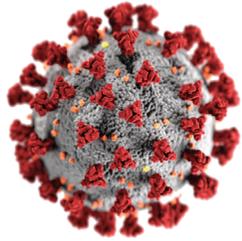


COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

29 JUNE 2020



COVID-19 is the disease caused by a novel coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. It is a respiratory infection that can affect your lungs and airways. The latest COVID-19 health advice can be found on the [Ministry of Health webpage](#).

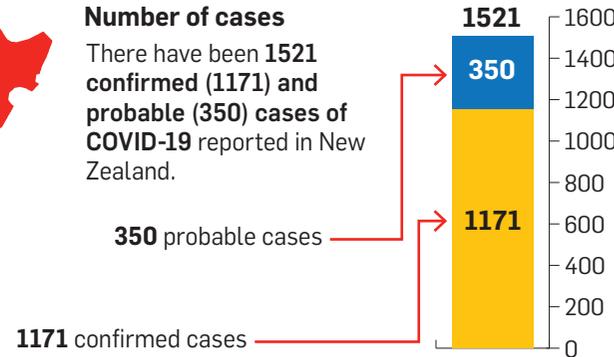
This report summarises all reported COVID-19 cases reported in New Zealand from **30 January 2019 to 29 June 2020**.

[Click here](#) for the ESR COVID-19 dashboard.



Number of cases

There have been **1521 confirmed (1171) and probable (350) cases of COVID-19** reported in New Zealand.



Confirmed cases are patients who have had COVID-19 confirmed by a laboratory test. Probable cases are patients whose laboratory test for COVID-19 is inconclusive but either a doctor believes they have symptoms of COVID-19 (and has ruled out any other causes) or they have been in close contact with someone with the COVID-19.

Confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases to 29 June 2020

Number of Confirmed and Probable Cases

TR extended to Iran – travel restrictions put in place for travellers from Iran

TR extended to N Italy and R o Korea – travel restrictions put in place for travellers from Northern Italy and the Republic of Korea

All travellers to isolate – requirement for all travellers entering New Zealand to remain in isolation for 14 days

Border closes – to all travellers who are not New Zealand travellers or citizens or permanent residents

** Where available the earliest date is the onset of disease (recorded for 99.0% of cases), if this is not available then the next earliest date of report date (or hospitalised date) is used.*

234

3

2

1

TR extended to Iran
TR extended to N. Italy, R. o. Korea
All travellers to isolate
Border closes

COVID-19 cases have been reported in every district health board (DHB) across the country. The highest number of cases have been reported in Waitemata, Southern, Waikato and Auckland DHBs.

On 1 April 2020, the case definition for COVID-19 was broadened. Before this time, testing had largely been focused on people with link to international travel or those in close contact with a case. The broadened case definition will help to improve the understanding of the extent of community transmission in New Zealand.

The number of new cases reported has decreased dramatically since late March in line with public health measures taken and despite more people being tested. All cases reported over the past two weeks have been tested as part of the managed isolation and quarantine process for people entering New Zealand.

Earliest Date

Source: EpiSurv 29/06/2020

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Who has been infected?

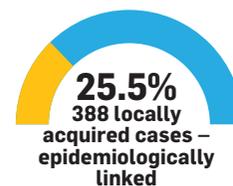
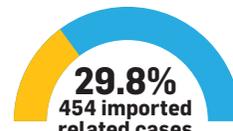
- Many of our cases have been in people returning from overseas. As expected, with the influx of people returning to New Zealand ahead of the enhanced border restrictions, COVID-19 cases in returning travellers peaked on 21 March. Most of these travellers were aged 20–34 years, of European or Other ethnicity and live in less socioeconomically deprived areas of New Zealand.
- All cases reported over the past two weeks have been tested as part of the managed isolation and quarantine process for people entering New Zealand.
- However, most of our cases have been in people that have been in contact with a person who became infected overseas. In this group there is a higher number of cases in females, the younger age groups, among those reporting Māori and Pacific peoples ethnicity and people in more socioeconomically deprived areas of New Zealand. These differences are influenced by the outbreaks we have experienced. For example, the higher number of younger people is due to an outbreak associated with a college, which included many people in the 5–19 years age group.

What was the source of infection?

The source of infection for COVID-19 cases is assigned to one of these four categories.

- Imported cases: Cases with a reported history of international travel within 14 days of the start of their symptoms – **590 (38.8%)**.
- Import-related cases: Cases that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to an imported case – **454 cases (29.8%)**.
- Locally acquired case, source unknown: Cases that have no reported history of international travel within 14 days prior to the start of their symptoms and have no reported link to another case – **89 cases (5.9%)**.
- Locally acquired case, epidemiologically linked: Cases that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to a locally acquired case that has an unknown source – **388 cases (25.5%)**.

Over time, some cases may move between categories (for example from “locally acquired, source unknown” to “locally acquired, epidemiologically linked”) as investigations continues and further information is identified.

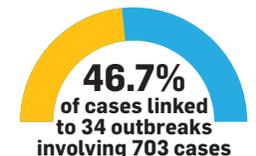


What are the most commonly reported symptoms?

