



COVID-19 Message Grid

11 March 2022

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 11/03/2022 6:36 pm.

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Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key Message	Supporting Messages	Notes
Isolation period for cases and household contacts	From 11.59pm tonight the home isolation period reduces from 10 to 7 days	<p>The isolation period for COVID-19 cases and their household contacts is reducing from 10 to 7 days from 11:59pm tonight.</p> <p>If a person is isolating and still has symptoms after 7 days they are advised to stay home until 24 hours after symptoms resolve.</p> <p>Household contacts will need to have a rapid antigen test at day 3 and day 7 – or if they become symptomatic - and if the result is positive, they are required to isolate for seven days from that point.</p> <p>Other household members do not have to reset their isolation and can leave isolation on day 8, the same day as the first case can leave isolation, provided they have</p>	MoH PR, 11 March

		returned negative RATs results and are not symptomatic.	
Isolation period for critical workers	Advice for critical workers	<p>Critical workers who have someone in their household who has tested positive for COVID-19, may be able to continue working if they are:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. are fully vaccinated 2. do not have symptoms; 3. return a negative RAT before each shift or day of work. <p>Employers will be able to tell someone if they are a critical worker and if so, what they need to do. When not at work, workers will need to isolate like any other household contact. Critical healthcare workers that are household contacts or cases have some additional exemptions. More detail can be found here.</p> <p>The key message for everyone is if you feel sick, stay at home.</p>	MoH PR, 11 March
Auckland update	Auckland may be nearing the peak of Omicron cases	<p>The 3-day rolling average of cases is now down to 8,500 per day, down from a peak of 14,000.</p> <p>Although there are still cases not being detected, testing coverage is good. 15% of people enrolled in primary care have registered a test result in the past fortnight. Daily test registrations remain high at 30,000 per day.</p> <p>The average age of people in hospital is relatively young at 40 years of age. As has been observed overseas Omicron had a long tail with those older, more vulnerable populations being most impacted nearer the end of the outbreak.</p> <p>Although overall case numbers might be starting to decrease, people need to remain vigilant to protect those in families and communities who are at greater risk, including elderly whānau and those with underlying health conditions.</p>	Andrew Old, NHRCC media stand-up, 11 March
Auckland hospitals update	Only 2.4% of active current COVID-19 cases in Auckland have	<p>Hospitalisations were expected to increase over the past week and that trend has continued.</p> <p>High hospitalisations are continuing to put pressure on emergency departments and other inpatient services</p>	Andrew Old, NHRCC media

	been treated in hospital.	across the city at a time when they too are experiencing staff shortages due to COVID. Additional resources and staff have been re-deployed from other areas to provide support.	stand-up, 11 March
Auckland Rapid Antigen Testing update	Rapid Antigen Tests are now readily available right across Auckland city.	More than 2 million RATs have been distributed across the Auckland region since 1 March. Positivity rates range from 28% for GP samples, to 46% for self-reported. It is important to record RAT results, especially positive results on My Covid Record. Recording a positive result means your GP and the Whānau HQ system can assess someone's risk and provide any necessary support if needed. It's also important to register negative test results as it helps understand how well the community is accessing testing.	Andrew Old, NHRCC media stand-up, 11 March
Change to reporting of total Covid deaths	From next week deaths will be reported if a person dies within 28 days of a positive test	Deaths will automatically be reported if a person has died within 28 days of a positive test result. This is the same system many countries are using around the world, including in the UK. In addition more details will also be included on deaths, and this may include some deaths reported outside of the 28-day window: - Where Covid-19 is the clear cause of death - Where a person is found to have had Covid-19 when they died but it was not the cause of death - When a person is known to have had Covid-19 when they died but their cause of death is not known and will be investigated.	DG, media stand-up, 10 March
MIQ update	MIQ facilities will leave the MIQ network and return to being hotels	Managed Isolation and Quarantine is beginning to scale down its operations as international travel starts back up as part of Reconnecting New Zealand. By the end of June, 28 of the current 32 facilities will leave the MIQ network and return to being hotels.	Minister Hipkins' PR, 10 March

		As at February 28, 2022, 228,381 people had returned to New Zealand through MIQ with an average recorded stay of 12.97 days.	
Extended period without self-isolation after having the virus	The period for recovered cases has been extended	Recovered cases will no longer need to self-isolate if they become a household contact within 90 days after having the virus. This is an increase from the current 28 days.	Minister Hipkins' media stand-up, 9 Mar
Health update	Hospitalisations, cases and testing	<p>Hospitalisations</p> <p>There are currently 856 people in hospitals across New Zealand.</p> <p>20 cases are in high dependency or intensive care units.</p> <p>Cases</p> <p>There are 20,989 new cases in the community and 23 new cases identified at the border.</p> <p>Testing</p> <p>669 cases were identified through PCR testing and 20,320 via RAT.</p>	MoH web, 11 March

Vaccinations

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Vaccination waiting periods	People who have had COVID-19 but not yet received a vaccination are advised to wait between 4 and 12 weeks before getting their first, second or third dose.	<p>Advice on the wait times to get a COVID-19 vaccination or booster dose after having COVID-19 is to wait three months for your booster dose but four weeks if you still need any of the first three primary doses.</p> <p>More information can be found on the Ministry of Health website.</p>	Dr Anthony Jordan, NHRCC media stand-up, 11 March

<p>Booster programme update</p>	<p>Yesterday 7,863 booster doses were administered in New Zealand</p>	<p>The total number of people who have received boosters – including those vaccinated overseas – is 2,498,467 (72.7% of those eligible).</p> <p>It has been eight weeks since 5-11 year old vaccinations began, it is therefore time for tamariki to get their second doses.</p>	<p>MoH web, 11 March</p>
<p>Vaccination progress</p>	<p>95.3% of eligible people in New Zealand have had two vaccine doses</p>	<p>Vaccines administered in New Zealand yesterday: 213 first doses; 748 second doses; 53 third primary doses.</p> <p>People vaccinated (including those vaccinated overseas): All Ethnicities (percentage of eligible people aged 12+): 4,067,971 first dose (96.6%); 4,010,167 second dose (95.3%), 2,498,467 boosted (72.7% of those eligible).</p>	<p>MoH web, 11 March</p>
<p>Paediatric vaccines</p>	<p>686 paediatric first doses and 299 paediatric second doses were administered yesterday</p>	<p>To date, 252,273 paediatric first doses and 6,342 paediatric second doses have been administered in New Zealand.</p> <p>Detailed information on COVID-19 vaccines for children can be found at the MoH and UAC websites:</p> <p>COVID-19 vaccine and children: Information for parents and caregivers Ministry of Health NZ</p> <p>How children and young people can get vaccinated Unite against COVID-19 (covid19.govt.nz)</p>	<p>MoH web, 11 March</p>