

Briefing

Update on health advice on potential recommencement of Quarantine Free Travel flights from Victoria

Date due to MO: 17 June 2021 **Action required by:** 17 June 2021

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Health Report number:** 20211442

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response

Copy to: Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern, Prime Minister
 Hon Grant Robertson, Deputy Prime Minister
 Hon Nanaia Mahuta, Minister of Foreign Affairs
 Hon Michael Wood, Minister of Transport

Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Dr Ashley Bloomfield	Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora Director-General of Health	s 9(2)(a)
Sue Gordon	Deputy Chief Executive COVID-19 Health System Response	s 9(2)(a)

Minister's office to complete:

- | | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline | <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 Withdrawn | |

Comment:

Update on health advice on potential recommencement of Quarantine Free Travel flights from Victoria

Security level: IN CONFIDENCE **Date:** 17 June 2021

To: Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister for COVID-19 Response

Purpose of report

1. This report provides an update on my advice provided 16 June 2021 [HR 20210616 refers] on the possible recommencement of Quarantine Free Travel (QFT) flights from Victoria.

Summary

2. At 3:00pm on 16 June 2021 I provided you with advice recommending that the pause of QFT flights from Victoria could be lifted at 11:59pm (NZST) on Monday 21 June 2021, provided that Victorian authorities lifted their travel restrictions prior.
3. Later on the same day, Victorian authorities lifted their travel restrictions.
4. At approximately 6:00pm on 16 June I was advised of a new community case in New South Wales and a new community case in Victoria. My Director Public Health attended a meeting with the Australian Health Protection Principal Committee, and subsequently a meeting within the Ministry of Health Incident Management Team.
5. As a consequence of these discussions, my advice is that we continue the pause on travel from Victoria, with a view to lifting this from 11:59pm on Tuesday 22 June. This timeframe will enable me to review the public health risk and update my advice, as necessary, based on the Ministry's ongoing monitoring of the evolving situation in New South Wales and in Victoria.

Recommendations

We recommend you:

- a) **Note** that on 16 June 2021 I provided you with advice recommending that if the public health risk remains low, and the Victorian Government removed its travel restrictions, quarantine free travel with Victoria could recommence at 11:59pm New Zealand Standard Time on Monday 21 June 2021. **Noted**
- b) **Note** that the Victorian Government lifted its travel restrictions on 16 June 2021. **Noted**
- c) **Note** that subsequent to my advice on 16 June 2021 I was advised of a new community case in New South Wales and a new community case in Victoria. **Noted**

- d) **Agree** to defer re-commencement of Quarantine Free Travel with Victoria for **Yes/ No**
an additional 24 hours to assess how the situation evolves in both States.



Dr Ashley Bloomfield

Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora

Director-General of Health

Date: 17 June 2021

Hon Chris Hipkins

Minister for COVID-19 Response

Date:

PROACTIVELY RELEASED

PROACTIVELY RELEASED