**COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) update – 27th June, 2021 1.30pm | Ministry of Health NZ**

CHRIS HIPKINS: Alright. Good afternoon,

everybody. I'll start with the good news first. I can confirm

there are no new cases of COVID-19 in the community

today. Waste water results continue to show no detection

of COVID-19 at any of the sites around Wellington, the

Hutt Valley or Porirua. Also a further 7,250 tests were

processed yesterday, all with negative test results. It's

also the case that over 90% of the identified close contacts

of the positive case that returned to Sydney with his

wife last Monday have now been returned and all of those are

negative. Cabinet met just a short time ago, to consider

these results and the broader public health advice around

the Wellington region. We've been at Alert Level 2 in

Wellington for the past week, out of an abundance of

caution. Given the large number of highly populated

places that the case visited while they were potentially

infected with the COVID-19 Delta variant, we did think

that was a prudent course of action. Alert Level 2 measures

ensure that if there are any new cases in the Wellington

region, the risk of transmission of those cases

will have been minimised through two important tools -

limits on gatherings and the requirements around social

distancing that are put in place at Alert Level 2. Given

that there have been no new cases of COVID-19 detected,

nearly 2,500 negative test results from close contacts of

the case, including repeat negative results from the

case's closest contact, the Cabinet has agreed to shift

back to Alert Level 1 from

centres will remain open in Central Wellington, Porirua, Kapiti Coast, Hutt Valley, and the Wairarapa.

If you haven't checked location of interest yet and you are in the region, please do that. and go and get a test if you have

been to any of the areas specified in the specified

period. If you have any symptoms of a cold or a flu,

any aches and pains at all, please stay home, call

Healthline or your GP and arrange to get a COVID-19

test. The more tests that we do, and the more results that

we receive, the more certain we will be that there is no

COVID-19 here in the Wellington region. Cabinet is

confident that if there was, we'd be expected to see

evidence of that by now, but we still need to remain

vigilant. We need to remain at a higher state of alert,

although not alert level 2, until the full 14 days has

passed since the Sydney case left our shores. This is a

tricky virus and new strains like the Delta variant

emerging mean that we can never be too careful. It's

also important to remember, if we think back to November,

when we dealt with a small cluster of cases in November,

officials and the case investigators struggled to

identify the link between two of those cases. The closest

they got was that the two people were in the same street

at approximately the same time. Therefore, that just

reinforces the need for all Wellingtonians to stay

vigilant, stay sharp, and to come forward or contact

Healthline to arrange to get a test if they do start to show

any symptoms at all. Cabinet also agreed today that

from 11:59pm on Sunday, 4 July, New Zealand will lift... They

made the decision in principle, Cabinet made the

decision in principle, that New Zealand will lift the

travel pause to allow travellers from South

Australia, ACT, Tasmania and Victoria to travel to New

Zealand. The health advice is that the spread of COVID-19 in

these parts of Australia has been contained at this point.

