

COVID-19 STRATEGY

New Zealand is pursuing an **elimination strategy** to manage COVID-19. Success under this strategy means that COVID-19 is fully eliminated or reduced to a small number of cases, the large majority of which are "imported" and linked to international travel. The level of COVID-19 will be manageable by the health system until a vaccine becomes available.

SUMMARY OF PROGRESS

At present, we are progressing well against this strategy. Despite broadening the case definition for testing and increasing testing volumes, we have not observed an acceleration in the rate of new cases. The majority of cases have been acquired overseas or are close contacts of someone who acquired COVID-19 overseas. Approximately 4% of cases are potential community transmission. The rate of new cases is anticipated to flatten over the coming weeks. We remain well behind other countries in the expected progress of COVID-19.

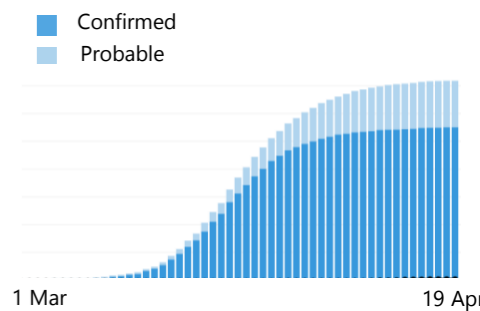
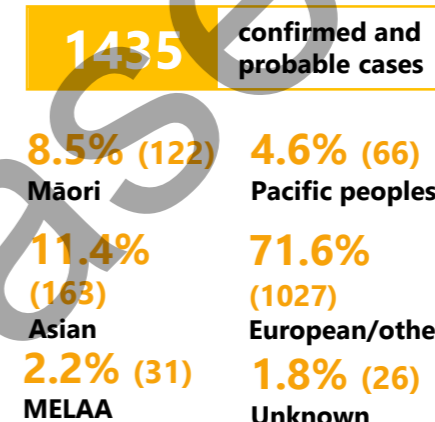
CONTROL MEASURES

Achieving and maintaining an elimination strategy requires the deployment of a range of control measures to stop transmission from occurring, detect transmission where it does occur, and track and control outbreaks. These control measures include:

- **Border measures** and restrictions on travel
 - **Quarantine or managed isolation facilities** mandatory for all incoming passengers
 - **Physical distancing** for the whole population
 - Rigorous **testing** and community surveillance
 - Intensive **contact tracing**.
- See below for an update on these measures to support our elimination strategy, and an overview of health system utilisation.

CURRENT STATE

As at 2pm 19 April:



Change in cases over time

The rate of new cases continues to flatten out since the peak at 23 March.

HEALTH-RELATED MEASURES TO ACHIEVE ELIMINATION

LAB TESTING

Status: **Building capacity, sufficient for current case numbers**

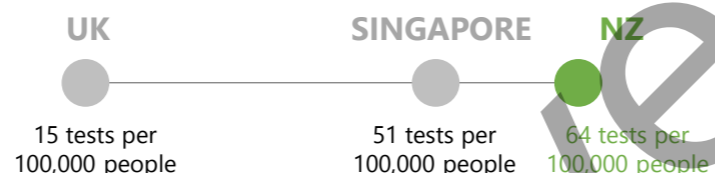
Testing capacity is steadily increasing to support efforts to eliminate COVID-19. New Zealand has a high capacity for daily testing at over 120 tests per 100,000 people each day. For the last seven days, the rolling average number of tests completed per day was 3151 (which equates to 64 tests per 100,000 people each day). This compares favourably to other countries testing for COVID-19.

National capacity

6349 test capacity as at 19 April (up from 3487 on 31 March)

3151 7-day rolling average for week to 19 April

International comparison of average tests conducted per day



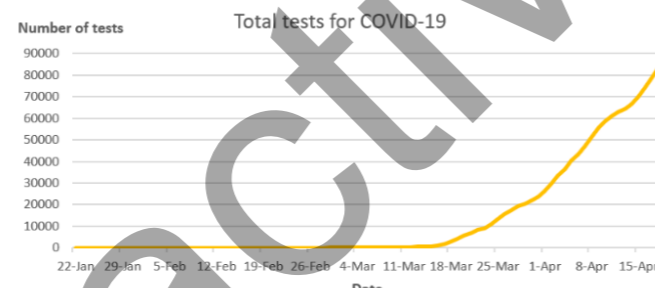
Total tests, by ethnicity

The ethnic breakdown of the tests undertaken as at 14 April is as follows:

- 15.9% (9,440) Māori
- 8.0% (4,742) Pacific Peoples
- 11.3% (6,700) Asian
- 64.4% (38,364) European/other/MELAA

Positive test rate

On 18 April, 0.2 percent of the 4146 tests conducted were positive. If our elimination strategy works, you would expect to see this trend continue - more tests finding fewer positive cases of Covid-19.



CONTACT TRACING

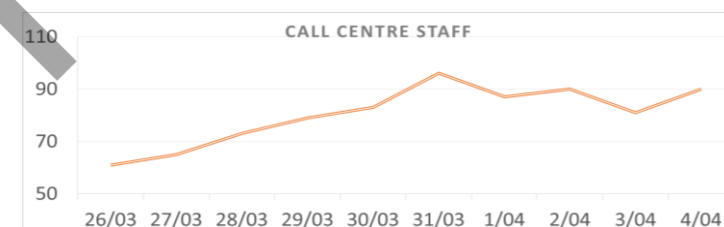
Status: **Building capacity to match increase in testing and positive results**

The majority of contact tracing is now performed through the National Contact Tracing Solution (NCTS) as of Sunday 5 April. Performance to date is as follows:

We have capacity to manage current case numbers, and we are implementing technological solutions over the next few weeks that will enable tracing for over 1,000 cases per day.

7437 number of close contacts resolved at 18 April

116 Contacts traced on 18 April



HOSPITAL CAPACITY

Status: **Sufficient ICU bed and ventilator capacity. Working to expand to meet any spikes in demand**

As at 18 April there were 18 people in hospital for COVID-19 in New Zealand, with three in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

	Occupied by COVID patients
ICU beds	3
Ventilators	3

* Note that there are 533 ventilators available in DHBs. There are also 357 additional ventilators on order, and a further 247 potential ventilators available in private hospitals and other providers.

Forward planning

The Ministry is working to ensure there are sufficient staff to meet the potential growth in demand for ICU care. DHBs have been asked to train further nurses in the ICU specialty and postpone the rotation of Junior Doctors to maintain workforce competency. The Ministry is seeking retired healthcare professionals who would be willing to re-join the workforce to assist in the COVID-19 effort. As at 7 April, there were 7,514 additional professionals who had registered to support the COVID-19 effort if required (including 1,105 doctors and 2,103 nurses).

BORDER MEASURES

Status: **Managed isolation and quarantine operating well**

New arrivals into New Zealand continue to be only New Zealand citizens or permanent residents. These people are closely assessed during disembarking.

All incoming passengers are required to enter a quarantine or managed isolation facility.

As at 19 April:

98 in quarantine

1589 in managed isolation

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT

Status: **We have sufficient PPE stocks to supply the health and disability workforce, and other essential workers**

There is good stock of all PPE gear in the country right now (both from the Ministry of Health national reserves and DHB reserves) and the sourcing and distribution of PPE has been nationalised.

Stocks as at 16 April:

18.8 million pairs of gloves

69,000 safety glasses

14.8 million masks in National Reserve

With a further 850,000 on order or awaiting delivery confirmation