



New Zealand – Situation update

21 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

Current Assessment Summary

- There have been no locally acquired cases of COVID-19 in the last 7 days.
- There have been three maritime vessels that have arrived in New Zealand this month that have a number of crew return positive test results for COVID-19, including the Delta variant being confirmed for some cases. These events are being managed in accordance with public health protocols and are considered a low risk.
 - The 'Viking Bay' fishing vessel is currently docked in Queens Wharf Wellington. Sixteen crew members who tested positive for COVID-19 remain in a quarantine facility in Wellington. A further 3 crew members who tested positive remain on board the ship. Whole genome sequencing confirms that 12 of the crew members are infected with the Delta variant. The cases are all linked, but not all are linked to the initial case on the vessel or to any confirmed case found in New Zealand.
 - The fishing vessel 'Playa Zahara' is currently docked at Lyttelton at a secure quarantine berth. Sixteen of the 18 crew members have tested positive for COVID-19. Thirteen crew members have been transferred to a quarantine facility in Christchurch, the remaining five are on board to comply with maritime safety protocols. Whole genome sequencing results from 3 of the crew confirm that the individuals are positive for the Delta variant, and that they are not linked to any previously confirmed cases in New Zealand or to the Viking Bay cases.
 - Currently, there are 9 confirmed positive COVID-19 cases on the container ship 'Mattina' docked at Bluff (Invercargill). Two crew members have been transferred to hospital for assessment and the follow up test results for the remaining crew are due 22 July 2021.
- New Zealand assesses that due to infection control protocols, there was minimal risk to the public and these three events are a low risk.
 - There are no associated locations of interest.
- All of New Zealand is at Alert Level 1.

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

	Total
Cumulative confirmed cases – last week	2,434
New cases – managed quarantine	41
New cases – locally acquired	0
Cases removed or reclassified	-3
Cumulative confirmed cases – this week	2,472

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	92
Last locally acquired case of unknown source	13/02/2021	158

Travel impacts

- New Zealand **continues** quarantine-free travel with Queensland, Northern Territory, Western Australia, Tasmania and the ACT. **New Zealand is closely monitoring the situation in Queensland.**
- Quarantine-free travel from 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; **or in Victoria after 0159 hours NTZ on 15 July 2021.**
- Quarantine-free travel from NSW **and Victoria** to New Zealand remains paused. **The pause will be reviewed on 27 July 2021.**
- **Quarantine-free travel from South Australia to New Zealand has been paused. The pause will be reviewed on 27 July 2021.**
- 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
 21 July 2021