



# Report

REP/22/2/138

**Date:** 25/02/2022

**Security Level:** SENSITIVE

**To:** Hon Carmel Sepuloni, Minister for Social Development and Employment

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## COVID-19 Update and Responses to Date

**Note** the enhancements the Ministry has made to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission and the response to date.

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Melissa Gill  
Ministry of Social Development

25/02/2022

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Date

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Hon Carmel Sepuloni  
Minister for Social Development and  
Employment

27/2/22

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Date

## **We have implemented and continue to enhance protocols on all Ministry sites to reduce the risk of COVID-19 Infections**

- 1 As outlined in our previous reports, we have developed and implemented protocols to reduce the risk of COVID-19 infections on all Ministry sites, particularly against the more transmissible Delta, and now Omicron, variants.
- 2 This week we have:
  - 2.1 Continued to build capacity both on the Managers' Hotline and directly with managers themselves to manage onsite exposure events.
  - 2.2 Completed two manager drop-in sessions to respond to questions about exposure events, socialise resources and keep managers updated with official changes.
  - 2.3 Sourced and ordered a stock of Rapid Antigen tests.
  - 2.4 Progressed registering for the Close Contact Exemption Scheme
  - 2.5 Considered how changes to the public health settings announced with the change to Phase 3 will be implemented, considered what other MSD health and safety measures need to be reviewed in light of this, and finally what adjustments to business continuity planning may be required.

## **We are communicating with and supporting our clients**

- 3 No further actions have been taken since the last report.

## **We are communicating with our partners**

- 4 No further actions have been taken since the last report.

## **We are communicating with our people**

### *We are implementing our COVID-19 Vaccination Policy*

- 5 As of 25 February 2022, our records show that:
  - 5.1 **99.5%** (around 9800) of people covered by the Policy (including contractors) now have their status recorded (note new starters can only have their status recorded from day one of the job so this number is unlikely to reach 100% on any given day)
  - 5.2 **96%** of people (9431) are fully vaccinated (others are either partly vaccinated or not currently at work due to long term leave etc).
  - 5.3 As noted, the above numbers include contractors. The numbers for fully vaccinated permanent and fixed term staff members are **97% and 95%** respectively
  - 5.4 **213** people remain unvaccinated or unwilling to disclose their vaccination status. This represents **2.2%** of MSD people.
- 6 MSD has provided preliminary decision letters to staff advising of potential outcomes which may include a notice of termination of employment.
- 7 Impacted employees are in a phase where they have the opportunity to provide submissions in response to preliminary decisions. Final decisions are scheduled to be made from Monday 28 February with one months' notice provided to employees where relevant.

## **We are capturing Ministry staff positive cases and exposure events**

- 8 Since the last report on 18 February (REP/22/2/109) and up to 24 February 2022:
  - 8.1 23 staff members / Tautiaki have tested positive for COVID-19 in the period 18 – 24 February reported through the COVID-19 Managers' Hotline.
  - 8.2 Approximately 40 staff/guards have been identified as close contacts in the period 18 – 24 February reported through the COVID-19 Managers' Hotline.

8.3 This resulted in thirteen temporary site closures in the period 18 – 24 February.

Date	Site name	Positive case/s	Close contact/s	Action - Deep clean	Action - Site closure	Additional comments
18/02/2022	s 9(2)(a)	1		Yes	Yes	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
18/02/2022		1	Multiple	No	No	Staff member isolating. No further action required.
18/02/2022		1	Multiple	Yes	Yes	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
18/02/2022		0	Multiple	Yes	Yes	Close contact/s in isolation. Site re-opened after deep cleaning.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	Yes	Close contact/s in isolation. Site re-opened after deep cleaning.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
18/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022		1	2	Yes	Yes	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
20/02/2022		1	10	Yes	Yes - part	At work while infectious. Site deep cleaned. B team at work.
20/02/2022		4	Multiple	Yes	Yes - full	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
20/02/2022		1	1	No	No	Staff isolating. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			2	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.

20/02/2022	s 9(2)(a)		1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Staff member isolating. Other staff are casual.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			2	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
20/02/2022			1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
22/02/2022		1	16	Yes	Yes - full	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
22/02/2022		1	Multiple	Yes	Yes - full	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
22/02/2022		1	4	Yes	Yes - full	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
22/02/2022		1		No	No	At home while infectious. No further action required.
22/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
22/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
23/02/2022		1		No	Site already closed	
23/02/2022		1		Yes	Yes - full	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
23/02/2022		1		Yes	Yes - full	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
23/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
23/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.

23/02/2022	s 9(2)(a)	0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
23/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Close contact/s in isolation. No further action required.
23/02/2022		1	0	No	No	Staff member isolating. No further action required.
23/02/2022		1	0	Yes	Yes - part	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
24/02/2022		1	0	No	No	Staff member isolating. No further action required.
24/02/2022		1 (Probable positive)	0	Yes	Yes - full	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
24/02/2022		1	2	Yes	Yes - part	At work while infectious. Site open after deep cleaning.
24/02/2022		1	6	No	No	Staff member isolating. No further action required.
24/02/2022		0	1	No	No	Staff member isolating. No further action required.

8.4 **No** sites have been identified by the Ministry of Health and published as locations of interest.