New Zealand – Situation update   
14 July 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)**

# Current Assessment Summary

* There have been no locally acquired cases of COVID-19 in the last 7 days.
* Two mariners who transited through Auckland airport tested positive in an on-arrival test for COVID-19. By the time the test results were available, they were aboard their vessel (Viking Bay) off the coast of New Zealand.
  + The ship subsequently returned to Wellington and all 20 crew members were tested. Fifteen returned positive results and were transferred to a managed quarantine facility.
  + On 13 July 2021, one of the five remaining crew members became unwell and was transferred to an on-shore quarantine facility in Wellington. This crew member has previously retuned a negative test result. A further test result is expected late on 14 July 2021.
  + The four remaining crew members have stayed on the vessel to comply with maritime safety requirements. They are subject to additional testing in coming days.
  + Genome sequencing has revealed that twelve of the crew are infected with the Delta variant. These twelve cases are linked to each other but not to the first case detected on the vessel.
* A second ship, the Spanish flagged Playa Zahara, has reported a flu-like illness among crew members. The boat docked at a quarantine berth, testing was conducted and then the boat moved offshore. If all crew test negative, the boat will return to harbour to undertake a crew exchange.
* New Zealand assesses that due to infection control protocols, there was minimal risk to the public and both these events are a low risk.
  + There are no associated locations of interest.
* All of New Zealand is at Alert Level 1.

|  | **Total** |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative confirmed cases – last week | 2,407 |
| New cases – managed quarantine | 28 |
| New cases – locally acquired | 0 |
| Cases removed or reclassified | -1 |
| Cumulative confirmed cases – this week | 2,434 |

**Hospitalisations and deaths**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  |  |
| Cumulative deaths | 26 |
| Currently hospitalised | 0 |

**Summary of locally acquired cases**

|  | **Notification Date** | **Number of days** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Last locally acquired case | 20/04/2021 | 85 |
| Last locally acquired case of unknown source | 13/02/2021 | 151 |

**Travel impacts**

* New Zealand has resumed quarantine-free travel with WA, NT, QLD, ACT, SA, TAS and VIC.
* Quarantine-free travel from these jurisdictions will not be permitted for people who have been in a location of interest in Australia; or in NSW after 2230 hours NZT on 26 June 2021.
* Quarantine-free travel from NSW to New Zealand remains paused.
* Travellers from eligible jurisdictions are required to provide evidence of a negative COVID-19 PCR test taken within three days (72 hours) of departure.



Chief Medical Officer

Professor Paul Kelly

14 July 2021

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