



COVID-19 Message Grid

20 January 2021

This contains the most up-to-date and approved messaging on key COVID-19 matters.

Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This version was current at 20/01/2022 2:41 pm

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Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key Message	Supporting Messages	Notes
Traffic light settings update	Northland will move to Orange at 11:59pm tonight.	<p>Following public health advice, Northland will join the rest of the country at Orange at 11:59pm tonight. The rest of the country will remain at Orange.</p> <p>Vaccination rates have continued to increase in Northland and they are now at 89% first dose and 86% second. In addition, easing the Auckland boundary over summer has not driven an increase in cases in the region.</p> <p>Keeping Omicron out of communities remains a priority and the border continues to be the first line of defence for keeping Omicron out of the community. Other measures include high levels of testing; contact tracing and isolation and the COVID-19 Protection Framework.</p>	PM's Speech, 20 Jan

		Keeping the country at Orange settings helps provide some protection when Omicron moves beyond the border and into the community.	
Preparing for the arrival of Omicron in our community	The whole country will move to Red within 24-48 hours of detecting Omicron transmitting in the community.	<p>Omicron is more transmissible, making it harder to keep out and more challenging to control once detected in the community.</p> <p>For many people, Omicron will be a manageable illness, but not for everyone. Some people will need hospital level care. Omicron can't be stopped, but can be slowed.</p> <p>The booster will help New Zealanders get through Omicron. The booster reduces the severity of illness. It means people are much less likely to end up in hospital than if they don't have it.</p>	PM's Speech, 20 Jan
Testing update	Currently New Zealand uses PCR testing as the primary way of identifying cases.	<p>The health system has the capacity to undertake 40,000 PCR tests a day without any strain.</p> <p>With wider spread, this system will need to change. Cabinet has established several principles for tests:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • focused on those who are symptomatic, vulnerable, essential workers and close contacts • they will be free, and • available locally. <p>Rapid antigen tests will be used more widely. Currently 4.6 million are in the country and 10s of millions ordered. With this number, the country can maintain these testing principles. The Government will provide more detail in the coming weeks.</p>	PM's Speech, 20 Jan
Omicron border case update	The Ministry of Health (MoH) confirms 2 previously reported cases have Omicron.	<p>The previously reported worker at Auckland Airport and the MIQ worker's household contact, who both tested positive yesterday, both have the Omicron variant of COVID-19.</p> <p>MoH has published a location of interest on its website.</p> <p>Any further locations of interest will be added to the MoH website if necessary.</p>	MoH PR, 19 Jan

Vaccinations

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Vaccine for 5 to 11 year olds update	12,057 first doses of the paediatric Pfizer vaccine administered yesterday (19 Jan).	The total number of paediatric vaccines administered to date is 39,829.	MoH PR, 20 Jan
Booster progress update	52% of the currently eligible population 18 and over has received a booster.	36,226 boosters were administered yesterday, bringing the total to 864,929.	MoH PR, 20 Jan