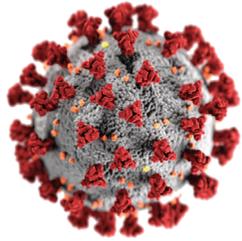


## COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

22 MAY 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 2020 to 22 May 2020**.

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

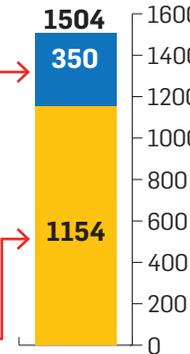


### Number of cases

There have been **1504 confirmed (1154) and probable (350) cases of COVID-19** reported in New Zealand.

350 probable cases

1154 confirmed cases

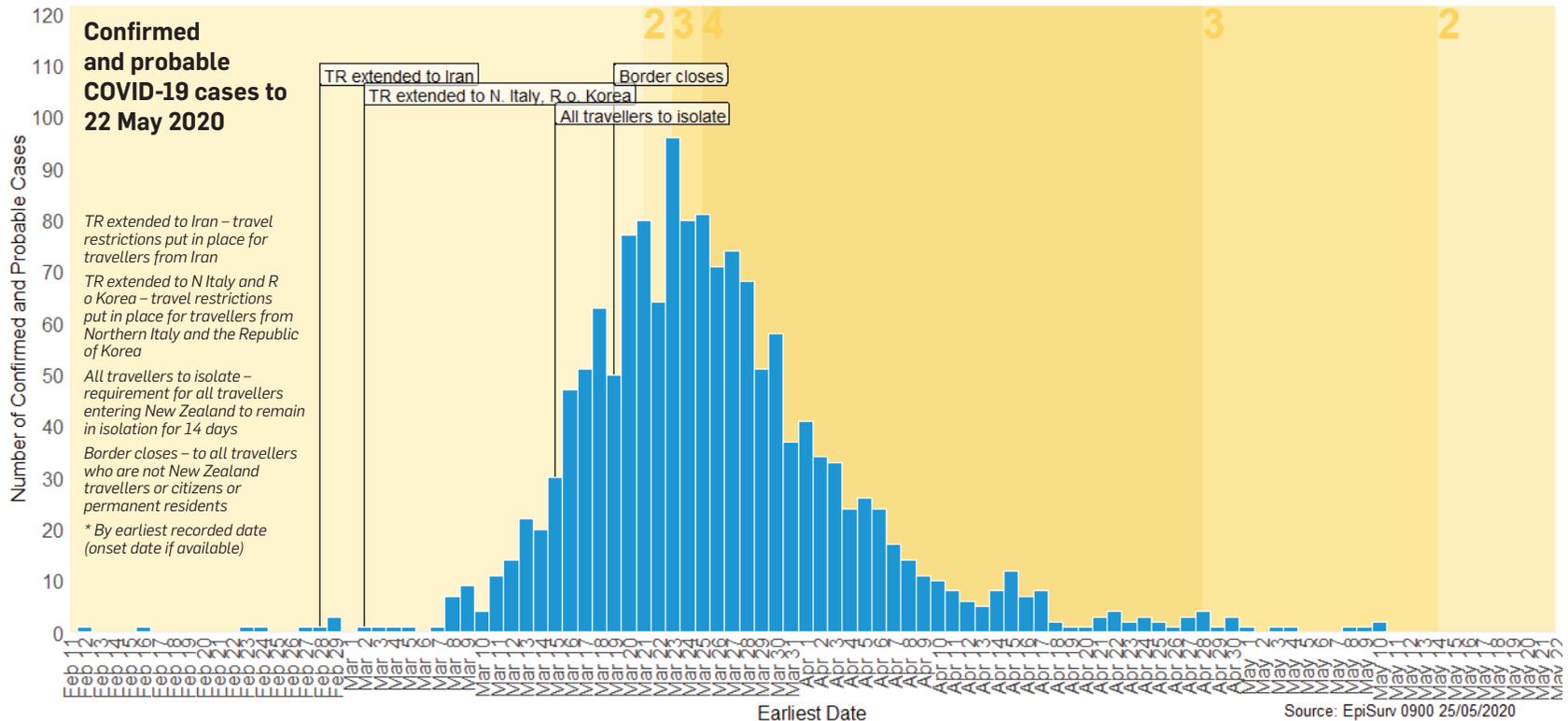


*Confirmed cases are patients who have had COVID-19 confirmed by a laboratory test. Probable cases are patients whose laboratory test for COVID-19 is inconclusive but either a doctor believes they have symptoms of COVID-19 (and has ruled out any other causes) or they have been in close contact with someone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



## COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

22 MAY 2020

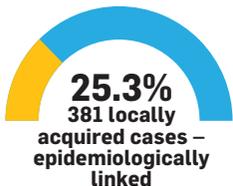
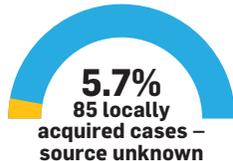
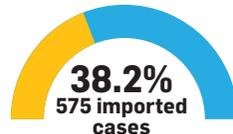
### Who has been infected?

