



New Zealand – Situation Update

13 October 2021

Information presented in this assessment is based on New Zealand's publicly available information provided on the [New Zealand Ministry of Health website](#).

Current Assessment Summary

- New Zealand has officially recorded a total of **1,719** locally acquired cases in the current outbreak at the time of this report.
- From 11:59pm on Tuesday 5 October 2021, Auckland entered the first step of their three-step plan to ease restrictions. During this first step, Auckland remains at Alert Level 3, but restrictions on outdoor gatherings, exercise and recreation have been slightly eased. **Revised guidelines announced on 11 October 2021 means that schools will not reopen from Monday 18 October 2021, but remote learning will continue. The Alert Level for Auckland will be re-assessed by New Zealand Cabinet on 18 October 2021.**
- **Northland and parts of Waikato (Raglan, Te Kauwhata, Huntly, Ngāruawāhia, Hamilton City and some surrounding areas) have moved to Alert Level 3. These areas are not subject to easing of restrictions as announced for Auckland. The Alert Level for these regions will be re-assessed by New Zealand cabinet on 18 October 2021.**
- The remainder of New Zealand is at Alert Level 2.

Outbreak Summary

- The current outbreak commenced on 17 August 2021.
- Of the **1,719** cases reported in the current outbreak, **107** cases are not yet epidemiologically linked. **75** cases in the past 14 days are currently unlinked.
- There are currently **32** hospitalisations, with **six** in ICU.
- Most active cases remain concentrated in Auckland region, **but 37 cases** have recently been identified in Waikato (which is south of Auckland's border).
- As at **10:00am NZT 13 October 2021**, there are **402** locations of interest events tabled that have been reported across the North Island, most of which are in the Auckland region. Some locations have been listed outside of Auckland including in Palmerston North, **Whangerei, Hamilton** and Raglan (all on the North Island of New Zealand). **No locations of interest have been reported from the South Island.**
- As at **11:00am NZT 13 October 2021**, **2,336** active contacts are being managed.
 - **78** per cent of these people have been contacted, and **77** per cent have returned at least one test result.
- Wastewater sample collection has been arranged from locations within the Waikato and Manawatū-Whanganui regions following the identification of cases in the broader region. This

includes Raglan, Huntly, Te Kauwhata, Ngaruawahia, Feilding, Hunterville, Tokoroa, Putaruru, Hamilton and Palmerston North. **There have been no unexpected detections reported from regions where no cases are reported, including from the South Island.**

Summary	Total
Cumulative confirmed cases – last week	4,092
New cases – managed quarantine	11
New cases – locally acquired	300
Cases removed or reclassified*	-3
Cumulative confirmed cases – this week	4,400

* 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	Total
Cumulative deaths	28
Currently hospitalised	32

Summary of locally acquired cases	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	13/10/2021	0
Last locally acquired case of unknown source [^]	29/09/2021	14

[^] Source: [New Zealand COVID-19 Surveillance Dashboard \(esr.cri.nz\)](https://esr.cri.nz/). As case investigations continue for the current outbreak, this date will be revised on an ongoing basis.

Travel impacts

- On **12 October 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 **19 October 2021**. Until this time, all flights originating in New Zealand will be classified as Red Zone flights. The pause will be reviewed on **19 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 and is scheduled to be reviewed again 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 4 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
13 October 2021