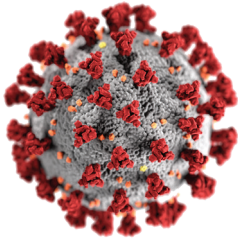


COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

24 APRIL 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 COVID-19 cases reported in New Zealand from **30 January 2020 to 24 April 2020**.

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



Number of cases

There have been **1462 cases of COVID-19** reported in New Zealand (1119 confirmed cases and 343 probable cases). **This is a total increase of 30 cases in the last week.**

343 probable cases

1119 confirmed cases

1462

343

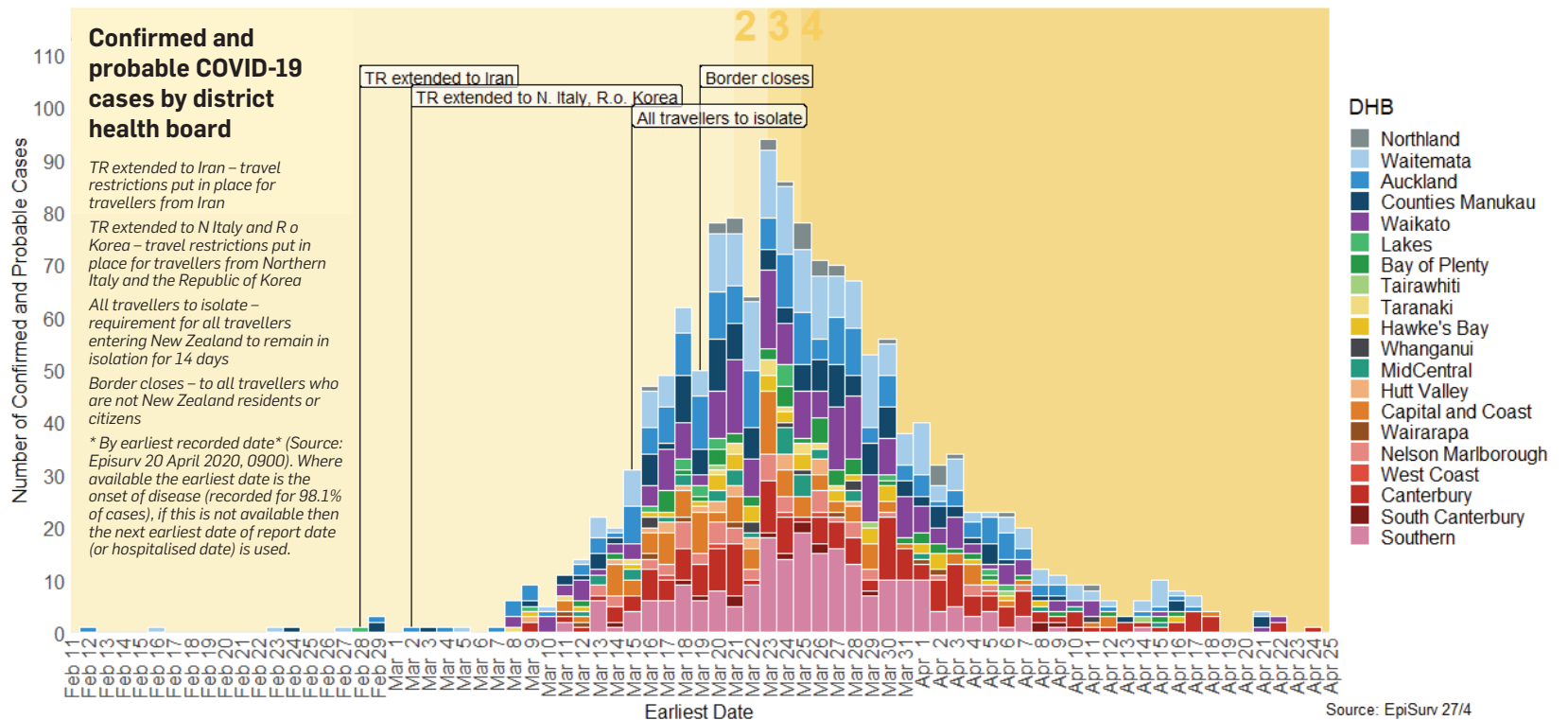
1119

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.