There's robust surveillance, testing and contact tracing to

detect and manage cases and adequate border controls are

in place to prevent the spread of new cases. We'll keep a

close eye on all of this over the next few days, but the

decision in principle allows people to start to plan. We

will extend requirements for those coming into New Zealand

from Australia during the foreseeable future to get a

pre-departure test, within 72 hours of when they are leaving

Australia and, of course, that test will need to show a

negative test result. To be eligible to fly, travellers

also must not have been in New South Wales on or after

Queensland, the Northern

Territory, or Western Australia on or after 10:30pm

on 26 June 2021. Those times align with when our pauses

came into effect with those Australian states. We want to

ensure that New Zealanders aren't necessarily barred from

travelling back to New Zealand, where there is no

risk, or very low risk, of COVID-19, but we will, as I

said, be monitoring the situation very closely. As we

said on Saturday when we announced the pause, we needed

a few days to get a better understanding of the

developing situation and the growing number of cases being

reported across Australia and we do have further information

on that. Detailed risk assessments have been

completed for each state and territory based on the

information that we've been able to get from those. New

South Wales is currently regarded as the highest-risk

state in Australia. Queensland, Western Australia

and Northern Territory have a higher than normal risk, which

is why the travel pause there is continuing. While South

Australia, ACT, Tasmania and Victoria are considered to

have low levels of risk, consistent with our green-zone

travel arrangements. Cabinet carefully weighed up the

evidence this morning and we consider that partially

lifting the pause at this point is an appropriate course

of action, particularly when bolstered with the

introduction of a mandatory pre-departure test. We'll

review the remaining pause in place for those other states

on Tuesday 6 July. There will be a first discussion of that

at Cabinet again on Monday. Today's decision gives

airlines, passengers, and all of those affected the time to

prepare flights from those Green Zone areas when the

pause lifts on Sunday night. We know how important the

travel bubble is, and in particular for families and

for businesses, but we also want to avoid a situation

where we're having to respond to a case or cases here in New

Zealand. Our system from here of opening up to the states

where they are able to contain COVID-19 will help to ensure

that New Zealand can remain at Alert Level 1. So I'll now

hand over to the Director-General, Dr

Bloomfield, for a further detail, and then we'll open

for questions. >> Thank you, Minister. Kia ora kotou katoa.

So, as the Minister said, no COVID-19 cases in the

community and we have four new cases to report in recent

returnees and our managed isolation facilities.

>> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: So in Wellington today marks the

eighth day since the person who tested positive in Sydney

departed and they were out and about in Wellington on the

weekend prior to their departure and it's nearly a

week since Wellington moved Alert Level 2. The increasing

number of cases we see in many parts of the world -

including, obviously in Australia - is a stark

reminder that the COVID-19 pandemic continues and is

continually evolving with the emergence of new strains. It

reinforces we are taking the right approach in New Zealand

with precautionary actions to ensure COVID-19 stays out of

our community. In the past week, since Wellington entered

Alert Level 2, health officials have had time to

gather further information, undertake large-scale testing,

and contact-tracing to establish if there is any

community transmission. And just to put that in context,

either close or casual-plus

contacts on one case. That's way more than we have ever

done before, including, most recently, in the outbreak in

Auckland in February, where we cast the net fairly wide. I

want to thank all the testers who have done the testing, the

lab staff and our contact tracing staff right around the

country in our public health units, who have participated

and contributed to this and especially those people, those

over 2,600 people, who have done what was asked of them,

been tested and isolated. And a reminder that even as Wellington moves back to

Alert Level 1, over 950 people will be remaining in isolation

for that full 14-day period and I want to thank all of

them. It's an important part of our response. It's

disruptive and it's inconvenient but it really is

a fantastic effort and will help give us confidence that

we have headed off any wider spread here. Yesterday, of the

throughout the country, over

greater Wellington region and

since Wellington entered Alert Level 2, there's been more

than 8,200 tests in the capital, so approaching 2% of

our population, which is what we tried to do when we are

trying to chase down any community transmission. As the

Minister said, waste water samples are taken daily and

we're processing those quickly. I want to thank our

colleagues at ESR, turning those around within 24 hours,

showing no detection of the virus, which is also

reassuring. I know people will be looking forward, across the

Greater Wellington region, to returning to Alert Level 1,

with fewer restrictions, but please do keep up the good

habits that we have adopted over this last week or so. In

particular, do stay home if unwell. We have got used to

Alert Level Zoom. Keep using it if you're unwell. Get a

test and remain isolated until you've had that test back.

Let's keep the scanning numbers up, not just in

Wellington, but right across the country. And, of course,

good hygiene and use of masks which - a reminder - are

mandatory, even in Alert Level

domestic flights. So while the job is not done, there's no

denying that this is a milestone and that we have

achieved that thanks to the combined efforts of many

people. This is a thank you, then, to everyone who lives in

the greater Wellington region and, indeed, across the

country, because some of those people who remain isolated are

not in the Wellington region. Just a quick update on

Australia. We continue to be in regular contact and participating

in the daily meetings with our counterparts in

Australia, and closely monitoring the situation

there. As the Minister said, there are multiple outbreaks

across a number of states but in several jurisdictions, in

particular ACT, South Australia, and Tasmania, there

are no cases. Victoria is still managing some cases from

their outbreak, but the recent cases they have identified

have been isolating during their infectious period.

