

## 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 supervised self-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.

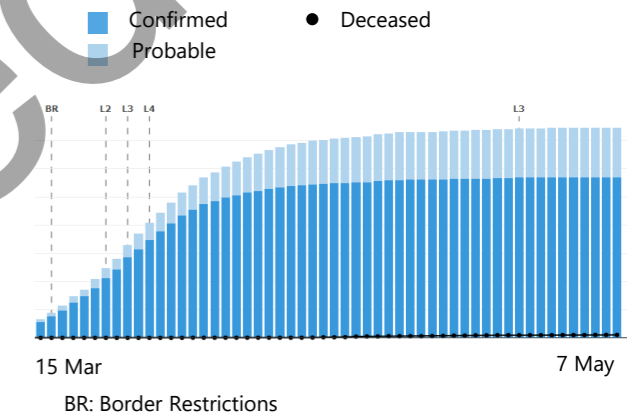
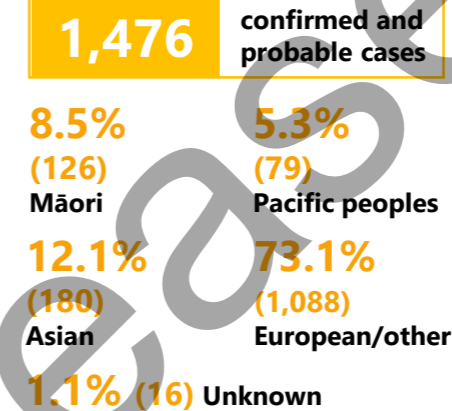
See below for an update on these measures to support our elimination strategy, and an overview of health system utilisation.

## SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

At present, we are progressing well against this strategy. Despite broadening the case definition for testing and increasing testing volumes, we have not observed an acceleration in the rate of new cases. The majority of cases have been acquired overseas or are close contacts of someone who acquired COVID-19 overseas. Approximately 4% of cases are potential community transmission. The rate of new cases is anticipated to continue to flatten over the coming weeks. We remain well behind other countries in the expected progress of COVID-19.

## CURRENT STATE

As at 1pm 7 May:



**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 7 May, 168,023 tests have been conducted.

### National capacity

**11,785** test capacity as at 7 May

**4,779** 7-day rolling average for week to 6 May

### Total tests, by ethnicity

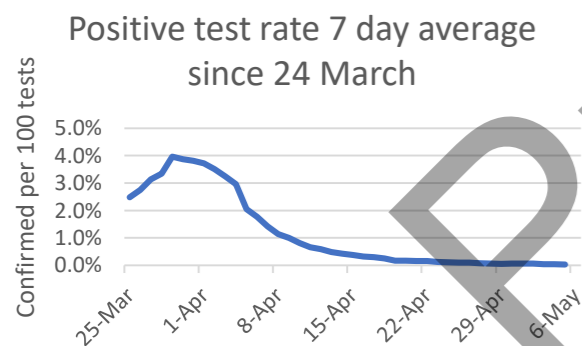
The ethnic breakdown of the tests undertaken between 22 Jan to 30 April is as follows:

- 18,616 Māori
- 9,487 Pacific Peoples
- 11,058 Asian
- 72,272 European/other/MELAA
- 2,771 Unknown

Total tests: 114,204

### Positive test rate

On 6 May, >0.1 percent of the 7,323 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.



### DHB testing this week (4-10 May)

**Auckland:** Testing of Marist cluster (staff and students); CMDHB: testing staff in labs, community health care workers.

**Bay of Plenty/Lakes:** Testing approx. 250 police officers.

**Canterbury/West Coast:** West Coast is offering asymptomatic testing in two remote rural communities and one Māori community (Arahura). Canterbury is testing lab workers, police, hospital staff and 11 aged residential facilities.

**Greater Wellington:** Focusing on case finding.

**Hawke's Bay:** Testing all staff working in the emergency department on a selected day and planning to test regional seasonal employment workers.

**MidCentral:** Testing in-home carers and staff of 10 aged care residential facilities across the district.

**Nelson-Marlborough:** Offering testing to health care and welfare workers and police who have been in contact with confirmed cases. Testing asymptomatic returnees from overseas, all staff at a local winery where there has been a case and workers at New World.

**Northland:** Testing staff in Kaitaia and Whangarei hospitals where there have been COVID hospitalisations.

**Tairāwhiti:** Focusing on extensive sampling around any cases that are presenting at mobile units.

**Taranaki:** Focusing on DHB staff in the local lab, CBAC, Emergency Departments at Base and Hawera hospitals, and a ward in the Base Hospital.

**South Canterbury:** Testing in Labs, ARC Facilities and police.

**Southern:** Testing Alliance Pukeuri staff and at Bluff and Murihiku marae.

**Waikato:** Testing aged residential care facilities (at least 11), staff in rural and Waikato hospitals, lab workers and police. Also targeting Māori using mobile CBACs and GP practices.

**Whanganui:** Focusing on case finding. Undertaking home visits and ARC swabbing.

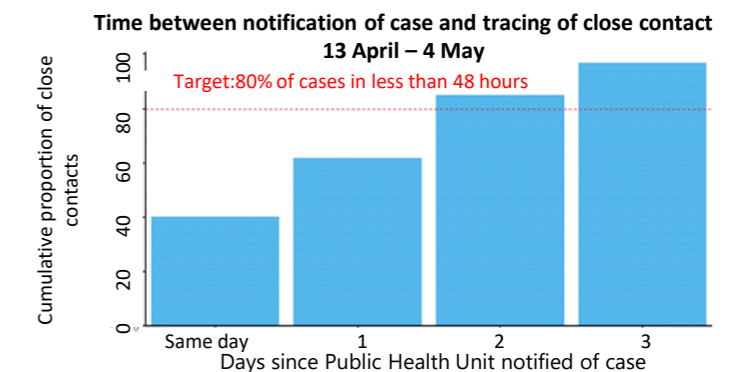
## HEALTH SYSTEM UTILISATION

### CONTACT TRACING

Status: **Building capacity and speed of contact tracing response**

Our contact tracing capacity is now at around 10,000 contacts per day. 43 close contacts were resolved on 6 May. The contact tracing centre has seen a reduction in the number of close contacts (now to 2-3 close contacts per person). This is likely due to the lockdown, which makes close contact tracing simpler.

In addition to capacity, timeliness measures are critical to understanding the performance of the testing and contact tracing systems. The Ministry is developing a monitoring framework that aligns with the critical indicators recommended in Dr Ayesha Verrall's Rapid Audit of Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in New Zealand.



### HOSPITAL CAPACITY

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

As at 6 May there were nine people in hospital for COVID-19 in New Zealand, with none in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

The Ministry is working to ensure there are sufficient staff to meet the potential growth in demand for ICU care. DHBs have been asked to train further nurses in the ICU specialty and postpone the rotation of Junior Doctors to maintain workforce competency. The Ministry is seeking retired healthcare professionals who would be willing to re-join the workforce to assist in the COVID-19 effort. As at 30 April, there were 3,350 additional professionals who had registered to support the COVID-19 effort if required (including 547 doctors and 946 nurses).

## BORDER MEASURES

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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 7 May:

**185**  
in quarantine

**2907**  
in managed isolation

### PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: **We have sufficient PPE stocks to supply 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 6 May:

**24.4 million**

pairs of gloves

**332,235**

safety glasses

**32.1 million**

masks