

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.

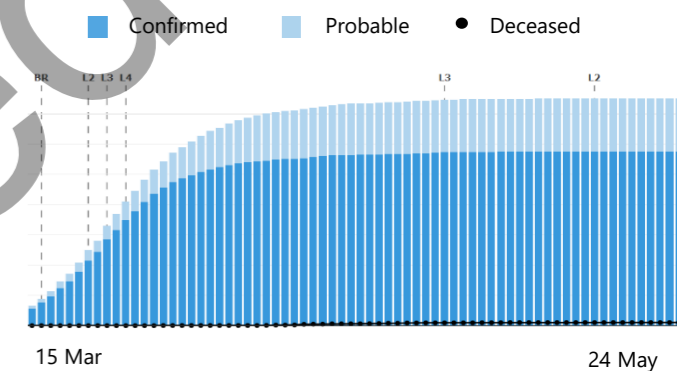
CURRENT STATE

As at 11am 24 May:

1,504 Confirmed and probable cases

1,456 Recovered (96%)

73% 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 23 May, 259,152 tests have been conducted.

National capacity

4,429 7-day rolling average for week to 23 May

176,302 Supplies in stock as at 24 May

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 22 May, 0 percent of the 5,604 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.

MidCentral | 201 tests processed | Awaiting 2 results

All results negative
Community volunteers, ambulance, laboratory staff, supermarket staff and customers

Nelson-Marlborough | 78 tests processed | Awaiting 13 results

All results negative
Returned international travellers and household contacts; airport staff - particularly baggage handlers; Māori - healthcare staff and targeted testing; Pacific - RSE workers moving to Nelson Marlborough from other districts and other targeted testing; pharmacy; shipping.

Northland | 143 tests processed | Awaiting 73 results

All results negative
Prison; cleaners; pharmacy; targeted supermarkets.

Tairāwhiti | 43 tests processed | Awaiting 11 results

All results negative
Police; hospital and ARC staff; supermarket workers.

Taranaki | 221 tests processed | Awaiting 4 results

All results negative
Healthcare workers; a larger non-health employer; ambulance, Corrections, and community laboratory staff.

South Canterbury | 15 tests processed | Awaiting 163 results

All results negative
Focusing on testing in Waimate.

Southern | No tests conducted between 11 May and 22 May

Waikato | 424 tests processed | Awaiting 0 results

All results negative
ARC staff, carers including ancillary; GP surgeries and co-located pharmacists; supermarket workers; Waikato DHB staff; Corrections-Probation office; quarantine hotel staff; NGO staff (incl. Iwi); Mobile CBACs targeting Maori.

Whanganui | 30 tests processed | Awaiting 0 results

All results negative
Focusing on case finding. Undertaking home visits and ARC swabbing.

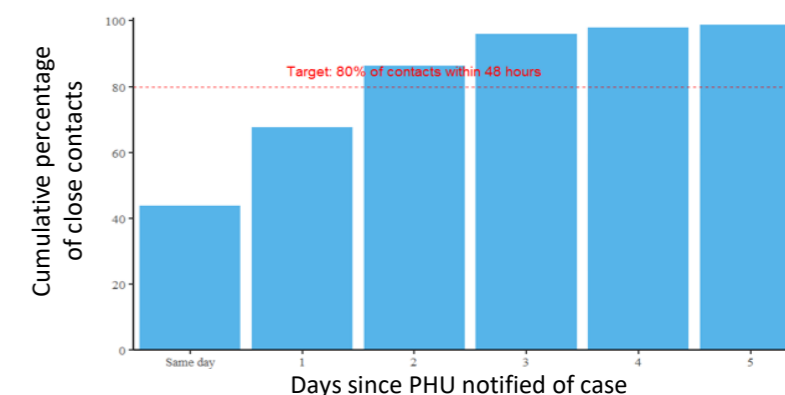
CONTACT TRACING | Status: Sufficient capacity and continuing to improve speed

Close contact tracing activity has been low because of the low case numbers. For the week from 9-15 May inclusive, there were six cases and 29 close contacts.

The target for tracing is to have 80% of cases' close contacts traced within 48 hours of PHUs being notified of a case. We are at 86% for the period from 13 April – 15 May.

Currently PHUs have the capacity to investigate up to 185 cases per day. Additionally the NCCS has the ability to scale to make 10,000 calls per day.

Time between notification of case and tracing close contact



HOSPITAL CAPACITY

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

As at 23 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
9,911 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 21 May there are 9,911 people registered in the surge capacity database of which 3,430 have indicated they are still available to work. Of those available, 553 are doctors and 893 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 21 May:

Gloves | 23.0 million
Safety glasses | 480,643
Masks | 40.5 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 11:59pm 21 May:

107 in quarantine
2,110 in managed isolation