



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](#).

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
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://esr.cri.nz/). 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.



Professor Paul Kelly
Chief Medical Officer
20 October 2021