



New Zealand – Situation update

14 April 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

Current Assessment Summary

- Three cases of COVID-19 in border workers from the Grand Millennium Hotel managed isolation and quarantine facility (MIQ) in Auckland have been reported by New Zealand during the period of 22 March through to 11 April 2021.
- These cases are known as the 'March Auckland Cluster', and include:
 - Case A, a cleaner, reported on 22 March 2021;
 - Case B, a security guard, reported on 8 April 2021; and
 - Case C, a security guard, and co-worker of Case B, reported late on 11 April 2021 (and officially counted on 12 April 2021).
- Case A and B are considered to have been infectious in the community.
 - Case C was isolating at home at the time they returned a positive result for COVID-19 as this person had already been identified as a close contact of Case B.
 - This person had limited community exposure prior to testing positive.
- All cases have closely matching whole genome sequencing and are confirmed to have the B.1.1.7 variant.
 - The cases are genomically linked to a returnee who arrived at the Grand Millennium Hotel MIQ on 13 March 2021.
- All cases were moved to an isolation facility following the return of a positive test result.
- Investigations are underway to determine the epidemiological links between the cases.
- As of 14 April 2021 contact tracing is complete, with the majority of contacts returning negative initial test results. Follow up testing of close and close plus contacts will occur as per process
- The New Zealand Ministry of Health have assessed the public health risk to the wider community from these cases is low.
- There is currently no evidence the March Auckland Cluster will impact current travel arrangements, and Australia continues to monitor this situation closely.
- New Zealand remains at Alert Level 1.

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

- Announced 8 April 2021, New Zealand has a temporary suspension of arrivals from India that will take effect at 1600 hrs (NZST) on 11 April 2021 until 28 April 2021.

Summary of Cases as at 11:00 AEDT, 14 April 2021		
	Total	Change in last 7 days
Confirmed cases	2233	58
Deaths	26	0
Current hospitalised	0	0

Source of acquisition of cases* for the 7 days to 14 April 2021	
Overseas acquired/associated	56
Locally acquired	2

**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'.*

Summary of locally acquired cases

Date	Locally acquired cases	Rolling 3-day average
8 April 2021	1	0.33
9 April 2021	0	0.33
10 April 2021	0	0.33
11 April 2021	0	0
12 April 2021*	1	0.33
13 April 2021	0	0.33
14 April 2021	0	0.33

**This case was reported late on 11 April 2021, and officially included in the figures on 12 April 2021.*

	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	12/04/2021	2
Last locally acquired case of unknown source	13/02/2021	60



Chief Medical Officer
 Professor Paul Kelly
 14 April 2021