New Zealand – Situation update   
24 March 2021

24 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, 24 March 2021** | | |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | **Total** | **Change in last 7 days** |
| **Confirmed cases** | 2114 | 36 |
| **Deaths** | 26 | 0 |
| **Current hospitalised** | 0 | -1 |

| **Source of acquisition of cases\* for the 7 days to 24 March 2021** | |
| --- | --- |
| **Overseas acquired/associated** | 35 |
| **Locally acquired** | 1\*\* |

*\* 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’.*

***\*\*This number is the managed isolation worker who returned a positive test result to COVID-19 on 22 March 2021.***

New Zealand – COVID-19 Situation

* On 22 March 2021, New Zealand reported a positive COVID-19 test result in a border worker at a managed isolation and quarantine facility in Auckland.
  + The case (Case A) was asymptomatic and identified through routine surveillance testing, a requirement of their employment.
  + The case lives in a household of 5.
  + One household member initially returned a weak positive test result but repeat PCR and serological testing were both negative. This person is classified as a close contact and not a confirmed case.
  + The remaining household members returned negative test results.
  + Case A and the household member that initially returned a weak positive test result are in a managed isolation facility.
  + Remaining household members, and other close contacts for Case A, are self-isolating at home.
* Whole genome sequencing showed that Case A was infected with the B.1.1.7 strain of COVID-19, and a close match to a person that had returned from overseas that was in the facility between 13 – 15 March 2021.
* The New Zealand Ministry of Health website has published one location of interest in relation to Case A: Mt Roskill Countdown supermarket in Auckland on Saturday 20 March.
* We are in close contact with the New Zealand Ministry of Health concerning this event and are monitoring the situation closely.
* New Zealand is currently at Alert Level 1.

# Summary of locally acquired cases

| **Date** | **Locally acquired cases** | **Rolling 3-day average** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **18 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **19 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **20 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **21 March 2021** | 0 | 0 |
| **22 March 2021** | 1 | 0.33 |
| **23 March 2021** | 0 | 0.33 |
| **24 March 2021** | 0 | 0.33 |

|  | **Notification Date** | **Number of days** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Last locally acquired case | 22/03/21 | 2 |
| Last locally acquired case of unknown source | 13/02/21 | 39 |



Chief Medical Officer

Professor Paul Kelly

24 March 2021

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