



New Zealand – Situation update

21 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

- **Previously**, 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.
 - There have been no further cases associated with this cluster and all contacts have tested negative for COVID-19.
- On 20 April 2021, New Zealand reported a case in a border worker at Auckland Airport. This person is in a non-public facing role, and is employed to clean planes. They routinely clean planes arriving from countries where COVID-19 is widespread.
 - The case was fully vaccinated and the second vaccination occurred during mid-March which suggests that full immunity should have been achieved.
 - The case was routinely tested weekly. They tested negative on 12 April 2021 and positive on 20 April 2021 (sample collected 19 April).
 - The case worked three shifts between 17 - 20 April 2021. This person is estimated to have been infectious from 17 April 2021.
 - Five household contacts have tested negative and are in quarantine at home.
 - 25 close contacts, including 17 work colleagues, have been identified and are in quarantine, seven have tested negative, one is being followed up and the remainder are not yet due for their day five test.
 - Whole genome sequencing identified that the case was infected with the U.K. variant (B.1.1.7).
 - New Zealand reported that the sequence was identical to that of an infectious incoming passenger (that has undertaken quarantine on arrival) who arrived in New Zealand on 10 April 2021. It has been confirmed that this case was involved in cleaning the plane the infectious passenger travelled on.
 - The case is reported to have complied with all protocols including using PPE whilst cleaning the planes and had no contact with outbound passengers.
 - There are currently three locations of interest identified – all are in Auckland. New Zealand has categorised anyone that has attended these locations as a casual contact

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

- At this stage, New Zealand has assessed this event is a low risk to the public. New Zealand remains at Alert Level 1.

Summary of Cases as at 11:00 AEDT, 21 April 2021		
	Total	Change in last 7 days
Confirmed cases	2243	10*
Deaths	26	0
Current hospitalised	1	1

* New Zealand reported 13 cases this week but the number of confirmed cases only increased by 10. This was because two previous cases were reclassified as historical and acquired overseas, and 1 previously reported case was reclassified as 'under investigation'.

Source of acquisition of cases* for the 7 days to 21 April 2021	
Overseas acquired/associated	12*
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'.

* New Zealand reported 13 cases this week but the number of confirmed cases only increased by 10. This was because two previous cases were reclassified as historical and acquired overseas, and 1 previously reported case was reclassified as 'under investigation'.

Summary of locally acquired cases

Date	Locally acquired cases	Rolling 3-day average
15 April 2021	0	0
16 April 2021	0	0
17 April 2021	0	0
18 April 2021	0	0
19 April 2021	0	0
20 April 2021	1*	0.33
21 April 2021	0	0.33

*This case was reported later on 20 April 2021, therefore only included in official case numbers on 21 April 2021.

	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	20/04/2021	1
Last locally acquired case of unknown source	13/02/2021	67



Chief Medical Officer
Professor Paul Kelly
21 April 2021