

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 close 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, and all new current cases are linked to known clusters.

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 were permitted to open from 21 May. The next decision is whether to raise the number of people permitted at a gathering. Cabinet will consider that issue on Monday 25 May. We continue to emphasise the need for hygiene and physical distancing measures.

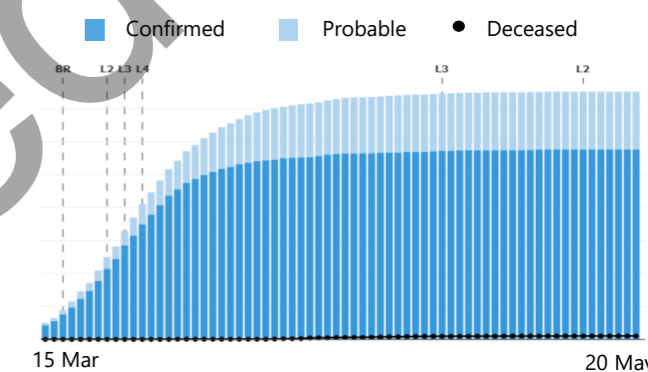
CURRENT STATE

As at 2pm 20 May:

1,503 Confirmed and probable cases

1,447 Recovered (96%)

71% European /other
13% 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 19 May, 238,725 tests have been conducted.

National capacity

5,097

7-day rolling average for week to 19 May

39

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 19 May, 0 percent of the 4,882 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.

Nelson-Marlborough | 247 tests processed | Awaiting 0 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 | 753 tests processed | Awaiting 69 results 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 | 145 tests processed | Awaiting results from 3 tests All results negative

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

South Canterbury | 156 tests processed | Awaiting results from 0 tests

Focusing on testing in Waimate.

Southern | No tests conducted between 11 May and 17 May

Waikato | 1,264 tests processed | Awaiting 2 results 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).

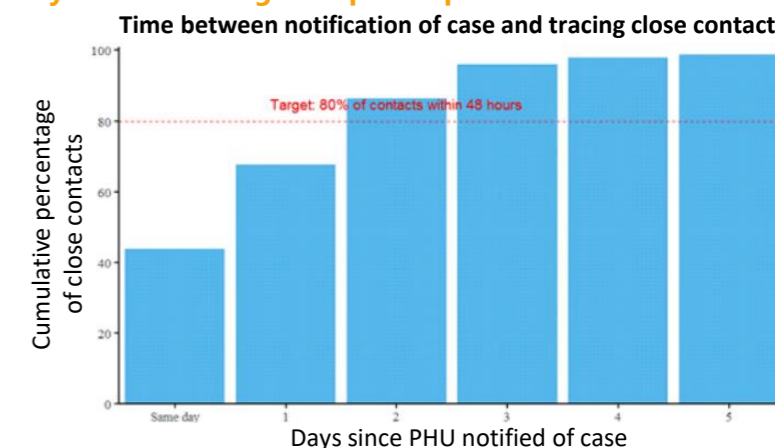
Whanganui | 212 tests processed | Awaiting 0 results All results negative

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

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

18 close contacts to a confirmed or probable COVID-19 case were identified and contacted on 19 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 our 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 86% of cases over the 13 April to 15 May period traced and isolated within two days.



HOSPITAL CAPACITY

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

As at 19 May there was one person in hospital for COVID-19 in New Zealand, with none in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

1 person in hospital
0 people in ICU
9,905 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 20 May there are 9,905 people registered in the surge capacity database of which 3,426 have indicated they are still available to work. Of those available, 552 are doctors and 892 are registered nurses. We have deployed 28 people into roles.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: We have sufficient PPE stocks for the health and disability workforce, and other essential workers currently. However there are potential challenges in some lines after the next two weeks

There is good stock of all PPE gear in the country right now (both from the Ministry of Health national reserves and DHB reserves). The sourcing and distribution of PPE are being managed at a national level, however global supply chain challenges remain. Potential future challenges in mask and glove supply are being worked through, including through exploring alternative sourcing options and ensuring that demand across DHBs is well managed

Total estimated stock on hand as at 18 May:

Gloves | 25.8 million
Safety glasses | 442,380
Masks | 32.1 million

TESTING

HEALTH SYSTEM UTILISATION

BORDER MEASURES

BORDER MEASURES

Status: Managed isolation and quarantine operating well

New arrivals into New Zealand continue to be mostly only New Zealand citizens or permanent residents, with some other essential workers entering the country on a case-by-case basis. These people are closely assessed during disembarking.

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

At 20 May:

103 in quarantine
2,092 in managed isolation