



# New Zealand – Situation update

## 10 March 2021

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Information presented in this assessment is based on New Zealand’s publicly available information provided on the New Zealand Ministry of Health website.<sup>1</sup>

Summary of Cases as at 11:00 AEDT, 10 March 2021		
	Total	Change in last 7 days
Confirmed cases	2,054	26*
Probable cases	356	0
Total (confirmed and probable)	2,410	26*
Deaths	26	0
Current hospitalised	0	0

*\*Although New Zealand reported 27 cases this week, the total only increased by 26 because one previously reported historical case has been removed from case counts due to being reported and counted as a case in another country.*

Source of acquisition of cases* for the 7 days to 10 March 2021	
Overseas acquired/associated	27
Locally acquired	0

*\* New Zealand categorises overseas acquired/associated cases (including those in managed isolation in New Zealand) as ‘at the border’; New Zealand categorises locally acquired cases as ‘in the community’.*

### New Zealand quarantine-free travel criteria

- Between 13 February and 1 March 2021, the New Zealand Ministry of Health reported 15 cases of COVID-19 in one cluster (the “Auckland February Cluster”) linked to the Papatoetoe High School in South Auckland. All cases were infected with the UK variant B.1.1.7.
  - Minimal risk remains from this cluster. Thirteen of the cases have now recovered from their infection and have been released from quarantine, while

<sup>1</sup> <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

two active cases remain in an Auckland quarantine facility. The majority of close and casual plus contacts have undergone testing, with 99 per cent of close contacts having received one test and 96 per cent of close contacts having received their Day 12 test.

- Widespread community testing has been conducted with no further cases reported.
- On 7 March 2021, New Zealand reported that an Air New Zealand crew member returned a positive test during routine testing.
  - They are believed to have acquired the infection while in Japan; the crew member returned from Japan on 28 February 2021. The case is infected with the Russian variant B.1.1.317, which is not considered a variant of concern – and confirms that this case is not related to the Auckland February Cluster.
  - Other crew members, and the case’s household members, have so far returned negative results.
  - There are two locations of interest associated with the case.
  - New Zealand authorities have assessed that there is a low risk of further spread because the case isolated at home in Auckland from 28 February 2021 complying with Alert Level 3 requirements at that time, and was moved to a managed quarantine facility following return of a positive result on 7 March 2021.
- At 06:00 NZDT 7 March 2021, Auckland moved to Alert Level 2, and the remainder of New Zealand to Alert Level 1.

#### **Advice for green zone flights from New Zealand**

- On 9 March 2021, the Chief Medical Officer determined that the Auckland hotspot should be lifted, and that Green Zone flights from New Zealand to Australia can resume from 11:59 pm AEDT on Thursday 11 March 2021.
- Note: some jurisdictions have implemented arrangements which differ to those above. All travellers are advised to check the arrangements in both their place of arrival and place of final destination.

## Summary of locally acquired cases

Date	Locally acquired cases	Rolling 3-day average
4 March 2021	0	0
5 March 2021	0	0
6 March 2021	0	0
7 March 2021	0*	0
8 March 2021	0	0
9 March 2021	0	0
10 March 2021	0	0

\*The air crew member that tested positive to COVID-19 on 7 March 2021 has been classified by New Zealand as a 'at the border case' and not 'in the community'. We await the outcome of the public health investigation by New Zealand to confirm if this case will be categorised as 'of unknown source'.

	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	01/03/21	9
Last locally acquired case of unknown source	13/02/21*	25

\*As there is no identified source of infection for Case A at 24 February 2021, this constitutes a case of unknown source. The New Zealand Ministry of Health has not yet classified this case as the last locally acquired of unknown source in New Zealand.



Chief Medical Officer  
 Professor Paul Kelly  
 11 March 2021