



COVID-19: Border Workforce Testing Register

The health of the border workforce is a key priority as New Zealand continues to manage the ongoing threats posed by COVID-19.

The [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Required Testing\) Order 2020](#) ([/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-epidemic-notice-and-orders#testing](#)) (the Order) requires routine testing of border workers for COVID-19 at managed isolation and quarantine facilities, airports and seaports.

This means border workers need to be swabbed regularly for COVID-19. Employers are expected to support this initiative as part of their health and safety responsibilities to ensure a safe working environment. Employers are also expected to maintain records to show their staff are being swabbed regularly as per the Required Testing Order.

The Ministry of Health has developed a secure online tool called the Border Workforce Testing Register (the Register) that assists employers with keeping and maintaining necessary records, and automates notifications to employers and employees of when swabs are due. The Ministry appreciates the ongoing commitment and efforts of the New Zealand border workforce and employers in keeping New Zealanders safe.

Use of the Register will be mandatory from 27 April 2021.

What is the Register?

The Register is an online tool that tracks and records a border worker's COVID-19 testing activity. To ensure worker privacy, the Register does not record the results of a test, only the date a swab was taken. It also keeps border workers and employers informed about when workers need to be tested next and whether they have completed their most recent test. The Register has been developed to support employers in adhering to their record-keeping requirements.

Who can use the Register?

The Register is available to all employers affected by the [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Required Testing\) Order 2020](#) ([/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-epidemic-notice-and-orders#testing](#)).

How the register works

The Register will hold information about an employee to enable an employer to know they are due for a swab, and whether the necessary swabs are being undertaken as required under the Order. The Register does this by matching a worker to their National Health Index (NHI) number so swab dates are automatically populated.

Information will be held and managed in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020 and Health Information Privacy Code 2020. All information stored in the Register will be held securely in compliance with Ministry of Health standards. You can download the Ministry's Privacy Statement for the Border Workforce Testing Register below.

- [Privacy Statement – Border Workforce Testing Register \(Word, 46 KB\)](#)
([/system/files/documents/pages/privacy-statement-border-workforce-testing-register-apr21.docx](#))
- [Privacy Statement – Border Workforce Testing Register \(PDF, 143 KB\)](#)
([/system/files/documents/pages/privacy-statement-border-workforce-testing-register-apr21.pdf](#))

How do I get involved in using the Register?

The Ministry of Health is engaging with Managed Isolation and Quarantine Facilities (MIQFs) and associated employers, and maritime and aviation employers affected by the Order about using the Register. We encourage all relevant employers to contact us to see if the Register can assist your organisation to meet the requirements of the Order.

To sign up to the Register and commence the onboarding process, or if you have any questions about it, please email BWTRsupport@health.govt.nz (<mailto:BWTRsupport@health.govt.nz>).