New Zealand – Situation Update   
20 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*](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus)***.***

# **Current Assessment Summary**

* New Zealand has officially recorded a total of 2,158 locally acquired cases in the current outbreak at the time of this report.
* On 18 October 2021, New Zealand Cabinet announced that:
  + Auckland will remain at Alert Level 3 until at least 01 November 2021.
  + Northland will move to Alert Level 2 from 11:59 pm NZT on Tuesday 19 October 2021.
  + Waikato will remain at Alert Level 3 until at least 11:59pm NZT 22 October 2021.
  + The rest of New Zealand will remain at Alert Level 2.

# **Outbreak Summary**

* The current outbreak commenced on 17 August 2021.
* Of the 2,158 cases reported in the current outbreak, 201 cases are not yet epidemiologically linked, 166 of which were reported in the past 14 days.
* There are currently 43 hospitalisations, with five in ICU.
* There are 767 active community cases - 721 in the Auckland region and 46 in Waikato.
* As at 10:00am NZT 20 October 2021, there are 417 locations of interest that have been reported across the North Island, with the majority in the Auckland region.
* As at 11:00am NZT 20 October 2021, 2,100 active contacts are being managed – 83% of these have been contacted and 78% have returned at least one test result.
* Positive wastewater detections are being reported across Auckland and the Waikato. As at 20 October 2021, there were no unexpected detections, including from the South Island.

| **Summary** | **Total** |
| --- | --- |
| Cumulative confirmed cases – last week | 4,400 |
| New cases – managed quarantine | 18  442 |
| New cases – locally acquired | 442 |
| Cases removed or reclassified\* | -6 |
| Cumulative confirmed cases – this week | 4,854 |

*\* 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 | 43 |

| **Summary of locally acquired cases** | **Notification Date** | **Number of days** |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Last locally acquired case | 20/10/2021 | 0 |
| Last locally acquired case of unknown source^ | 17/10/2021 | 3 |

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

# **Travel impacts**

* The Commonwealth paused one-way quarantine-free (‘green zone’) travel from New Zealand to Australia from 2359 hrs AEST Wednesday 18 August 2021. On 16 October 2021, Australia announced that one-way quarantine-free travel would recommence from the South Island of New Zealand from 11:59 pm (AEST) on Tuesday 19 October 2021, subject to the following recommended pre-departure measures:
  + a pre-departure PCR test (within 72 hours of the departure flight time to Australia)
  + evidence of full vaccination against COVID-19 for those eligible, consistent with the Australian Technical Advisory Group on Immunisation definition of fully vaccinated, and with a Therapeutic Goods Administration approved or recognised vaccine
  + all persons travelling to Australia from New Zealand and all green zone travellers are to declare prior to travel to Australia that they have returned a negative PCR test result for COVID-19 within 72 hours of the departure flight time to Australia and have not been in the North Island of New Zealand for any period during the last 14 days.
* On 16 October 2021, Australia also announced that one-way quarantine-free travel from the North Island of New Zealand will remain paused until 11:59 pm (AEST) on 31 October 2021, with all flights being classified as Red Zone flights until this time. A further review of the travel arrangements will be undertaken on Saturday 30 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.



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20 October 2021

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