

To: Forum Directors, Presidents, CEOs & Area Executives  
From: Dom Kalasih, Manager Policy and Safety

## COVID-19 ADVISORY

### UPDATE ON BORDER TESTING

#### Purpose

This Advisory updates operators on the following issues related to COVID-19:

- ACC levy payment
- Border crossing (including for those travelling through Auckland)

#### Updates

- **ACC self-employed invoicing**

ACC commenced its annual invoicing for the 2021/22 levy year in July this year for employers and shareholder-employers, with most of these having been invoiced already. These levies provide cover for injuries that occur in the workplace. ACC has also been communicating with self-employed businesses to prepare them for invoices being sent in September.

Any delay to invoicing will result in due dates or collection dates falling over the Christmas period – which ACC is keen to avoid. As noted, most other businesses (and wage earners) have already been invoiced and any decisions to delay invoicing, as was done for all businesses in 2020, will result in due dates or collection dates falling over the Christmas period.

ACC is willing to offer what support it can to individuals and businesses where COVID-19 is having significant impacts on cashflow and ability to pay ACC levies. If an individual or business needs to discuss their situation, you can find options for support on [ACC's website](#). Please note that if an individual's earnings were impacted by COVID last year, this will flow through to the earnings filed with IR and used by ACC for self-employed invoicing.

- **Border crossing (including for those travelling through Auckland)**

This is a reminder that from 11.59 pm on Thursday 16 September 2021 people crossing the Alert Level 4 boundary will be required to carry evidence of testing for Covid-19. That evidence shall be either:

- evidence specified by the Director-General, or
- written verification provided by the medical practitioner who carried out the examination.

Our key recommendation is that if operators anticipate their workers will be crossing the borders later this week, then arrange testing so that the worker can show a test has been completed within seven days of crossing. There may be risk of delay if you are limiting your testing only to saliva testing and you should also be aware that completing saliva testing actually requires two tests to be completed within a minimum of two days, within the seven days.

For your convenience we have again attached the three pdf files sent last Friday, prepared by the Ministry of Health, that explain the testing framework and requirements.

- Employer
- Worker
- Test options

We have also added the attached MS word file, Transport Operator Guidance - boundary testing 10092021 from the Ministry of Transport.

These are other websites you may find useful:

- Nasal swab testing: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/>
- Saliva testing registration: <https://covid19salivatesting.co.nz/>
- Saliva testing drop off and collection points: <https://covid19salivatesting.co.nz/drop-off-and-test-kit-pick-up-locations/>
- Saliva test kits <https://covid19salivatesting.co.nz/getting-your-saliva-test-kit/>
  - If you have more than 25 employees, workplaces can request test kits to be delivered to one location to be available to your staff
  - To order test kits please email [salivatotravel@aphg.co.nz](mailto:salivatotravel@aphg.co.nz)

### **A short update from Ministry of Health:**

- A pop-up testing facility has been set up this morning at the Gull station at Hampton Downs (south of Mercer)
- The facility will be open 9.30am to 3.30pm today and tomorrow (14 and 15 September) for nasal swabbing only – no appointment is required
- Testing is free – please inform the tester that it's for the purposes of crossing the Alert Level boundary for permitted workers.

### **In summary a driver (and any passenger) should have with them:**

- A letter from their employer explaining their reason for crossing the border as an essential worker, or proof you are registered with MBIE's Business Travel Register
- A text received on their cell phone confirming that they've had their test and/or the results of that test
- If you have received a test from an alternative Ministry of Health IANZ accredited supplier, an Eclair CDR database entry is recommended, or at very least have the following details ready to show
  - Test provider
  - Name and address of person that has been tested
  - Date test was completed

## Other issues that have been raised

- **If we are travelling through the Alert Level 4 area and we not planning to stop, do we still need to test?**

My understanding is yes, the requirement for evidence of testing still applies. The Public Health Order clause related to testing applies to people who rely on a permission to travel into or out of the alert level 4 area under item 1 or 2 of Schedule 5. Freight transport is recognised as a business under Schedule 2 therefore, our view is freight drivers have to meet the requirement regardless of travelling straight through.

- **What happens if I do not have the National Health Index (NHI) numbers when registering my staff for saliva testing on the APHG site?**

APHG will try and trace the respective missing NHI numbers however, APHG is prioritising registrations that have NHI number provided therefore, there will be some delay with your data being added to the APHG database.