- 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 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.
- 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 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 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 – **575 (38.2%)**.
- **Import-related cases:** Cases that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to an imported case – **466 cases (30.7%)**
- **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 – **85 cases (5.7%)**.
- **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 – **381 cases (25.3%)**.
- 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.

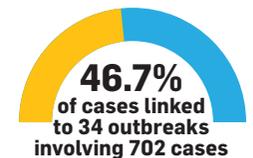


### What are the most commonly reported symptoms.

- The most common symptom reported was cough, followed by headache, sore throat and fever. Fifty two patients were initially reported as having no symptoms. Twenty five patients who initially reported no symptoms, went on to develop symptoms later.
- 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. Ninety-five people have been hospitalised, ten have been admitted to Intensive Care and twenty-one 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. Ten of the people who have died had an underlying health condition and all but one was aged over 65.
- In New Zealand, the majority of our cases are in people aged under 65, with over 85% 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 36 children aged less than 15 years that have been part of a household cluster. Five of these children were the first people in their household to report symptoms.
- To date, there have been 34 outbreaks, involving **702 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

22 MAY 2020

### Demographic breakdown of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases to 22 May 2020 by source (Source: EpiSurv 25 May 2020, 0900)

Demographics	Imported case <sup>1</sup>	Import-related <sup>2</sup>	Locally acquired, epidemiologically linked <sup>3</sup>	Locally acquired case, unknown source <sup>4</sup>	Total <sup>5</sup>
<b>Total</b>	<b>575</b>	<b>462</b>	<b>381</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>1504</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Female	285	255	250	47	<b>837</b>
Male	290	207	131	38	<b>667</b>
Unknown					
<b>Age groups (yrs)</b>					
<1	0	1	3	0	<b>4</b>
1-4	1	9	7	1	<b>18</b>
5-19	15	56	64		<b>135</b>
20-34	258	121	109	20	<b>508</b>
35-49	90	102	89	18	<b>299</b>
50-64	132	121	63	28	<b>344</b>
65-79	76	37	27	16	<b>157</b>
≥80	3	15	19	2	<b>39</b>
<b>Ethnic group*</b>					
Māori	32	64	28	9	<b>133</b>
Pacific peoples	11	11	51	5	<b>79</b>
Asian	39	38	96	11	<b>184</b>
European or Other	485	347	204	56	<b>1092</b>
Unknown	8	2	2	4	<b>16</b>
<b>At least one underlying condition†</b>	<b>68</b>	<b>59</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>192</b>
<b>Hospitalised</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>95</b>
<b>Health worker</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>182</b>

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

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

<sup>3</sup> 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.

<sup>4</sup> 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.

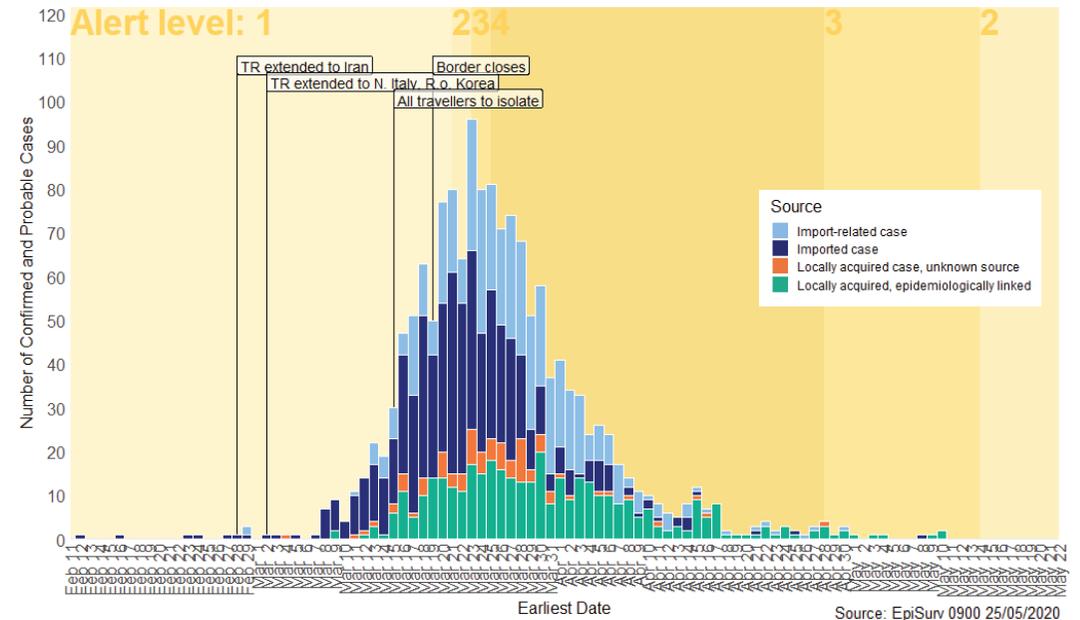
<sup>5</sup> Total includes all cases including 3 cases where source is under investigation.

\* 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 22 May 2020



For further epidemiological analysis please refer to ESR's COVID-19 Epidemiology Reports. Updated: 28/05/20 09:00 AM