Please, to everybody who has recently travelled back from

Australia prior to the pause being in place, the number of

locations of interest continues to grow. Please do

keep an eye on that and there is a section 70 notice in

place that requires anybody who was at one of those

locations of interest to follow instructions, which

include isolating and being tested. Thank you, Minister.

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: Happy to open for questions.

>> Have you enforced any of the section 70 notices in

Wellington? Or has everybody been pretty compliant?

>> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: I think we've seen by the response in

particular, with over 2,600 close and casual plus contacts,

people have been - I wouldn't say compliant, but they've

contributed to the effort. The section 70 notices in place

there, particularly for those people who have travelled back

from Australia, which does place a legal requirement and,

of course, many of them we will be able to identify

because they will have flown back and they'll have received

an email telling them the expectations.

>> Given there are still 100 potential contact that still

haven't been tested. What makes you so confidence that

they don't have COVID-19? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: I'll ask the

Director-General. >> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: We know those

people are in our system. About half of them their test

result is overdue, the other half we're expecting it and

they're being chased by our contact tracing team and I

guess we've got a high level of confidence. The particular

thing here is usually within a week, when we've tested this

many people across this many venues, if there was anything

happening, we would have seen something and we have seen

nothing and that does give us a high level of insurance - of

course it's not 100% - that our contact tracing team will

continue to follow up the results.

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: When you consider that in the context

of other positive cases that we've dealt with, we've never

contact traced and tested this many people across this period

of time and not identified another positive case where

there was an elevated level of risk.

>> Why not wait another two weeks to move down alert

levels, like some experts have suggested?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: I think the issues that the

Director-General has canvassed around the extent of our

contact tracing, it has been far wider and comprehensive

than for any other case previously. We have been able

to contain actual cases in New Zealand without the need to

escalate alert levels, where we've had good contact tracing

information. This was a challenging case because of

the extent of the potential exposure. As the

Director-General remarked - and this was of some comfort

to Cabinet as well - given the extensiveness of the contact tracing

without any positive cases, that provides some comfort and

we've still got a lot of people isolating, which means

if they do subsequently show up as a positive test result,

we know that risk will be contained, because they've

been isolating during the potential infectious period.

>> You said that Tasmania, ACT and South Australia have low

levels of risk consistent with green light arrangements.

These places haven't had cases for four months. Why wait

another five days to reopen to

them? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: We have to

put in place pre-departure testing. Woe know that also

we've got some miners in those locations. I don't know if

I've got the exact numbers here but reasonable numbers of

the miners from the Northern Territory have travelled to

those locations. Not all of their test results are in yet.

Some are. So they're still low risk but it gives us extra

time to ensure that people can comply and get their

pre-departure test and also that if anything was to come

up in the next few days that meant there was an elevated risk, we

could respond to that without having to yo-yo. That's why we chose the time we did.

>> You said yesterday that all the locations had come forward

outside of Wellington airport. How much weight is the waste

water testing to give you confidence?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: Waste water test is one of the

things we look at. It's a little bit of additional

comfort for us that would suggest there isn't COVID-19

out there in the Wellington community. A lot of really

active work has been done around those locations of

interest just to make sure that everybody knows, and

we've tried to reach out to as many people as we can. That's

included things like working with staff in the shops'

