

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@aphq.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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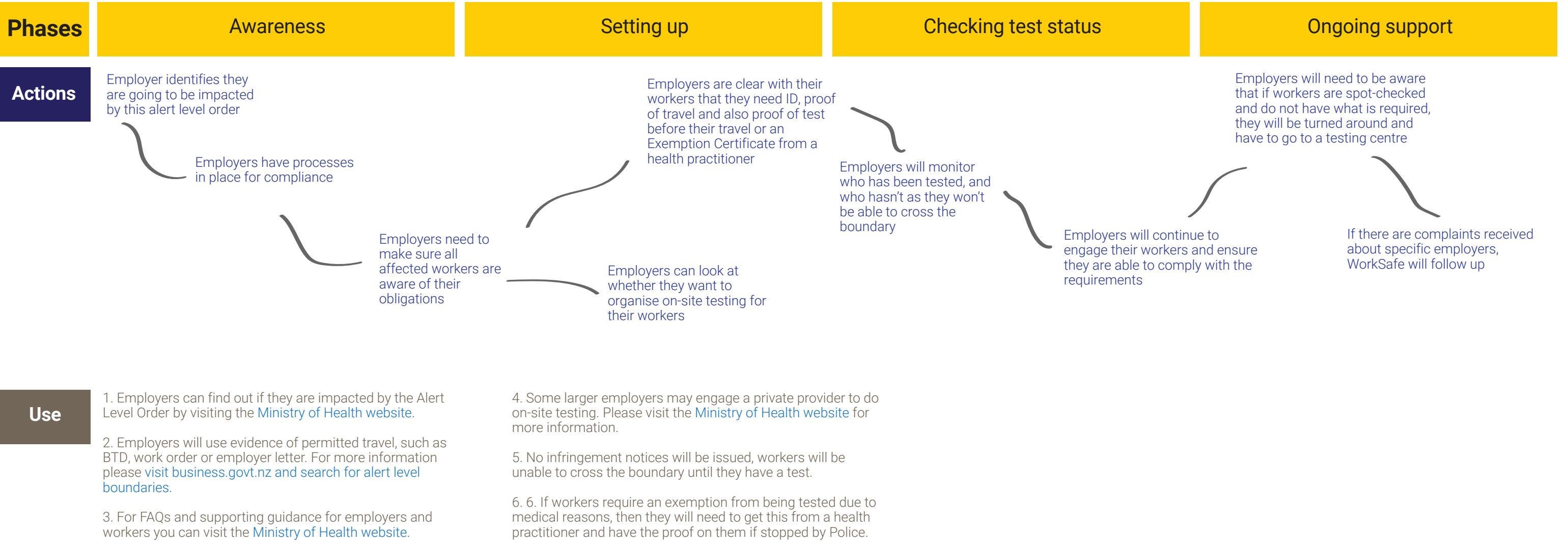
COVID-19



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.

New Zealand Government

Testing permitted workers crossing alert level boundaries



Checklist

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

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 and search for the most convenient site to you.

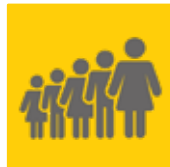
Text confirming test

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.

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.

Paper confirmation



The form is titled 'COVID-19' and includes fields for 'Testing provider', 'Reason for test', 'Patient name', 'Address', and 'Date of test'. A note states: 'Restricted worker crossing alert level boundary'.

