



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### COVID-19: Auckland Community Case

#### Portfolio                      COVID-19 Response

On 17 August 2021, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that one community case of COVID-19 has been identified in Auckland, with the source of infection unknown at this stage;
- 2        **noted** the briefing from the Director-General of Health on the situation and the next steps to be undertaken;
- 3        **agreed in principle**, based on the information available, that Auckland will move into Alert Level 4, with the timing and Alert Level settings to be determined by the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for COVID-19 Response and Associate Minister of Health (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall) following further advice from officials;
- 4        **agreed in principle**, subject to further decisions by the group of Ministers referred to above, that:
  - 4.1      the Alert Level 4 settings may be extended to other parts of New Zealand;
  - 4.2      an exception to these settings may be extended to New Zealand Defence Force personnel involved in operations to extract nationals and approved Afghan citizens from Afghanistan;
- 5        **invited** the Minister for COVID-19 Response to issue new or updated Orders as appropriate to give effect to any approved changes in Alert Level settings
- 6        **agreed** that a group of Ministers, comprising the Prime Minister, Deputy Prime Minister, Minister for COVID-19 Response and Associate Minister of Health (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall), be given power to act to activate the wage subsidy scheme and resurgence support payment scheme and the activation settings (including payment levels) to allow for the schemes to be activated as a result of any alert level change made by delegated Ministers in recommendation 3.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet