



New Zealand – Situation Update

18 August 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

- New Zealand's officially recorded total of locally acquired cases is 7, at the time of this report. A further 3 cases have been announced by the New Zealand Ministry of Health.
- On 17 August 2021, New Zealand reported a case of COVID-19 in the community. Case A is an unvaccinated 58-year-old male from north Auckland who was tested on 16 August 2021 after presenting to his GP on 14 August 2021 with flu-like symptoms.
- Case A is considered to have been infectious from Thursday 12 August 2021.
- The case lives with his wife, who has so far tested negative and is fully vaccinated.
- Whole genome sequencing confirmed Case A has the Delta variant, with the closest international match being the current New South Wales cluster.
- At the time of this report, some 23 locations of interest have been reported in connection with Case A, with 13 in Coromandel (located 168km east of Auckland) and 10 in Auckland.
- In addition to Case A, six further cases were reported in Auckland by New Zealand at 1100 hrs NZT, 18 August 2021.
- These cases include a work colleague of Case A, two of the work colleague's housemates, a housemate's partner, and two additional cases who are undergoing case investigation interviews for further information. This group of cases includes a teacher and health care worker.
- As at 1100 hrs NZT 18 August 2021, 16 contacts have been identified, with 14 contacted and two in the process of being traced and contacted. Of these contacts, one positive result (included in the above six cases) and two negative results have been returned, with a further 13 results not yet returned.
- Four of the 16 contacts are fully vaccinated (Pfizer), three have had one dose, and the remainder are unvaccinated, reflecting that the majority of these individuals would not yet have been offered vaccination due to not yet meeting the eligibility for vaccination, they are aged in their twenties.
- A wastewater sample collected from Rosedale on Auckland's North Shore on 11 August 2021 has tested negative. An additional wastewater sample collected on 16 August 2021 is currently being tested.

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

- The three most recently announced cases concern: (i) A man in his twenties who is the partner of a known case (ii) A woman in her sixties that has a connection to the border and (iii) A woman in her twenties connected to a known case.
- New Zealand moved to Alert Level 4 at 2359 hrs NZT, Tuesday 17 August 2021 for at least seven days for the Auckland and Coromandel regions and at least three days for the rest of New Zealand.

Summary	Total
Cumulative confirmed cases – last week	2,548
New cases – managed quarantine	26
New cases – locally acquired	10
Cases removed or reclassified	- 1
Cumulative confirmed cases – this week	2,580

Hospitalisations and deaths

Cumulative deaths	26
Currently hospitalised	2

Summary of locally acquired cases

	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	18/08/2021	0
Last locally acquired case of unknown source	17/08/2021	1

Travel impacts

- Quarantine-free travel from all Australian states and territories to New Zealand was suspended from 23 July 2021 due to the worsening COVID-19 situation in Australia. The suspension will be for a minimum period of eight weeks and will be reviewed in September 2021.
- Aside from managed return flights operating between 9 to 22 August 2021 from New South Wales, flights are currently not operating to New Zealand from elsewhere in Australia.
- The Chief Medical Officer continues to closely monitor the emerging situation in New Zealand and assess the implications for Australia and travel.
- The Alert Level 4 in New Zealand does not impact quarantine-free flights departing New Zealand to Australia.
- A number of jurisdictions have, or are, considering changed entry requirements for travellers entering their jurisdictions from New Zealand, as well as measures for those who have been known to travel from New Zealand during the period cases have been considered infectious in the community.



Professor Paul Kelly
 Chief Medical Officer
 18 August 2021