

COVID-19 STRATEGY

Our elimination strategy is a sustained approach to keep it out, find it and stamp it out. We do this through:

- controlling entry at the border with routine quarantine or isolation for 14 days;
- disease surveillance;
- physical distancing and hygiene measures;
- testing for and tracing all potential cases;
- isolating cases and their closed contacts;
- and broader public health controls depending on the Alert Level we are in.

See below for an update on these measures to support our elimination strategy, and an overview of health system utilisation.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

New Zealand continues to progress well against the strategy. The number of active cases has continued to steadily decline, with daily new cases at zero or remaining in the low single digits.

Wider asymptomatic testing by DHBs continues to return negative results, giving increased confidence that cases are confined to known clusters. We continue to closely monitor new cases with the move in to Level 2.

Bars will be permitted to open from 21 May. By then we will be in a position to be confident that COVID-19 cases continue to be contained since the move to Level 3. We continue to emphasise the need for hygiene and physical distancing measures.

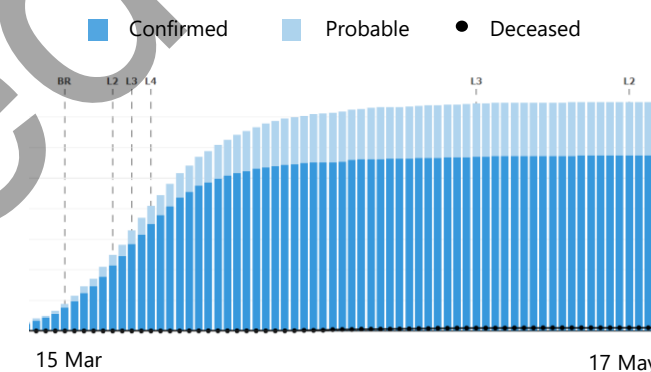
CURRENT STATE

As at 1pm 17 May:

1,499 Confirmed and probable cases

1,433 Recovered (96%)

73% European /other
12% Asian
8% Māori
5% Pacific peoples
2% MELAA
1% Unknown



Change in cases over time
The rate of new cases continues to flatten out.

HEALTH-RELATED MEASURES TO ACHIEVE ELIMINATION

LAB TESTING | Status: Sufficient capacity for current demand, with capacity continuing to increase

Testing capacity is steadily increasing to support efforts to eliminate COVID-19. New Zealand has a high capacity for daily testing. As at 17 May, 228,148 tests have been conducted.

National capacity

5,403

7-day rolling average for week to 16 May

26

Days stock on hand at 7-day rolling average

Total tests, by ethnicity

Ethnic breakdown of tests undertaken between 22 Jan – 9 May is as follows:

- 16.9% (29,311 tests) Māori
- 8.5% (14,830 tests) Pacific Peoples
- 9.9% (17,178 tests) Asian
- 62.6% (108,781 tests) European/other/MELAA
- 2% (3,571 tests) Unknown

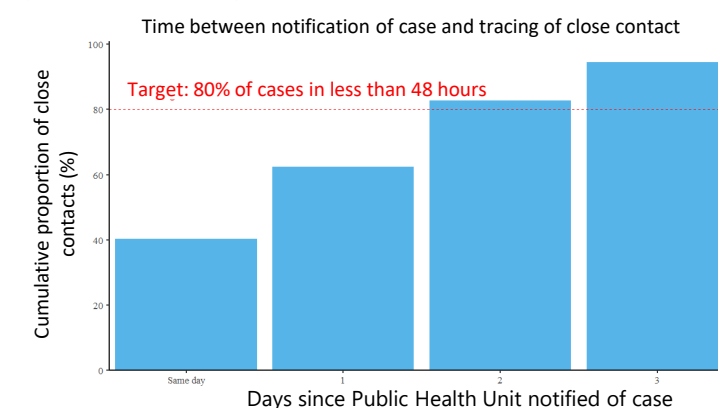
Positive test rate

On 17 May, less than 0.1 percent of the 4,211 tests conducted were positive. If our elimination strategy works, you would expect to see this trend continue - more tests finding fewer positive cases of Covid-19.

CONTACT TRACING | Status: Sufficient capacity and continuing to improve speed

One close contact to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case was identified and contacted on 14 May. Currently PHUs have the capacity to perform close contact tracing for up to 185 cases per day. Additionally the NCCS has the ability to scale to contact up to 10,000 contacts per day.

The Ministry has developed a monitoring framework to measure the speed of test-trace-isolate response. The target for tracing is to have 80% of cases' close contacts traced within 48 hours of PHUs and the NCCS being notified of a case. We are currently exceeding this metric with around 83% of cases over the 13 April to 11 May period traced and isolated within two days.



