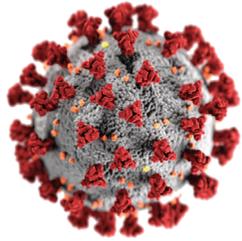


## COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

15 MAY 2020



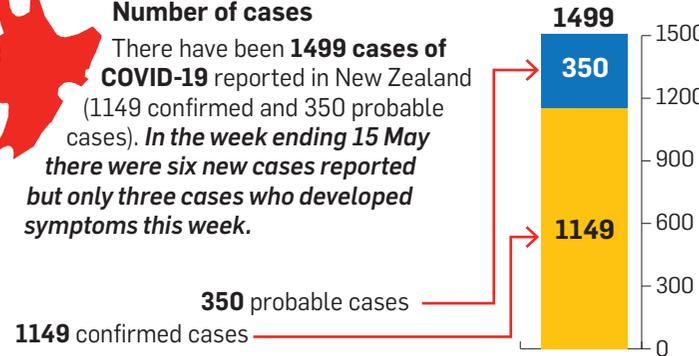
**COVID-19 is the disease caused by a novel coronavirus called SARS-CoV-2. It is a respiratory infection that can affect your lungs and airways. The latest COVID-19 health advice can be found on the [Ministry of Health webpage](#).**

This report summarises all reported COVID-19 cases reported in New Zealand from **30 January 2020 to 15 May 2020**.

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



**Number of cases**  
There have been **1499 cases of COVID-19** reported in New Zealand (1149 confirmed and 350 probable cases). **In the week ending 15 May there were six new cases reported but only three cases who developed symptoms this week.**