## Other points of interest

- Government intends to spot check employers to ensure they are complying with the Public Health Order No 11.
- Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health are looking at linking Covid-19 testing to the Business Travel Register (MBIE) documents, but aren't there yet.
- If stopped at the border Police's interest will primarily be the evidence of a COVID-19 test and not doing a full vehicle check however, if there is some other safety issue, then they will look into that.
- If test evidence is not provided on request at border control, then the truck will be turned around. You need to talk to your staff about what to do if this occurs.

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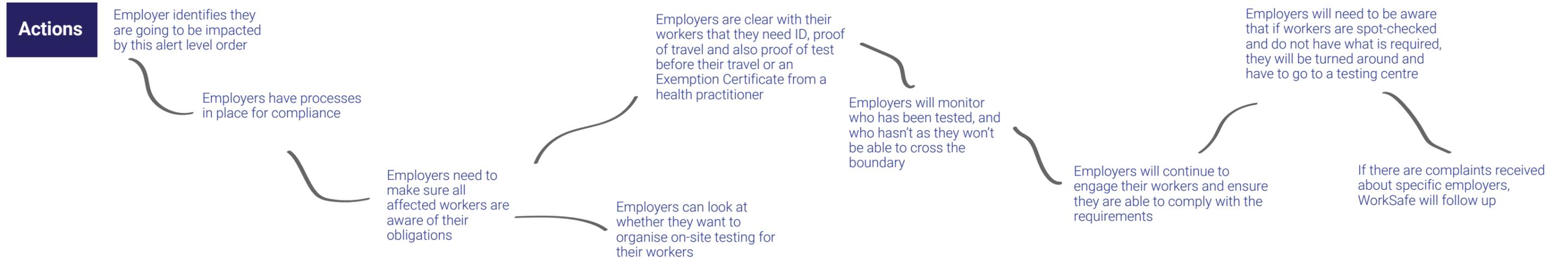
# COVID-19

New Zealand Government

## Testing permitted workers crossing alert level boundaries



To safeguard areas of New Zealand at lower alert levels, and to ensure COVID-19 is contained - surveillance testing of permitted workers crossing the alert level boundary is going to be implemented immediately.



- | Use  | Awareness   | Setting up  | Checking test status  | Ongoing support   |
|--|---|---|---|---|
| 1. Employers can find out if they are impacted by the Alert Level Order by visiting the <a href="#">Ministry of Health website</a> . | 2. Employers will use evidence of permitted travel, such as BTD, work order or employer letter. For more information please <a href="#">visit business.govt.nz</a> and search for alert level boundaries. | 3. For FAQs and supporting guidance for employers and workers you can visit the <a href="#">Ministry of Health website</a> .  | 4. Some larger employers may engage a private provider to do on-site testing. Please visit the <a href="#">Ministry of Health website</a> for more information. | 5. No infringement notices will be issued, workers will be unable to cross the boundary until they have a test. |
|  |   | 6. 6. If workers require an exemption from being tested due to medical reasons, then they will need to get this from a health practitioner and have the proof on them if stopped by Police. |   |   |

### Checklist

- |  |                       |                                    |                       |
|--|-----------------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------|
| Review processes so clear of obligations   | <input type="radio"/> | Confirm all tests are arranged     | <input type="radio"/> |
| Notify all impacted workers of obligations | <input type="radio"/> | Monitor test records of workers    | <input type="radio"/> |
| All workers have business travel docs      | <input type="radio"/> | Ensure workers know proof required | <input type="radio"/> |



# COVID-19

## Current community testing



### How

Permitted workers can use the existing testing services available. This includes going to a Community Testing Centres which requires no appointment, or booking in with their local GP.

### Evidence

Most providers are able to issue confirmation texts directly to the worker, if the provider uses the Eclair database. There is a paper confirmation available in case text is not an option. Below are some screenshots of what the texts and the paper confirmation will look like. Please make sure the workers have one within the last 7 days before crossing the alert level boundary.

### More information

Nasal swab tests are available at sites across the country. Please visit [healthpoint.co.nz](http://healthpoint.co.nz) and search for the most convenient site to you.

Text confirming test

Kia ora Jono, your COVID test was collected 09 Sep 09:00.

