



# New Zealand – Situation Update

## 15 September 2021

Information presented in this assessment is based on New Zealand's publicly available information provided on the New Zealand Ministry of Health website.<sup>1</sup>

### Current Assessment Summary

- New Zealand has officially recorded a total of **983** locally acquired cases in the current outbreak, at the time of this report.
- Currently, all of New Zealand except for Auckland is at Alert Level 2.
- **Auckland remains at Alert Level 4 with the Government of New Zealand to review Alert Levels for all regions on Monday 20 September 2021.**
- On 17 August 2021, New Zealand reported a case of COVID-19 in the community. This case (Case A) is considered to have been infectious from Thursday 12 August 2021. Whole genome sequencing confirmed Case A has the Delta variant, with the closest international match being the current New South Wales cluster.
- Of the **983** cases reported in the current outbreak, **36** cases are not yet linked.
- There are currently **20** hospitalisations, with **four** in ICU.
- Of the locally acquired cases, **966** are in Auckland and 17 of these cases are in Wellington.
- At **1200 hrs NZT 15 September 2021** there are **135** locations of interest events tabled that have been reported across the North Island including across the greater Auckland region and Wellington.
- As at **1300 hrs NZT 15 September 2021**, **970** active contacts are being managed. To note, on **14 September 2021**, New Zealand authorities announced they would no longer be reporting all contacts and instead only report on active contacts under management.
  - **95 per cent** of these have been contacted, and **90 per cent** have returned at least one test result.
- Wastewater sampling continues to be undertaken from 125 locations across New Zealand, including 86 locations on the North Island, and 39 on the South Island. As at **15 September 2021**, an unexpected detection from Snells Beach (north of the Auckland region) was reported. Additional testing and further investigation is underway. Additionally, on **14 September 2021**, there was a positive detection from a sample from Pukekohe (South Auckland). Health officials are aware of two recently recovered cases that live in this area who were recently released from quarantine on **30 August 2021** and **4 September 2021**. Further investigations are being carried out.

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

Summary	Total
Cumulative confirmed cases – last week	3,473
New cases – managed quarantine	27
New cases – locally acquired	129
Cases removed or reclassified*	-4
Cumulative confirmed cases – this week	3,625

*\*Reclassified cases are calculated from NZ Ministry of Health official reports, daily press conferences and media releases, as they are not uniformly reported via one source.*

**Hospitalisations and deaths**

Cumulative deaths	27
Currently hospitalised	20

**Summary of locally acquired cases**

	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	15/09/2021	0
Last locally acquired case of unknown source	17/08/2021	29

**Travel impacts**

- On 14 September 2021, the Australian Chief Medical Officer announced that the Australian Government would continue the pause of green zone flights from New Zealand to Australia until 11:59pm (AEST) on 21 September 2021. Until this time, all flights originating in New Zealand will be classified as Red Zone flights. The pause will be reviewed on 21 September 2021.
- 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 reviewed by New Zealand toward the end of September 2021.



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 Chief Medical Officer  
 16 September 2021