New Zealand – Situation update   
17 March 2021

17 March 2021

**Information presented in this assessment is based on New Zealand’s publicly available information provided on the New Zealand Ministry of Health website.[[1]](#footnote-2)**

| **Summary of Cases as at 11:00 AEDT, 17 March 2021** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total** | **Change in last 7 days** |
| **Confirmed cases** | 2078 | 24\* |
| **Probable cases** | 356 | 0 |
| **Total (confirmed and probable)** | 2434 | 24 |
| **Deaths** | 26 | 0 |
| **Current hospitalised** | 0 | 1 |

*\*New Zealand has reported via media releases 25 cases in the last 7 days, however, one has since been reclassified during the last 7 days as ‘under investigation’ and therefore, the change in total number of confirmed cases is only 24.*

| **Source of acquisition of cases\* for the 7 days to 17 March 2021** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Overseas acquired/associated** | 23 |
| **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’.*

*\*\*2 cases reported on 13 March 2021 were* ***historical and not infectious*** *but classified by New Zealand as locally acquired.*

# New Zealand – COVID-19 Situation

* The South Auckland based cluster of 15 community acquired cases that had the B.1.1.7 (UK) variant initially reported on 14 February 2021, no longer presents a risk to Australia through ‘green zone’ flights from New Zealand to Australia.
* On this basis, the Chief Medical Officer de-listed Auckland as a declared Hotspot for the Commonwealth on 11.59 pm AEDT, 11 March 2021, allowing green zone flights to resume as of 11.59 pm AEDT, 11 March 2021.
* This decision also took into consideration a confirmed case of COVID-19 for an Air New Zealand crew member servicing flights between Japan and New Zealand, reported on 7 March 2021.
  + This case did not have a variant of concern, and all other members of the same crew and their contacts have tested negative to COVID-19.
  + Since this date (7 March 2021), no further cases of COVID-19 have been reported in the community.
* New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 1.
* Note: some jurisdictions have implemented arrangements which differ to those above.

# Summary of locally acquired cases

| **Date** | **Locally acquired cases** | **Rolling 3-day average** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **11 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **12 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **13 March 2021** | 0\*\* | 0 |
| **14 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **15 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **16 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **17 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |

*\*\*2 cases reported on 13 March 2021 were initially classified by New Zealand as locally acquired,* ***however these were historical and not infectious in the community*** *therefore counted as ‘0’.*

|  | **Notification Date** | **Number of days** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Last locally acquired case | 01/03/21\* | 16 |
| Last locally acquired case of unknown source | 13/02/21\*\* | 32 |

*\*The most recent case infectious while in the community, the crew member notified on 7 March 2021, was classified as overseas acquired*

*\*\*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

17 March 2021

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1. <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus> [↑](#footnote-ref-2)