airport, reviewing CCTV, it's meant that we're working

closely with Te Papa to extract every bit of

information we possibly could to identify people who may be

at a higher risk. A lot of work has been done to

identify people who needed to be captured. As I indicated

before, we'll never, ever be able to rule out that someone

didn't walk down the street next to them or the like, and

that they have no idea of that, which is why we say to

everybody, please wherever you are in the country, if you

start to show any COVID-19-like symptoms,

contact Healthline and arrange to get a test. That is the way

we would identify any cases, wherever they are in the

country, very quickly. >> Can you clarify what's

happened with the test still in the bubble? Are you

considering green-light flights for people who are

affected? And how long is the extension of that across the

board? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: We will

review this again on Monday at Cabinet. We'll communicate

further on those decisions on Tuesday next week. We'll have

a first discussion at Cabinet on Monday. One of the things

that we will look at on Monday are the options that have been

worked up at the moment to provide greater clarity to New

Zealanders who may be caught up by that. Greater clarity to

them on when they might be able to return home to New

Zealand in the event that this goes on for a significantly

longer period of time in Australia. This is the same

exercise we went through with Victoria and in the case of

Victoria, you know, several weeks back, they reached a

point where they were easing their restrictions and so we

were happy for people to travel back. Obviously they're still seeing

significant case number growth there. So we have to be

prepared for the fact that we might not be in the same

position there as we were with Victoria and that's where we

work up a variety of different contingency plans, including

using our MIQ space set up for this person, including whether

any self-isolation should be required, including all of

those different scenarios, so we're working through those

over the next few days. Cabinet will discuss those on

Monday and then we'll be able to provide greater clarity to

people in those areas by Tuesday next week.

>> What was your advice to the government on this decision to

expand the mandatory use of masks in certain sectors. Did

you support that move? >> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: Well,

we've provided advice as part of the all-of-government

that's gone up to Cabinet and that they're still

considering. I don't want to pre-empt their decisions by

saying exactly what our advice was. There are considerations

around enforcement and implementation issues which

comes from across government. So ours is part of that

broader cross-government advice.

>> How reliable is the waste water testing? We've been told

that at the weekend because of heavy rains that the tanks or

wherever they get the water from, had to be emptied or

there was an issue because of the rain.

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: Waste water test something certainly not a

fail-safe. It is just one piece of information that we

weigh up. In terms of specific accuracy as a result of higher

rain, that's not something I've been briefed on. The

Director-General might want to comment.

>> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: I haven't been briefed on it.

There was a lot of rain here. But we've had testing daily

now over nearly a week and it hasn't been raining every day

in Wellington, which is good, and at five different sites

around the region. So the fact that all of those have been

negative provides us with just another layer of assurance.

>> From the two contact or miners that came back from

Australia, have you got the results from the second

person? Their test result was few back today.

>> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: Yes. We've had initial negative

tests on both of those people. They will be isolating and

further testing will continue for them.

>> Can you tell us how long they from were in the

community before they went into isolation?

>> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: I don't have that information but I

know the mine itself notified all people who had been there

quite quickly wherever they were in Australia or here.

>> Is there a level of risk assessment for South

Australia? I think they don't have cases but they do have

local restrictions. Is that correct?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: That's correct. My understanding is

the restrictions in South Australia fall into the

precautionary approach that South Australia have been

taking. They have been very, very cautious, which, again,

is one of the things that contributes to our greater

level of confidence there. But we'll keep that under

close review in the next couple of days.

>> Is there a chance of somebody who is still

incubating the virus for 14 days...?

>> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: I think there are two things we're

watching here and that's why our advice was to push out the

implementation of reopening travel from those other states

and territories by pushing that out another few days. It

gives us a chance to see what might be happening there and

the implementation of the restrictions on travel that

South Australia and, indeed Tasmania and ACT have put in

place and Victoria across the border as well.

>> What about people in Wellington who might be

incubating the virus? The question was more about

Wellington. >> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: We feel

the likelihood of that is now very low and the fact that

over 950 people who might still be incubating it, those

deemed to be at potentially the highest risk would be in

isolation, provides a high level of assurance.