Text confirming result

Kia ora Jono, your COVID test 09 Sep was negative.

Paper confirmation



## On-site testing



### How

Employers can look at introducing mass testing on-site to make it as easy as possible for their workers. Employers can use any IANZ accredited supplier and where possible we recommend they use Eclair to record the test record.

### Evidence

The same proof of test will be used as the current community testing. Ideally the providers used will be integrated with the Eclair database so an automatic confirmation text can be sent as evidence of test. If not, the providers will need to issue a paper confirmation to the workers so they have evidence when travelling across the alert level boundary.

### More information

For a list of sites which have access to Eclair, please visit the Ministry of Health website.

## Saliva testing



### How

Saliva testing will be introduced to give those permitted workers different options to comply. It is self-administered and available 24/7. Workers can collect tubes beforehand and drop their sample at multiple collection points. Saliva testing is a series 2 tests, at least 2 days apart within 7 days.

### Evidence

For those using saliva testing (initially), they need to download and install the APHG saliva testing app. The app will also record your tests and results which can be used as evidence when crossing the alert level boundary. You can find more information at [covid19salivatesting.co.nz](http://covid19salivatesting.co.nz)

### More information

For more information on saliva testing, please go to the Ministry of Health website and search saliva testing. Here we will also have a list of collection and drop-off points.

Screen shots from app



<https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/business->

## To do list

1. Select test option
2. Notify all affected workers of obligations
3. Get a test organised for all workers between now and next boundary crossing
4. Ensure all workers have proof of ID, evidence of permitted travel and proof of test
5. All workers aware of compliance checks beginning 16th September 2021



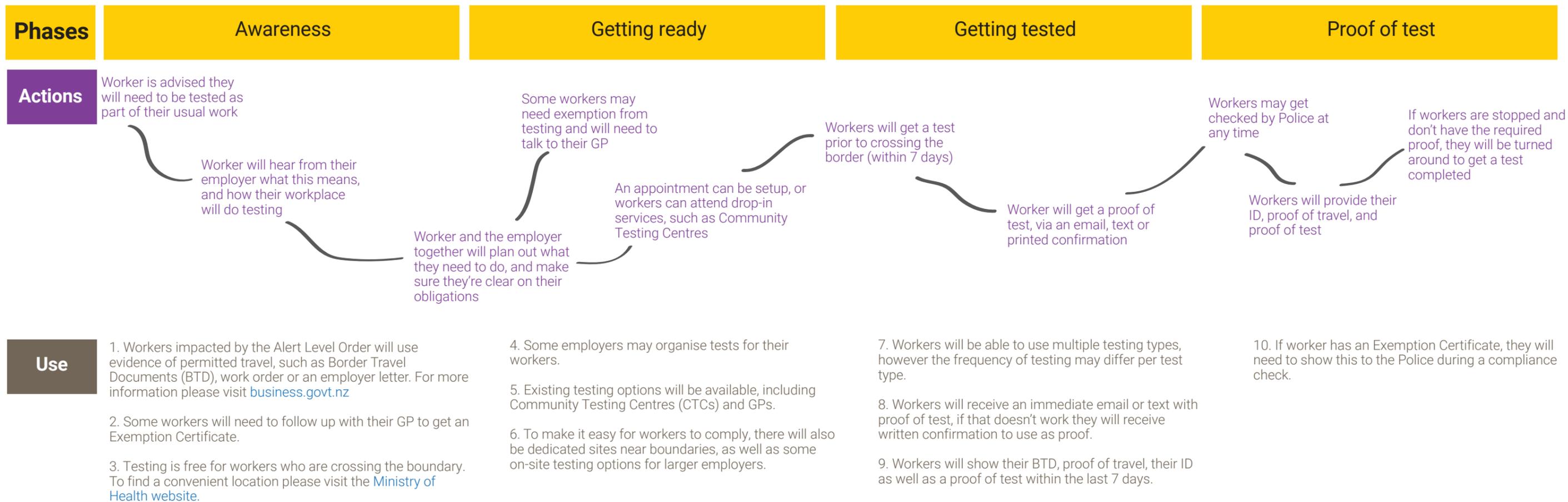
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### Checklist

Understand my obligations



Complete a test (at least 7 days) before boundary travel



Collect business travel documents



Have proof of ID, proof of test and proof of business travel



Confirm a test is arranged

