



New Zealand – Situation Update

29 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.¹

Current Assessment Summary

- New Zealand has officially recorded a total of **1,230** locally acquired cases in the current outbreak at the time of this report.
- On 21 September 2021, Auckland moved to Alert Level 3.
- **The upper Hauraki region is currently at Alert Level 3 due to approved travel of an infected person from Auckland that resulted in infection of a single household.**
- The remainder of New Zealand is at Alert Level 2.
- The Government of New Zealand will review Alert Levels for all regions on Monday 4 October 2021.

Outbreak Summary

- The current outbreak commenced on 17 August 2021.
- Of the **1,230** cases reported in the current outbreak, **37** cases are not yet epidemiologically linked. **A portion of these 37 are cases that have since recovered and not epidemiologically active.**
- There are currently **16** hospitalisations, with **three** in ICU.
- All the active locally acquired cases are in Auckland.
- At **1200 hrs NZT 29 September 2021**, there are **91** locations of interest events tabled that have been reported across the North Island, all of which are in the greater Auckland region.
- As at **1300 hrs NZT 29 September 2021**, **951** active contacts are being managed.
 - **92** per cent of these people have been contacted, and **91** per cent have returned at least one test result.
- **The COVID-19 wastewater testing program reported a positive detection from a sample collected on 23 September 2021 in the Tauranga area. Additional samples have been collected and are being tested to determine if the finding can be confirmed. Enhanced testing activities resulted in the collection of samples from 400 people in the Tauranga area in the 24 hours to 29 September 2021.**

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

Summary	Total
Cumulative confirmed cases – last week	3,763
New cases – managed quarantine	11
New cases – locally acquired	123
Cases removed or reclassified*	-5
Cumulative confirmed cases – this week	3,892

*Reclassified cases are calculated from New Zealand 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	16

Summary of locally acquired cases

	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	29/09/2021	0
Last locally acquired case of unknown source	17/08/2021	43

Travel impacts

- On 21 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 5 October 2021. Until this time, all flights originating in New Zealand will be classified as Red Zone flights. The pause will be reviewed on 5 October 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. This suspension was extended by the New Zealand Government for at least a further eight weeks on 17 September 2021 and is scheduled to be reviewed in late November 2021.
- On 27 September 2021, the New Zealand Government announced it would open one-way quarantine-free travel from select Pacific Island countries to New Zealand. The arrangement will come into effect from 04 October 2021 for Vanuatu and 12 October 2021 for Samoa and Tonga. To be eligible, individuals will require at least one vaccination prior to departure and must remain in a bubble at their destination for seven days, with tests on Day 0 and Day 5.



Professor Paul Kelly
Chief Medical Officer
30 September 2021