>> With priority groups in Wellington, including people

in their 80s, they say they're struggling it get their first

or second dose of the Pfizer vaccine. They say they've had

terrible communication from health authorities about when

they'll be able to get the vaccine. Are you confident

that the message will get through? Or is there a choke

there at the moment? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: I would say

to everybody in Group 3, we've been really clear that our

expectation is that they will be contacted for a booking to

be arranged by the end of July. The suppliers, the big

issue that's holding back vaccination for everybody in

Group 3 - so we're doing well in terms of using the vaccines

that we have available to us. We're not expecting to see

bigger numbers of vaccines arriving until mid-July. I

would reiterate the message - and Minister Little in

particular has reiterated this message to each DHB in his

conversations with them - we do want them to be actively

getting out there and contacting people so they know

when they can expect to hear from their local DHB or their

local... Whoever is doing the bookings.

>> But they're not missing out at this point?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: They are certainly not missing out, no.

>> How is it being weighed up? Who gets priority in these

groups in each DHB? It seems patchwork at the moment?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: Look, DHBs are making decisions around

Group 3 around how they approach that and there is

slight variation in that. We have asked them to focus in on

Group 3 and try and not do too much outside that into Group

onn't current prioritisation

list. >> Have we run out of vaccine?

When will that occur? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: We haven't

run out. We're not expecting to. But we expect to get close

to it. >> When's our lowest point?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: Our lowest point would be next Tuesday

when we're expecting another delivery, next Tuesday. So we

have very carefully calibrated this. If the deliveries are

late, that might create a bit of a headache for us but, you

know, we made that decision deliberately. I've been open

about that. We didn't want to have vaccines sitting in a

freezer as a contingency. We'd rather get them out and into

people but that means we're cutting it fine.

>> What's the current stock level at?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: The current stock level, I think, is

around 30,000... Just under

delivery today. And so that doesn't get added to that

until it's been processed through, so that will be

happening today. So that brings us back up again a

little bit. But, look, it's going to be pretty tight over

the next seven days. >> What do you mean by

"tight"? Is it a few hundred vaccines?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: We'll get down to almost zero by Tuesday

next week when we get the next delivery in.

>> Sorry. That seems really, really low. Is it a problem if

something goes wrong? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: There is no

question that that will keep me awake for the next seven

days but, as I said, you know, we could have recalibrated

things so that we slowed down in order to keep a stock of

vaccines in the freezer. We made the decision that we

would rather get the vaccines out there and into people.

They're not going to provide any protection to anyone in a

freezer somewhere. Jo? >> Brian Roche said the week

before last that the next thing they were concentrating

on was a 2- to 3-week stock take of order. They must be

partly through that. Have you had any advice back from

advisory groups of the border? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: I have a

fairly regular catch-up with him and his group. I haven't

done that in the last week or two but I certainly will be

doing that. The approach that they're taking is to work

alongside the people who are doing that work to provide a

second set of eyes so early on in the process, where Sir

Brian was leading two different work streams for us

- you'll recall he did one around contact tracing and one

around testing. It was more in the audit and then report type

of mode. This is more about working alongside the people

doing the work, providing that kind of contestable advice and

opinions and contest able set of advice and opinion back to

Ministers as well so it's more real-time reviewing rather

than review-write a report. And then some time before it's

released. That's the mode of working at the moment.

>> So are they working specifically around border?

Wouldn't it be more useful if you were getting those

updates, even after you were making decisions, or every 48

or 72 hours or so? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: We keep in

fairly regular contact and also Sir Brian has never

hesitated if he's felt there was something we needed to

know to get on the phone and let us know as well and of

course, you know, bear in mind this is a second set of eyes.

We've still got the first set of eyes, the health time,

providing -- team, providing advice on a daily basis! Sir

Brian talked about getting unvaccinated workers at the

border vaccinated. Can you talk about what the barrier is

there? We've got the border testing register and the

immunisation register. How hard is it to see who is

unvaccinated? Because they get sent text messages about

testing, can't they just be sent one saying hey, we need

you to get vaccinated, this is where to get vaccinated?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: It's probably worth sitting down