DHB testing

The following details the focus of this week's DHB specific asymptomatic targeted testing efforts. All tests that have been processed so far this week have yielded negative results. Unless otherwise stated, results refer to processed tests over the course of 11 May to 15 May.

Auckland Metro DHBs | 1,508 tests processed | Awaiting 6 results
All results negative

Focusing on prisons; Hospitals, Primary Care and Community Health providers; ARC staff; Cook Island residents (clearance testing for travel); isolation hotels; police; ambulance; fire service; frontline welfare staff; Auckland City Mission; youth justice; boarding houses and motels; supermarkets; Asian communities and migrant workers.

Bay of Plenty/Lakes | 119 tests processed | Awaiting 147 results
All results negative

ARC and CBAC staff; homeless and mental health needs individuals; community workers; lab staff; 2 papkāinga in Tauranga.

Canterbury/West Coast | 319 tests processed from Canterbury | Awaiting 18 results | Awaiting West Coast report
All results negative

Health workers; frontline staff (supermarket workers, police, and at quarantine/isolation facilities); Pasifika and Asian Communities.

Greater Wellington (Capital and Coast, Hutt Valley, Wairarapa) | 65 tests processed | Awaiting 77 results | All results negative

Focus on high risk shared accommodation facilities, offering testing to the police

Hawke's Bay | 52 tests processed | Awaiting 77 results
All results negative

Testing in two rural communities in the Central Hawke's Bay and Wairoa; ARC and CBAC health care workers; Silverfern farms; Wairoa welfare hub; those with chronic conditions; RSE workers.

MidCentral | 232 tests processed | Awaiting 7 results
All results negative

Focusing in Māori / iwi provider staff and police.

Nelson-Marlborough | 159 tests processed | Awaiting 78 results
All results negative

Continue to test workers at Stoke New World; returning international travelers and household contacts; health care workers; motels who have provided accommodation to COVID cases; police; RSE workers; Rangitane; Whakatu marae; ship pilots.

Northland | 724 tests processed (of 724 tests total)
All results negative

Healthcare and related workers (e.g., cleaners, admin, lab staff); ARC; police; ambulance; fire and emergency staff; prisons; hostels; essential workers in the community with face to face contact with customers (e.g. supermarkets); places with low case numbers or lower than expected testing rates; and high health need/poorer access to care.

Tairāwhiti | 49 tests processed | Awaiting results from 94 tests
All results negative

Focusing on police, hospital and ARC staff, supermarket workers.

Taranaki | 111 tests processed | Awaiting results from 144 tests
All results negative

Focusing on healthcare workers, a larger non-health employer, St John Ambulance, corrections Staff, community laboratory staff.

South Canterbury | Awaiting results from 156 tests | No tests processed yet Focusing on testing in Waimate.

Southern | No tests conducted between 11 May and 15 May

Waikato | 1,075 tests processed (of 1,075 tests total)
All results negative

Focusing on ARC staff, carers including ancillary; GP surgeries and co-located pharmacists; supermarket workers; prison staff (Hamilton Central and Te Awamutu); hospital Staff; quarantine hotel staff; NGOL staff (inc. Iwi); mobile CBACs targeting Maori (numerous locations).

Whanganui | 180 tests processed (of 180 tests total)
All results negative

Focusing on case finding. Undertaking home visits and ARC swabbing.

HOSPITAL CAPACITY

Status: Sufficient ICU bed and ventilator capacity. Working to expand to meet any spikes in demand

As at 17 May there were two people in hospital for COVID-19 in New Zealand, with none in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

2 people in hospital
0 people in ICU
9,865 people registered on the surge capacity database

The Ministry is working to ensure there are sufficient staff to meet the potential growth in demand for ICU care. As of 14 May there are 9,865 people registered in the surge capacity database of which 3,538 have indicated they are still available to work. Of those available, 551 are doctors and 933 are registered nurses. We have deployed 26 people into roles.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: We have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce, and other essential workers

There is good stock of all PPE gear in the country right now (both from the Ministry of Health national reserves and DHB reserves) and the sourcing and distribution of PPE have been nationalised.

Total estimated stock on hand as at 15 May:

Pairs of gloves | 25.8 million | **Safety glasses | 442,380** | **Masks | 32.0 million**

BORDER MEASURES

Status: Managed isolation and quarantine operating well

New arrivals into New Zealand continue to be only New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. These people are closely assessed during disembarking.

All incoming passengers are required to enter a quarantine or managed isolation facility.

At 15 May:
115 in quarantine | **2,180** in managed isolation