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

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

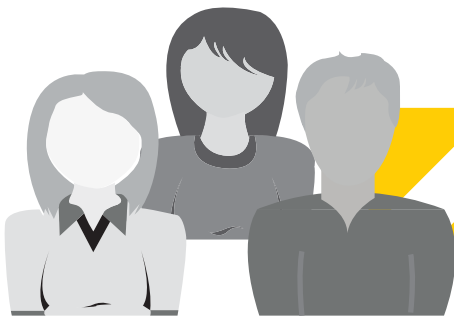


To do list

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



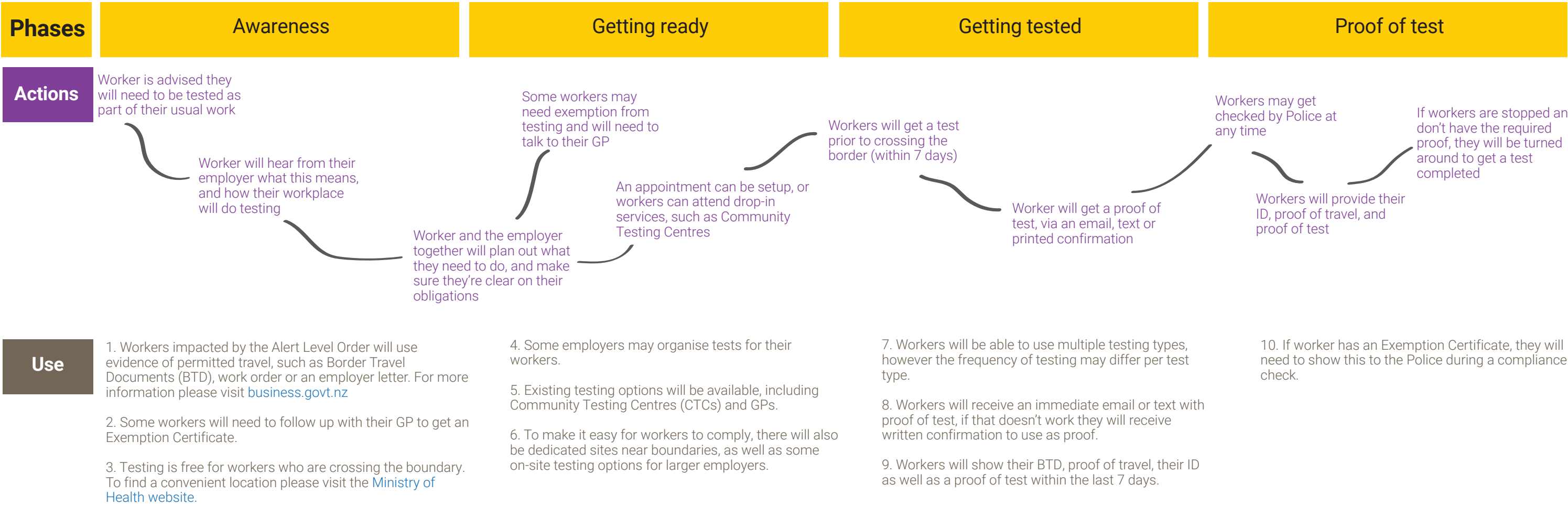
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Testing permitted workers crossing alert level boundaries



Checklist

- | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|-----------------------|
| Understand my obligations | <input type="radio"/> | Complete a test (at least 7 days) before boundary travel | <input type="radio"/> |
| Collect business travel documents | <input type="radio"/> | Have proof of ID, proof of test and proof of business travel | <input type="radio"/> |
| Confirm a test is arranged | <input type="radio"/> | | |

COVID-19 Alert Level 4/2 Boundary Testing Regime

Guidance for Employers

Last updated: 1500 hrs, 10 September 2021

1. This document provides guidance to support employers to meet their boundary testing obligations initially, noting work is continuing to enhance the provision and accessibility of testing services.
2. The guidance is intended to be read in conjunction with:
 - the [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Alert Level Requirements\) Order \(No 11\) 2021](#);
 - employer and worker information from the Ministry of Health; and
 - official information regarding boundary testing contained on, or linked from, the covid19.govt.nz webpage, Ministry of Transport and Ministry of Health websites
3. This guidance is subject to change to reflect the latest developments in the COVID-19 response.