with the team to talk about the intricacies of all of the

ins and outs and different workforce groups because

there's different pressures and on different parts of that

system. No-one is working in MIQ who hasn't been fully

vaccinated. That doesn't mean there's still a few people who

are on the books but not working. And that is not -

you're right, that is not where the weakness is. In

terms of the aircrews, very good progress with Air NZ

around making sure that we're getting good coverage there in

that we're covering them. Government border workers,

people working at the border for Customs, MPI, etc. Again,

confident we don't have people doing that work who haven't

been vaccinated. The bigger group are the people who are

working in the private sector. Many more ins and outs there

and intricacies of that. So again, if you look at say the

ports which is where, on the data that I have available to

he m that seems to be the highest concentration of

non-vax workers, at the ports. Some of those people who are

in the system are only actually occasionally working

in the areas of the port with higher risk. One of the things

to keep in mind is the legal advice on this around who we

can... Which jobs we can require vaccination for and we

have to balance that carefully. We have to have a

very strong public health reasoning for doing that.

Those are all the issues we've been working through around

the next iteration of the border order, which will be

coming shortly and will extend the mandatory requirement to a

bigger group of workers. Can you answer the question about

how - is there a difficult in the area, just simply looking

with the testing register and the immunisation register and

sending text messages to help them get vaccinated?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: In terms of that, a lot of work is

happening with employers at the moment, even before

further mandatory requirements are put in place, to help them

identify staff who haven't been vaccinated. If they're

using the border worker testing register, they're

matching between the vaccination register and the

border working testing register is pretty good.

There's still a little bit at the margins where we're still

tidying that up, where we've found people who haven't been

vaccinated in the testing register when a manual process

has been gone through. It's been identified that they

have, in fact, been vaccinated but the data has not been

pulled through the different systems and matched up

appropriately. There's obviously tens of thousands of

people we're talking about here so that data matching is

important and it continues. We've still got thousands of

people unvaccinated at the border?

>> What efforts have been made to reach out to them? It's not

mandatory to be vaccinated to work at the border at the

moment? Some of them are moving in and out. And how

much effort has been gone to contact them and say, hey,

you're not vaccinated, you're working at the border, we'd

like you to get vaccinated. >> CHRIS HIPKINS: As I said,

we don't always have the data to determine exactly when

people are working at the border. So people, their work

at the border is occasional work at the border, folks, and

we don't track and trace those people. And so we do rely on

employers. >> But you have contact

details for those people. >> CHRIS HIPKINS: Yes, but we

don't necessarily know when they're working at the border.

So we're working hard to make sure they know they can get

vaccinated now. >> CHRIS HIPKINS: You've had a

good go. We'll come back over here.

>> This effectively signals the closure of the Sydney

bubble. It must feel like... With so many days of no

community transmission. >> CHRIS HIPKINS: We're in a

good position. I don't think we'll be in a perfect position

until COVID-19 is all over, which could be some time away.

There's never room for complacency. No-one is doing

victory laps at this point. We're going to have to remain

vigilant and those who are in Wellington, particularly who

were in other parts of the country last weekend, still

need to remain vigilant as well.

>> Because it's important, can you explain why it was

necessary to do what you did even though we had so many

days of no community transmission?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: We've taken the approach that it's better

to act quickly on a no regrets basis than delay when we had a

lot of uncertainty and find we were dealing with something

big their meant we had to be more extreme in our response.

I acknowledge that level two places restrictions on

businesses for example, and that impacts their turnover,

far less of a turnover at Alert Level 2 than if we'd

waited a few more days, found we had a number of positive

cases and were at level 3 for a longer time. Similarly on

the trans-Tasman. I acknowledge that businesses in

the tourism sector will feel it not having the tourists who

were booked to come from Australia. Counter to that is

if we had people coming in from Australia and found we

were dealing with cases here, that meant we had to have not

just more border restrictions, but more domestic restriction,

they could potentially find they'd lies domestic as well

as Australian customers. Those are the sorts of things we

think about carefully when we make those decisions.

>> We've spoken to a close contact that scanned in at a

venue of concern who hasn't received a contact yet.

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: We'll look at that detail in particular.

They should have received a push notification too.

