

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 continue 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:

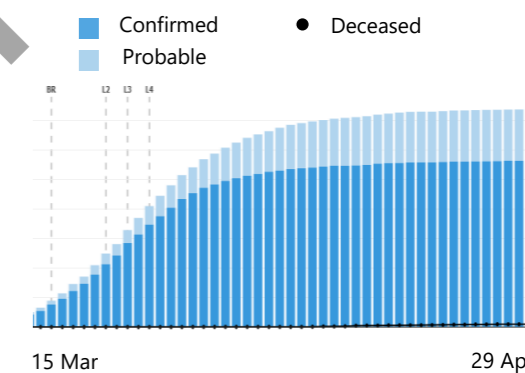
- **Border measures** and restrictions on travel
- **Quarantine or managed isolation facilities** mandatory for all incoming passengers
- **Physical distancing** for the whole population
- Rigorous **testing** and community surveillance
- Intensive **contact tracing**.

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 30 April:

1,476	confirmed and probable cases
8.5% (125)	5.1% (75)
Māori	Pacific peoples
11.1% (173)	71.3% (1,054)
Asian	European/other
2.2% (33)	1.1% (16)
MELAA	Unknown



15 Mar 29 Apr

Change in cases over time

The rate of new cases continues to flatten out.

HEALTH-RELATED MEASURES TO ACHIEVE ELIMINATION

LAB TESTING

Status: **Sufficient capacity for current demand, with capacity continuing to increase**

Testing capacity is steadily increasing to support efforts to eliminate COVID-19. New Zealand has a high capacity for daily testing. As at 29 April, 134,570 tests have been conducted.

National capacity

>8,100	test capacity as at 29 April
4,756	7-day rolling average for week to 29 April

Total tests, by ethnicity

The ethnic breakdown of the tests undertaken as at 18 April is as follows:

- 16.1% (12,307) Māori
- 8.2% (6,234) Pacific Peoples
- 10.8% (8,261) Asian
- 64.4% (49,202) European/other/MELAA

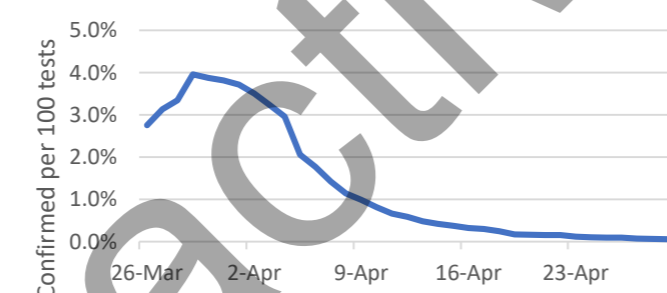
Positive test rate

On 29 April, 0.1 percent of the 5,867 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.

International comparison of total tests conducted per 1,000 people



Positive test rate 7 day average since 26 March



CONTACT TRACING

Status: **Building capacity and speed of contact tracing response**

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:

7,981	number of close contacts resolved at 29 April
20	Contacts traced on 29 April

Our contact tracing capacity is now at around 10,000 contacts per day. The contact tracing centre is starting to see a reduction in the number of close contacts (now to 2-3 close contacts per person). This is likely due to the lockdown, which makes close contact tracing simpler.

In addition to capacity, timeliness measures are critical to understanding the performance of the testing and contact tracing systems. The Ministry is developing a monitoring framework that aligns with the critical indicators recommended in Dr Ayesha Verrall's Rapid Audit of Contact Tracing for COVID-19 in New Zealand.

HOSPITAL CAPACITY

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

As at 29 April there were seven people in hospital for COVID-19 in New Zealand, with none in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

	Occupied by COVID patients
ICU beds	0
Ventilators	0

* 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 30 April, there were 8,009 additional professionals who had registered to support the COVID-19 effort if required (including 1,135 doctors and 1,827 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 26 April:

134	2,719
in quarantine	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 have been nationalised.

Total estimated stock on hand as at 29 April:

25.6 million	190,900	30.4 million
pairs of gloves	safety glasses	masks

TESTING AND TRACING

HEALTH SYSTEM UTILISATION

COMPLIANCE WITH MEASURES