- The most common symptom reported was cough, followed by headache, sore throat and fever. Sixty-one patients were initially reported as having no symptoms (asymptomatic). Of those, twenty six patients went on to develop symptoms later on.
- The proportion of infected people in New Zealand who have severe outcomes (i.e. have been hospitalised, have been admitted to Intensive Care or have died) is less than has been seen in other countries. Ninety-five people have been hospitalised, ten have been admitted to the Intensive Care Unit, and twenty-two people have died.
- Generally, COVID-19 is more severe in older people and those with underlying medical conditions. People were more likely to be hospitalised if they had an underlying health condition. The most commonly reported underlying conditions are cardiovascular disease, diabetes or chronic lung disease. Eleven of the people who have died had an underlying health condition and all but one were aged over 65 years.
- In New Zealand, the majority of our cases are in people aged under 65 years, with 86% of patients not reporting an underlying medical condition. This likely accounts for the lower number of patients with severe outcomes in New Zealand, compared to other countries.

Outbreaks and clusters of COVID-19

- Household clusters are linked cases that are confined to a single household group. Over half the cases in New Zealand (56.0%) have been part of household clusters (851 cases in 324 households). This is expected given the public health measures in place during Level 3 and Level 4 from 25 March to 12 May.
- To date, there have been **34 outbreaks**, involving **703 cases (46.7% of all cases)**.
 - Eighteen of these outbreaks are linked to international travel.
 - Eighteen outbreaks have included cases in more than one district health board.
 - The largest outbreaks have been in Southern (a wedding, 98 cases), Auckland (a college, 96 cases) and Waikato (a hospitality venue, 77 cases)



COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

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Demographic breakdown of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases to 29 June 2020 by source (Source: EpiSurv 29 June 2020, 0900)

Demographics	Imported case ¹	Import-related ²	Locally acquired, epidemiologically linked ³	Locally acquired case, unknown source ⁴	Total ⁵
Total	590	454	388	89	1521
Sex					
Female	292	251	252	49	844
Male	298	203	136	40	677
Unknown					
Age groups (yrs)					
<1	0	2	2	0	4
1-4	2	8	8	1	19
5-19	16	54	66	0	136
20-34	267	119	110	21	517
35-49	91	104	87	19	301
50-64	134	118	67	28	347
65-79	77	34	29	18	158
≥80	3	15	19	2	39
Ethnic group*					
Māori	35	65	27	9	136
Pacific peoples	9	12	52	6	79
Asian	54	34	99	12	199
European or Other	484	341	208	58	1091
Unknown	8	2	2	4	16
At least one underlying condition†	73	62	58	13	206
Hospitalised	31	21	32	11	95
Health worker	36	44	95	8	183

¹ Imported cases: Cases with a reported history of international travel within 14 days of onset.

² Import related cases: Cases that have a reported link (close contact or epidemiological link) to an imported case.

³ Locally acquired case, epidemiologically linked: Cases that have a reported link (close contact or other epidemiological link) to a locally acquired case with unknown source.

⁴ Locally acquired case, source unknown: Cases that have no

reported history of international travel within 14 days of onset and no recorded epidemiological link to a source case.

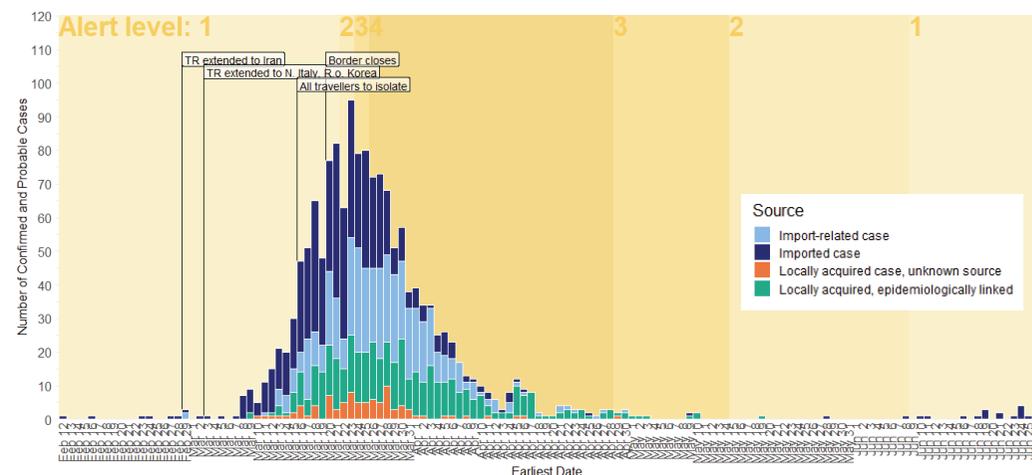
⁵ Total includes all cases including 3 cases where source is under investigation.

* NHI derived ethnicity data has been used in these analyses.

† New Zealand Deprivation Index 2013 (NZDep2013).

‡ Does not include 'other' underlying conditions.

Source of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases to 29 June 2020



Source: EpiSurv 0900 02/06/2020

For further epidemiological analysis please refer to ESR's COVID-19 Epidemiology Reports.

Updated: 03/07/2020 09:00 AM