>> On borders again, you've described the opening on

Monday as in principle. Can you describe what needs to

happen? Is there a later meeting, on Saturday or some

such, that will verify that. Are you open to adding

Queensland and Perth if they flatline or go back to zero

cases? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: Working

backwards, the latter point first, we will consider those

other states on Monday at Cabinet. In terms of the

states that are currently slated to be opening up again

for green-zone travel from midnight on Sunday, that will

happen unless there's good reason to stop that. We won't

meet again to confirm that but we would if we were going to

change that. Yes? On the vaccine rollout again, have

DHBs been following that order from a couple of weeks ago to

scale back and stop making new appointments? Has that come

back to plan? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: They have

been delivering too plan. They're not further ahead of

plan. They've been broadly sticking to plan in the last

two weeks. >> When are the first of the

big batches of vaccine supposed to in? Next week?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: No. We start getting bigger deliveries from

next week. But the bigger, nice, healthy deliveries that

mean we can ramp up, won't start to happen until about

third week of July. >> Based on the DHB data leak,

Dr Bloomfield have you seen reports that there's been a

public leak of the patient and staff information? And what do

you make of those reports? >> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: I

haven't. I've heard of the reports. I haven't looked at

the information. I just think it's completely disappointing

that someone would do this, with private information, and

the fault lies with the person straightors and I'm, you know,

shock and disappointed that they would leak private

information about staff and patients. It's such an

important part of maintaining trust and confidence in our

public health system and you can rest assured that all DHBs

are incredibly focused on making sure that all the

private information they have is secure.

>> Do you need to get to the bottom to see this?

>> Are you helping DHBs? >> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: I don't

have further information on that but I'll ask my team for

advice on that. >> Who did this? What sort of

repercussions will there be? >> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: That's

with the National Cyber Security Centre. Colleagues

are following up who was involved in that incident and

of course anything like this is referred to the police to

follow up. >> CHRIS HIPKINS: Last couple

of questions. There was one over here.

>> We've had the Delta scare. Would you consider approving

the applications for the AstraZeneca and Johnson &

Johnson vaccine? >> CHRIS HIPKINS: Ultimately,

that decision sits with Medsafe. As we've indicated

before, they are close to making recommendations on both

of those vaccines. They've not yet done that. So...

>> Would you urge, them, though, to hurry up with that?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: Look. At this point I'm confident that

Pfizer is going to deliver us the vaccines when they've

indicated they are going to deliver vaccines to us.

Rolling out a different vaccine would have a bit of a

lead time to it anyway. So at this point, we're still

sticking with plan A. You never rule anything in or out,

though. But what we've always been clear about is that our

Medsafe approval process is critical and we won't be using

any vaccines that haven't gone through the full Medsafe

approval. >> On the trans-Tasman bubble

is there a plan to help Kiwis who might be trapped in other

states where the might might not reopen?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: Like I indicated, on Monday, Cabinet

will consider optionless around what we do if people

end up being... If we're not in a position to start eating

restrictions to other states, what alternative contingency

plans we'll put in place for people affected by that. We'll

consider that on Monday. New South Wales has end dated it's

the highest risk but also the one that the pause has been in

place the longest so that will certainly be front of mind in

our considerations. Last question.

>> Is there any particular reason that Cabinet distribute

approve the traditional Medsafe approval for Pfizer?

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: We're awaiting a little bit of

further information from the Director-General of Health,

but further advice on that. Once we've got that we'll

consider that. I'll let the Director-General comment on

that. >> ASHLEY BLOOMFIELD: So we

put the advice through to Cabinet, which included

support for the Medsafe provisional approval. However,

I had asked for one specific further piece of advice

through the chief science adviser, our covity

vaccination technical advisory group is meeting today so

we'll have that information which I'll then update the

Minister with. >> What about the need to get

to herd immunity? And the number of people in that 12 to

>> CHRIS HIPKINS: That's

probably a broader topic of conversation than we're here

today to talk about. We'll get into that when we do our next

vaccine update. to get into discussion on that. Thanks

very much, everybody.