under the Official Information Act 1982 (the Act). Where this is the case, the relevant section of the Act that would apply has been identified. Where information has been withheld, no public interest has been identified that would outweigh the reasons for withholding it.

#### **Key to redaction codes:**

6(a) to prejudice the security or defence of New Zealand or the international relations of the Government of New Zealand;

9(2)(a) to protect the privacy of natural persons;

9(2)(b)(ii) to protect information where the making available of the information would be likely unreasonably to prejudice the commercial position of the person who supplied or who is the subject of the information; and

9(2)(h) to maintain legal professional privilege.

#### **Background information:**

Since 1 November 2021, vaccination requirements have been in place for non-New Zealand citizens entering New Zealand by air. Vaccination continues to play an important role in our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and helps to protect travelers against severe illness (or death). Vaccination requirements also help to reduce the pressure on the health system.

In keeping with the Government's longstanding approach to our COVID-19 response, border settings, including vaccination requirements for non-New Zealand citizens, are kept under constant review, informed by public health advice.

On 3 May 2022, the Minister for COVID-19 Response announced a broadening of the ability for residence class visa holders to re-enter New Zealand by allowing these visa holders who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 entry to New Zealand from 6 May 2022.

This broadened criteria for return was initially enabled by the Director-General of Health signing a class exemption which allows unvaccinated travelers holding either a Permanent Resident Visa or a Resident Visa, and Australian citizens ordinarily resident in New Zealand, to enter the country.

This class exemption will not prevent people in other groups from continuing to apply for exemptions based on their individual circumstances.