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

On 1 April 2020, the case definition for COVID-19 was broadened, meaning that more people met the criteria to be tested. 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.

Reported numbers of cases of COVID-19 have been declining in every DHB since 1 April 2020, despite more people are being tested.



COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

24 APRIL 2020

Who has been infected?

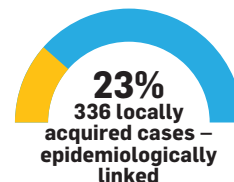
- Many of our cases have been in people returning from overseas. As expected, with the influx of people returning to New Zealand ahead of the enhanced border restrictions, COVID-19 cases in returning travellers peaked on 23 March. Most of these travellers are aged 20–34 years, are of European or Other ethnicity and live in less socioeconomically deprived areas of New Zealand.
- However, most of our cases have been in people that have been in contact with a person who became infected overseas. This contact usually occurred within households. 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 that we have experienced. For example, the higher number of younger age people is due of the outbreak associated with a college, which included many people in the 5-19 year age group.

What was the source of infection?

The source of infection of COVID-19 is assigned to one of these 4 categories:

- **Imported cases:** Patients who reported international travel within 14 days prior to the start of their symptoms – **567 cases (39%)**
- **Import related cases:** Patients that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to an imported case – **478 cases (33%)**
- **Locally acquired cases, source unknown:** Patients that have no reported history of international travel within 14 days prior to the start of their symptoms and have no recorded link to a case – **54 cases (4%)**
- **Locally acquired cases, epidemiologically linked:** Patients that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to a locally acquired case that has an unknown source - **336 cases (23%)**

The source of infection for some recently reported cases is still under investigation, those numbers are not included here.



What are the most commonly reported symptoms?

- Information on patient's symptoms is available for 1462 of our cases. The most common symptom reported was cough, followed by fever, sore throat, headache and fever. Twenty-five cases were reported as having no symptoms.
- In New Zealand, the proportion of infected people who have severe outcomes (have been hospitalised, have been admitted to Intensive Care or have died) is less than has been seen in other countries. Eighty-six people have been hospitalised, 9 have been admitted to Intensive Care and 18 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. Seven of the people who have died had an underlying health condition and all but one were aged over 65.
- In New Zealand, the majority of our cases are in people aged under 65, with over 75% 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. Most cases in New Zealand have been part of household clusters. This would be expected given the public health measures that have been in place during Level 3 and Level 4 since 24 March.
- There have been 32 children aged less than 15 years that have been part of a household cluster. Four of these children were the first people in their household to report symptoms, indicating that they may have infected others in their household.
- Outbreaks are linked cases that have spread beyond a household group. To date, there have been 33 outbreaks, involving 657 cases (45% of all cases).
 - Sixteen of these outbreaks are linked to international travel.
 - Sixteen outbreaks have included cases in more than one district health board.
 - The largest outbreaks have been in Southern (a wedding, 96 cases), Waikato (a hospitality venue, 75 cases) and Auckland (a college, 93 cases).

COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

24 APRIL 2020

Demographic breakdown of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases by source

Demographics	Imported case	Import-related	Locally acquired, epidemiologically linked	Locally acquired case, unknown source	Total
Total	567	478	336	54	1462
Sex					
Female	279	268	217	27	808
Male	287	210	119	27	653
Unknown	1	0	0	0	1
Age groups (yrs)					
<1	0	2	2	0	4
1-4	1	10	5	1	17
5-19	15	58	56	0	129
20-34	258	125	92	15	495
35-49	89	105	80	9	290
50-64	127	122	58	20	335
65-79	74	41	25	8	154
≥80 years	3	15	18	1	38
Ethnic group [‡]					
Māori	32	71	21	4	133
Pacific peoples	10	13	41	2	69
Asian	39	35	81	6	163
European or Other	477	354	188	37	1073
Unknown	9	5	5	5	24
At least one underlying health condition [†]	135	125	74	18	359
Hospitalised	28	25	22	5	86

* Total includes all cases including cases where source is under investigation.

[‡] EpiSurv derived ethnicity data has been used in these analyses.

[†] Includes 'Other' underlying conditions.