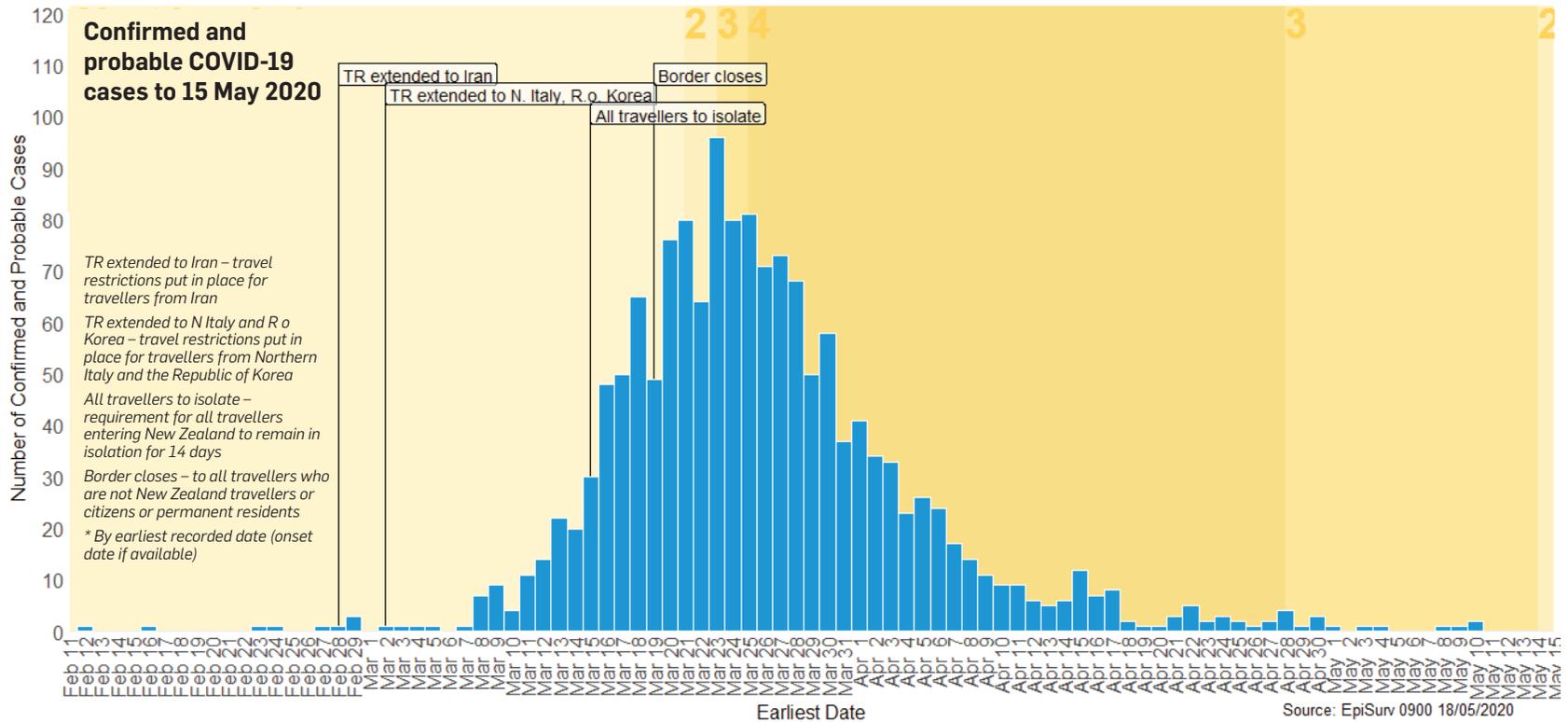


*Confirmed cases are patients who have had COVID-19 confirmed by a laboratory test. Probable cases are patients whose laboratory test for COVID-19 is inconclusive but either a doctor believes they have symptoms of COVID-19 (and has ruled out any other causes) or they have been in close contact with someone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

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



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15 MAY 2020

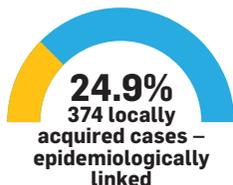
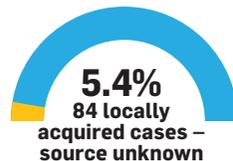
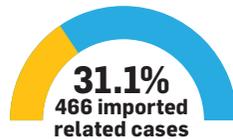
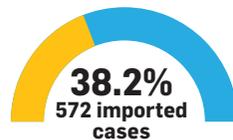
### Who has been infected?

- 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 of COVID-19 cases is assigned to one of these four categories.

- Imported cases: Cases who reported international travel within 14 days to the start of their symptoms – **572 cases (38.2%)**
- Import-related cases: Cases that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to an imported case – **466 cases (31.1%)**
- 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 – **84 cases (5.6%)**.
- Locally acquired cases, epidemiologically linked: Cases that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to a locally acquired case that has an unknown source – **374 cases (24.9%)**.
- The sources of infection for some recently reported cases is still under investigation. Those cases are not reported here. Some cases may also 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.

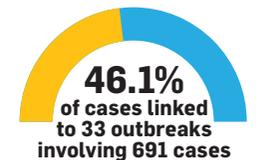
- The most common symptom reported was cough, followed by headache, sore throat and fever. Forty-seven patients were initially reported as having no symptoms. Twenty patients who initially reported no symptoms, went on to develop symptoms later.
- In New Zealand, the proportion of infected people who 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-four people have been hospitalised, nine 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.

Outbreaks are linked cases that have spread beyond a household group.

- To date, there have been 33 outbreaks, involving **691 cases (46.1% of all cases)**.
  - Seventeen of these outbreaks are linked to international travel.
  - Seventeen 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

