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12 September 2022

### THE NEW ZEALAND TRAVELLER DECLARATION SYSTEM – KEY MESSAGES AND FAQs

On 12 September 2022, Cabinet agreed to several recommendations regarding the removal of the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

Two of these decisions are of particular relevance to the New Zealand Traveller Declaration (NZTD).

1. Retaining the requirement to provide contact details and travel history information via the electronic NZTD system to enable timely contact tracing, should this be needed.
2. Removal of COVID-19 vaccination requirements for all arrivals and crew at the air and maritime border.

We have developed key messages and back-pocket FAQs to support these decisions (Appendix A refers).

#### Next steps

1. An alert banner has been published on the New Zealand Traveller Declaration website ([www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz/](http://www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz/)) to inform travellers about the removal of the vaccination requirement.
2. The New Zealand Traveller Declaration website will be further updated by 16 September 2022 to align with updated requirements.
3. The New Zealand Traveller Declaration Contact Centre is prepared to respond to any traveller queries.

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## APPENDIX A: KEY MESSAGES AND FAQs

### Key messages

- › **From 11:59pm (New Zealand standard time) 12 September 2022, travellers to New Zealand no longer need to provide proof of COVID-19 vaccination to enter the country.**
- › Everyone travelling to New Zealand by air must complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration, and receive a Traveller Pass, before they travel. This includes New Zealand citizens and residents, children, and infants.
- › **The New Zealand Traveller Declaration has been a critical component of the reopening of New Zealand's borders but has a broader purpose beyond COVID-19 to protect and promote New Zealand.**
- › By June 2023, the New Zealand Traveller Declaration will enable travellers to digitally complete their full travel declaration including customs, immigration, and biosecurity declarations as well as health risk assessments as required. It is intended that this will replace the current paper arrival card.
- › The New Zealand Traveller Declaration will move New Zealand further towards a safer and smarter digital border enabling an improved customer experience, underpinned by better facilitation and border risk management.
- › **The New Zealand Traveller Declaration helps us to be prepared.**
- › It's important we continue to collect contact details and travel history information (via the Traveller Declaration) to respond quickly to potential new COVID-19 variants of concern.
- › Should there be a new COVID-19 variant of concern, having a timely and reliable source of passenger information is critical.
- › The New Zealand Traveller Declaration provides an efficient tool for the collection and storage of traveller contact details, including recent travel history.
- › Information is provided to the National Border Solution database (managed by Te Whatu Ora) for contacting tracing.
- › Being prepared to respond quickly to new COVID-19 variants of concern is particularly important for protecting our most vulnerable communities.
- › The use of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system for collecting contact details and travel history information will be reviewed in October.

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### FAQs

Question	Answer
Why are you still requiring travellers to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration?	<p>The New Zealand Traveller Declaration helps us to be prepared.</p> <p>It's important we continue to collect contact details and travel history information (via the Traveller Declaration) to respond quickly to potential new COVID-19 variants of concern. This is particularly important for protecting our most vulnerable communities.</p>
Why keep the New Zealand Traveller Declaration if you're removing other COVID-19 requirements?	<p>We need to be prepared to respond to a potential new COVID-19 variant of concern identified offshore. Retaining the New Zealand Traveller Declaration enables fast and effective contracting tracing if needed.</p> <p>Use of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system for collecting contact details and travel history information, alongside other measures, will be reviewed in October.</p>
What information are you requesting for contact tracing via the New Zealand Traveller Declaration?	<p>In the event a potential new COVID-19 variant of concern is identified offshore, the information collected via the New Zealand Traveller Declaration may be used for contact tracing. To support this, travellers will be required to provide:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• information including name and date of birth</li><li>• contact information, and</li><li>• travel history information.</li></ul>
Aren't travellers already required to provide their name and contact details on the Passenger Arrival Card? Why are you requiring travellers to submit this information twice?	<p>Our ability to respond to a potential new COVID-19 variant of concern identified offshore relies on being able to effectively contact trace at pace.</p> <p>Collecting contact details and travel history information via the New Zealand Traveller Declaration enables timely contact tracing.</p> <p>While travellers must also provide this information in the Passenger Arrival Card, this</p>

