



# New Zealand – Situation Update

## 27 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 **2,832** locally acquired cases in the current outbreak at the time of this report.
- On 27 October 2021, New Zealand announced that from 2359hrs NZT on 27 October 2021, the parts of Waikato currently at Alert Level 3 will move to Alert Level 3 Step 1. This constitutes some minor easing of restrictions to bring these areas in line with the restrictions currently in place in Auckland. Travel between Waikato and Auckland will still be restricted to permitted travel only. Alert Level 3 settings for both Auckland and Waikato will remain in place until 2359hrs NZT 1 November 2021, with New Zealand Cabinet to review arrangements that day.
- The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2.

### Outbreak Summary

- The current outbreak commenced on 17 August 2021.
- Of the **2,832** cases reported in the current outbreak, **346** cases are not yet epidemiologically linked, of which **269** were reported in the past 14 days.
- There are currently **41** hospitalisations, with **five** in ICU.
- There are 1,280 active community cases – **1,202** in Auckland, **70** in Waikato, **seven** in Northland and one in Nelson/Marlborough.
- On 23 October 2021, New Zealand reported a new case in Blenheim, in the north east of the South Island. The case had flown to Blenheim from Rotorua. Initial investigations suggest this case is linked to the Te Awamutu cluster. As of 25 October 2021, three contacts of the Blenheim case had returned negative tests and no further cases have been detected on the South Island.
- As at **10:00am NZT 27 October 2021**, there are **390** locations of interest in New Zealand, primarily spread across the North Island in Auckland, Northland, Rotorua, Waikato and Napier, however there are now locations of interest as far south as Wellington and on the South Island in Blenheim.
- As at **11:00am NZT 27 October 2021**, **2,776** active contacts are being managed. **79** per cent of these people have been contacted, and **76** per cent have returned at least one test result.

- Wastewater sampling continues to be undertaken from 155 locations across New Zealand, including 103 locations on the North Island, and 52 on the South Island. **In the latest results reported, positive results were returned from multiple sites in Auckland and Te Awamutu in Waikato.** 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	4,854
New cases – managed quarantine	21
New cases – locally acquired	677
Cases removed or reclassified*	-13
Cumulative confirmed cases – this week	5539

\* 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	41

Summary of locally acquired cases	Notification Date	Number of days
Last locally acquired case	27/10/2021	0
Last locally acquired case of unknown source <sup>^</sup>	25/10/2021	2

<sup>^</sup> 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 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.
- From 1 November 2021, all non-New Zealand citizens who arrive in New Zealand by air will need to be fully vaccinated. Travellers must have proof of receiving an approved vaccine and have completed the vaccine schedule at least 14 days prior to arrival.



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