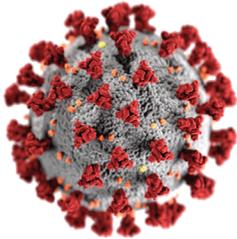


COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

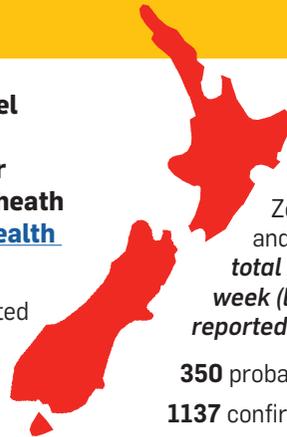
1 MAY 2020



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 COVID-19 cases reported in New Zealand from **30 January 2020 to 1 May 2020**.

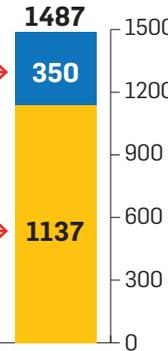
[Click here](#) for the ESR COVID-19 dashboard.



Number of cases

There have been **1487 cases of COVID-19** reported in New Zealand (1137 confirmed cases and 350 probable cases). **This is a total increase of 25 cases in the last week (less than the 30 case increase reported in the previous week).**

350 probable cases
1137 confirmed cases

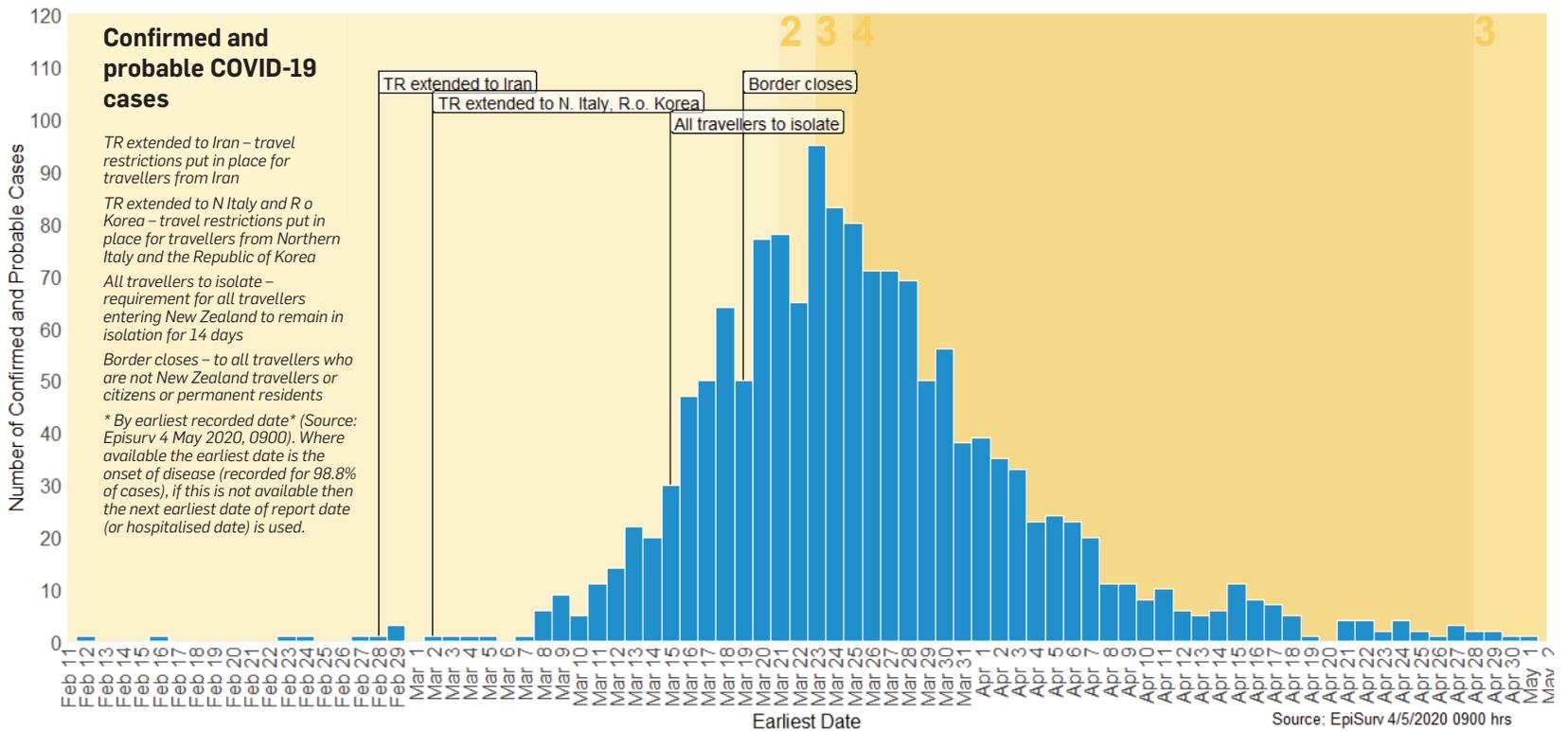


Confirmed cases are patients who have had COVID-19 confirmed by a laboratory test. Probable cases are patients whose laboratory test for COVID-19 is inconclusive but either a doctor believes they have symptoms of COVID-19 (and has ruled out any other causes) or they have been in close contact with someone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

1 MAY 2020

Who has been infected?

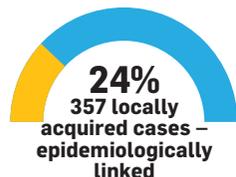
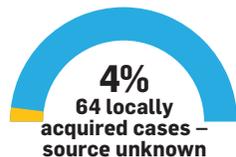
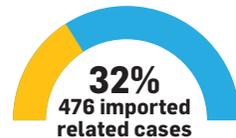
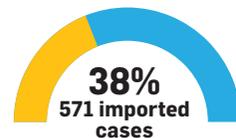
- Many of our cases have been in people returning from overseas. As expected, with the influx of people returning to New Zealand ahead of the enhanced border restrictions, COVID-19 cases in returning travellers peaked on 21 March. Most of these travellers are aged 20–34 years, are of European or Other 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 – **571 cases (38%)**
- **Import related cases:** Patients that have a reported link (e.g. are a close contact) to an imported case – **476 cases (32%)**
- **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 – **64 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 – **357 cases (24%)**