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	<p>does not provide as timely or reliable a pathway as the New Zealand Traveller Declaration.</p> <p>This makes the work underway with the New Zealand Traveller Declaration even more important. It highlights the need for an enduring digital solution that will help keep our borders open in the future.</p>
<p>Some travellers have commented that their Traveller Declaration wasn't checked upon arrival in New Zealand – is this correct?</p>	<p>Travellers who have received their Traveller Pass and are eligible to use eGates (i.e. have an ePassport from one of the 12 eligible countries), have their Traveller Pass automatically assessed when their passport is scanned. This removes the need to have their Traveller Pass checked by a Customs Officer.</p> <p>All other travellers will have their Traveller Pass checked by a Customs Officer upon arrival in New Zealand.</p>
<p>What happens if a traveller doesn't complete a Traveller Declaration? Will they be denied boarding?</p>	<p>Travellers need to complete a Traveller Declaration before arriving in New Zealand.</p> <p>Travellers will not be denied boarding if they have not completed a Traveller Declaration.</p> <p>Travellers can complete a declaration before passing through New Zealand Customs, either via the New Zealand Traveller Declaration website or by completing a paper form.</p>
<p>Isn't the New Zealand Traveller Declaration just for managing COVID-19 risk?</p>	<p>The New Zealand Traveller Declaration system was a critical component of the reopening of New Zealand's borders and allows current COVID-19 health risks to be managed effectively.</p> <p>The system also delivers enduring benefits to New Zealand by providing a platform to manage future risks such as new COVID-19 variants, future pandemics, or new biosecurity risks.</p> <p>By June 2023, the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system will be used for customs, immigration, and biosecurity declarations as well as health risk assessments as required.</p>

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<p>How much longer will travellers be required to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration?</p>	<p>Use of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system for collecting contact details and travel history information, alongside other measures, will be reviewed in October.</p> <p>Officials are continuing to work on the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system so that, by June 2023, the New Zealand Traveller Declaration will provide a single point for passengers to complete their travel declaration, removing the need for a physical arrival card.</p>
<p>What benefits are there to travellers and the travel industry?</p>	<p>Eventually, the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system will allow travellers with right to entry, the ability to move through airports with minimal intervention, enabling a seamless journey from start to finish. By digitising the traveller's journey from end to end we can help travellers to understand the unique requirements in place to travel to and around New Zealand and support compliance.</p>
<p>Does this mean there will be a period (between October 2022 and June 2023) where travellers won't have to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration?</p>	<p>Use of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system for collecting contact details and travel history information, alongside other measures, will be reviewed in October.</p> <p>Any further changes to requirements will be announced following Government review.</p>
<p>Why will it take till June 2023 to have the digital declaration in place?</p>	<p>The New Zealand Traveller Declaration has been available for air passengers since 25 March 2022.</p> <p>It was critical to start development and delivery of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system quickly to support the reopening of New Zealand's borders.</p> <p>It was always intended that, eventually, the system would provide a single place for passengers to complete a travel declaration, with the intention being to remove the need for a physical arrival card.</p>

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	<p>The system is complex and is being delivered in three related tranches that commenced in August 2021.</p> <p>The New Zealand Traveller Declaration system comprises integrated component parts operated and managed by four agencies involved in processing arriving travellers: Customs, the Ministry for Primary Industries (for Biosecurity New Zealand), the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (for Immigration New Zealand), and the Ministry of Health.</p> <p>Officials from each agency are working together to ensure their respective primary legislation authorises their agency's use of the New Zealand Traveller Declaration.</p>
Are other countries still requiring declarations?	<p>New Zealand joins other countries that have also sought to operationalise a digital system to manage risk to the border in response to the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p>Canada's declaration – ArriveCAN – is used to provide mandatory travel and public health information before and after traveller's entry into Canada.</p>
What about Australia?	<p>On 6 July, the Australian Government announced that people travelling to Australia no longer had to complete a Digital Passenger Declaration (DPD) to declare their COVID-19 vaccination status.</p> <p>Although Australia has removed the DPD, they have stated their intention that the DPD will eventually serve to digitise the paper-based incoming passenger card and visa processing and will be used across several government services.</p>
Do travellers need to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration for sea travel?	<p>New Zealand's maritime border is fully open.</p> <p>Currently, travellers arriving by sea do not need to complete a New Zealand Traveller Declaration.</p>

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We encourage travellers to check the New Zealand Traveller Declaration website closer to their travel date for any requirements which may apply –

[www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz/before-you-travel/](http://www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz/before-you-travel/)

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