15 MAY 2020

### Demographic breakdown of confirmed and probable COVID-19 cases

Demographics	Imported case	Import-related	Locally acquired, epidemiologically linked	Locally acquired case, unknown source	Total*
<b>Total</b>	<b>572</b>	<b>466</b>	<b>374</b>	<b>84</b>	<b>1499</b>
<b>Sex</b>					
Female	282	258	245	48	<b>833</b>
Male	289	208	129	36	<b>665</b>
Unknown	1	0	0	0	<b>1</b>
<b>Age groups (yrs)</b>					
<1	0	1	3	0	<b>4</b>
1-4	1	10	6	1	<b>18</b>
5-19	15	57	63	0	<b>135</b>
20-34	258	121	109	20	<b>508</b>
35-49	90	102	88	18	<b>299</b>
50-64	131	122	60	28	<b>341</b>
65-79	74	38	26	16	<b>155</b>
≥80	3	15	19	1	<b>39</b>
<b>Ethnic group*</b>					
Māori	32	67	25	9	<b>133</b>
Pacific peoples	11	11	51	5	<b>78</b>
Asian	39	39	95	11	<b>184</b>
European or Other	482	347	200	55	<b>1087</b>
Unknown	8	2	3	4	<b>17</b>
<b>At least one underlying condition†</b>	<b>66</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>184</b>
<b>Hospitalised</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>33</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>94</b>
<b>Health worker</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>94</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>180</b>

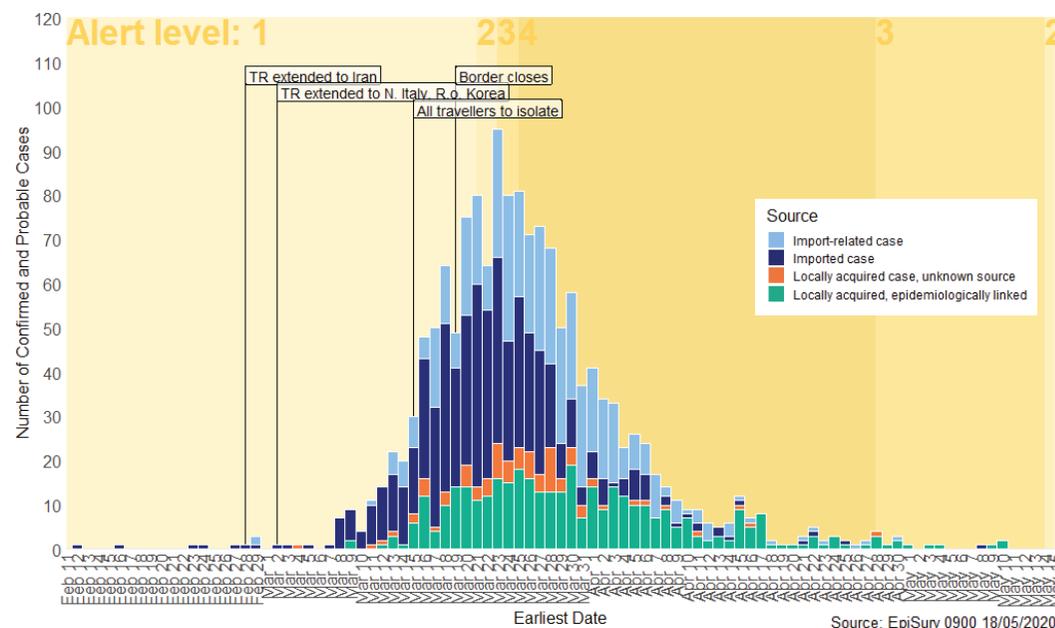
\* Total includes all cases including 3 cases where source is under investigation.

¥ 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 15 May 2020



Overview International
About Contact

For further epidemiological analysis please refer to ESR's COVID-19 Epidemiology Reports. Updated: 07/05/20 09:00 AM

1

**1139**

Confirmed cases

No change

**350**

Probable cases

-1

**14**

Suspected cases

**1332** Recovered

**21** Deceased

Total cases **1489**

**District Health Boards**

View: Map Incidence Count

Cases  Confirmed  Probable Incidence: 30.49 (per 100,000) - New Zealand

+

-

Incidence (per 100,000)

8.17 - 19.69

19.70 - 31.22

31.23 - 42.75

42.76 - 54.28

**Gender**

Female 55% | 1 826 cases

Male 45% | 1 662 cases

Unknown 0% | 1 cases

**Age group (years)**