Summary of employer obligations – travel across Alert Level boundary

4. Employers have a duty to have systems and processes in place from 11.59pm on 9 September 2021, to ensure so far as reasonably practicable, their workers are not required to travel into, out of, or through the Alert Level 4 area unless they have had a COVID-19 test in the prior 7 days.
5. An employer must also not prevent their workers from reporting for and undergoing testing, medical examination, or both during their working hours, if testing and medical examination are available during those hours.
6. To meet these obligations, it is recommended employers:
 - Maintain a record of workers that are or will be travelling across the Auckland boundary
 - Facilitate these employees to obtain a COVID-19 test no later than 11.59pm on 16 September using either:
 - testing providers, available at community testing sites, pop up testing centres and GP clinics. Testing providers can be found at: <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19/>.
 - IANZ accredited suppliers (ianz.govt.nz) for on site testing. Where possible it is recommended that they use éclair to record testing
 - where you are confident it can be completed in time, saliva testing is also available. Further information about saliva testing is provided below.
 - Communicate to your employees to ensure they are aware of their responsibilities:
 - they need to obtain evidence of having undertaken a test from the testing provider, or a medical certificate for those who cannot undergo testing.
 - different advisory systems currently operate e.g. in some cases, the person will receive a text at the time of the test, in others they will be text the result. The requirement is to provide evidence of undertaking a test within the past 7 days, and both types of text would be acceptable if this is available prior to crossing the boundary. If evidence is not forthcoming, your employee must request this e.g. a medical certificate may be requested from a GP or clinician, or receipt from the testing provider. This should include:

TESTING PROVIDER:	
NAME:	
ADDRESS:	
DATE TEST WAS COMPLETED:	

- they must carry this evidence with them on their journey
 - Implement an assurance/checking process to ensure that employees are complying with their obligations. This includes taking steps to address any compliance issues.
7. Should a test result come back as positive for COVID-19, the employee gets notified and the standard protocols for COVID tracing take place led by the relevant DHB.

Key matters explained

Testing options

8. Generally, employees can currently choose to undertake one of two types of tests: a nasopharyngeal swab or an oropharyngeal bilateral anterior nares swab. A range of additional testing services are being progressed to help improve access to testing.
9. Dedicated testing facilities at easy to access locations near the boundary will be stood up to ensure testing can be undertaken as easily and efficiently as possible. This will include the set-up of both dedicated pop-up testing centres near the boundary and on-site testing at some larger workplaces.
10. Site locations will be communicated as soon as they are available on the Ministry of Health website and through direct communications to the sector. We anticipate this occurring by the end of the day on 10 September 2021.
11. Saliva testing is currently available in a limited number of locations (ports and airports), and we are working to make saliva testing more widely available as quickly as possible.
12. 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 of 2 tests, at least 2 days apart within 7 days. 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 out more at covid19salivatesting.co.nz
13. It is important to note that where saliva testing is utilised, it is the employer's responsibility to ensure the requirements of testing are met. An employee will be compliant at the boundary if they provide evidence of completing a single test within the past 7 days.

Compliance

14. It is acknowledged that establishing systems and processes will take time. This guidance is intended to support employers to implement key systems and processes, as quickly as possible.
15. It is not a mandatory requirement for workers to carry evidence until 11:59pm on 16 September. Before this time, we will consider undertaking 'spot checks' to ensure employers have implemented appropriate systems and practices. The focus of these activities would be to

promote good practice, with an 'education first' approach.

16. At the boundary, Police will commence compliance checks from 11.59pm on 16 September 2021.
17. Where possible, vehicles will be diverted from the main thoroughfare to minimise the impact on other vehicle movements. Where a driver does not have appropriate evidence of a test, they may be turned around. Drivers who need to undertake a COVID-19 test will be directed to testing facilities near to the boundary to ensure they can complete a test and return to their journey as quickly as possible (subject to testing capacity at the time).
18. We are also continuing to explore additional options to make compliance with boundary testing requirements as easy as possible. This includes looking at opportunities to integrate evidence requirements with the business travel documentation. Further guidance will be provided on this matter as soon as possible.

Contact for enquiries

For any questions regarding this guidance, please email essentialtransport@transport.govt.nz