The source of infection for some recently reported cases is still under investigation. Those numbers are not included here. Some cases may move between categories (for example from "locally acquired, source unknown" to "locally acquired, epidemiologically linked") as investigations continue and further information is identified.



What are the most commonly reported symptoms?

- Information on patient's symptoms is available for 1487 of our cases. The most common symptom reported was cough, followed by headache, sore throat and fever. Children and teenagers were more likely to report a runny nose. Twenty-seven patients 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-nine people have been hospitalised, 9 have been admitted to Intensive Care and twenty 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. Eight 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 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 34 outbreaks, involving 675 cases (45% of all cases).
 - Seventeen 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, 98 cases), Waikato (a hospitality venue, 76 cases) and Auckland (a college, 94 cases).

COVID-19 IN NEW ZEALAND

1 MAY 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	571	476	357	64	1487
Sex					
Female	281	264	235	33	826
Male	289	212	122	31	660
Unknown	1	0	0	0	1
Age groups (yrs)					
<1	0	1	3	0	4
1-4	1	10	5	1	17
5-19	15	58	59		132
20-34	258	124	101	16	503
35-49	90	105	84	13	296
50-64	130	122	61	22	341
65-79	74	41	25	11	155
≥80 years	3	15	19	1	39
Ethnic group †					
Māori	32	70	22	5	133
Pacific peoples	1	12	47	3	76
Asian	38	42	87	6	175
European or Other	481	350	198	46	1085
Unknown	9	2	3	4	18
At least one underlying health condition †	61	54	35	8	162
Hospitalised	30	24	25	5	89

* 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.

