



COVID-19 Message Grid

16 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 16/03/2022 5:01 pm.

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International travel

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Reconnecting New Zealand to the World	Dates for opening border to tourists moved forward	<p>From 11.59pm Tuesday 12 April, vaccinated Australians will be able to travel to New Zealand isolation-free.</p> <p>This will mean reopening in time for the Australian school holidays.</p> <p>From 11.59pm Sunday 1 May, vaccinated travellers from visa-waiver countries such as the UK, US, Japan and Germany, and those with valid visitor visas will be able to arrive.</p>	Prime Minister PR, 16 March

		<p>Tourists will not need to isolate on arrival. They will be required to have had a pre-departure test, with two further rapid antigen tests on day 0/1 and 5/6.</p> <p>Further advice will be received shortly on options for non-visa waiver travellers, who are currently due to be allowed to enter New Zealand from October.</p>																
Reconnecting New Zealand to the World	New tourism campaign launches in Australia to build demand for travel to NZ	<p>A new tourism campaign – “Within your wildest dreams” – will launch in Australia this week, to support the return of visitors from Australia, isolation-free, from 11.59pm Tuesday 12 April.</p> <p>The campaign highlights some of the most popular experiences sought out by Australia visitors, such as fine dining, jet boating, cycling through vineyards and star gazing in dark sky reserves.</p> <p>It is expected that in the first few months people will mainly travel to connect with friends or family, before travel picks up for the ski season and then ultimately the peak summer season in 2022/23.</p> <p>Minimum COVID-19 vaccination requirements for non-New Zealand citizens and eligible travellers still apply, unless they have an exemption.</p>	Tourism Minister PR, 16 March															
Quarantine Free Travel	Change in requirements for specific flights from Vanuatu	<p>Passengers from specific Vanuatu flights are required to do a Day 0/1 and a Day 5/6 RAT test on arrival in New Zealand. Aircrew are exempt from these requirements.</p> <p>This is because of a public health risk assessment that was undertaken on the current outbreak of COVID-19 in Vanuatu.</p> <p>This testing requirement applies to the following flights</p> <table border="0"> <tr> <td>20 March</td> <td>NF956</td> <td>Christchurch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>24 March</td> <td>NF950</td> <td>Auckland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>26 March</td> <td>NF850</td> <td>Auckland</td> </tr> <tr> <td>28 March</td> <td>NF956</td> <td>Christchurch</td> </tr> <tr> <td>31 March</td> <td>NF950</td> <td>Auckland</td> </tr> </table> <p>For passengers on these flights, the requirements for quarantine free travel to New Zealand prior to boarding remain the same.</p>	20 March	NF956	Christchurch	24 March	NF950	Auckland	26 March	NF850	Auckland	28 March	NF956	Christchurch	31 March	NF950	Auckland	MoH update, 14 March
20 March	NF956	Christchurch																
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Reconnecting New Zealand to the World	A reminder that travellers must complete the Nau Mai Rā traveller declaration form	<p>All travellers must complete the traveller declaration (Nau Mai Rā) before travelling to New Zealand, unless they are entering managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ).</p> <p>Travellers will be asked to provide evidence they have completed the declaration when they check-in at the airport and by Customs when you arrive in New Zealand.</p> <p><u>Nau Mai Rā (covid19.govt.nz)</u></p>	UAC website
Reconnecting New Zealand to the World	Reminder that My Vaccine Pass is proof for entry to most events and many businesses, like hospitality in New Zealand	<p>Travellers who need a My Vaccine Pass and have had had their COVID-19 vaccination overseas, can apply to the Ministry of Health using the overseas vaccine submission form.</p> <p>Not all COVID-19 vaccines will make you eligible for a My Vaccine Pass. There may be additional vaccination requirements.</p> <p>It may take 2 weeks to process My Vaccine Pass for people vaccinated outside New Zealand. If travellers have been vaccinated with 1 of the approved vaccines, it is a good idea to begin the process before they depart for New Zealand.</p> <p><u>Overseas vaccine submission Ministry of Health (covid19.health.nz)</u></p>	UAC website

Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key Message	Supporting Messages	Notes
RATs in schools	Rapid antigen tests more widely available in schools and	Schools, kura and early learning centres will now be provided with rapid antigen tests to give to symptomatic children and staff and the people in their households.	Education Minister PR, 16 March

	<p>early learning centres</p>	<p>The Ministry of Education currently has several hundred thousand tests to hand and will receive nearly 1 million more over the next week, to be distributed through its regional offices.</p> <p>The goal is to keep schools and early learning centres open, so that learning can continue in person.</p> <p>Schools and early learning centres already have very good protections in place with all staff required to be vaccinated, mask use in year 4 and up, and good ventilation.</p> <p>In addition, it is anticipated that all schools will have at least one portable air cleaner by May that they can consider using in areas with higher COVID-19 airborne transmission risk, such as staffrooms, music rooms or cafeterias.</p>	
<p>Health update</p>	<p>Hospitalisations, cases and testing</p>	<p>Hospitalisations</p> <p>There are currently 971 people in hospitals across New Zealand.</p> <p>21 cases are in high dependency or intensive care units.</p> <p>Deaths</p> <p>A total of 24 deaths were reported today – including eight people who died with COVID-19 yesterday, and an additional 16 people who died in the past three weeks.</p> <p>Local public health authorities have notified these deaths to the Ministry of Health in the past 24 hours as part of changes to the reporting of deaths announced last week.</p> <p>Among the 24 deaths reported today are eight people who died at aged residential care facilities.</p> <p>Cases</p> <p>There are 19,452 new cases in the community and 35 new cases identified at the border.</p> <p>Testing</p> <p>522 cases were identified through PCR testing and 18,930 via RAT in the last 24 hours.</p>	<p>MoH web, 16 March</p>

Vaccinations

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Booster programme update	Yesterday 5,484 booster doses were administered in New Zealand	<p>The total number of people who have received boosters – including those vaccinated overseas – is 2,529,830 boosted (72.8% of those eligible).</p> <p>Just 16% of people admitted to hospital had their booster at least 2 weeks prior to admission. Evidence is clear that having a booster protects people from hospitalisation and death.</p>	MoH web, 16 March
Vaccination progress	95.3% of eligible people in New Zealand have had two vaccine doses	<p>Vaccines administered in New Zealand yesterday: 331 first doses; 576 second doses; 33 third primary doses.</p> <p>People vaccinated (including those vaccinated overseas): All Ethnicities (percentage of eligible people aged 12+): 4,069,661 first dose (96.7%); 4,013,004 second dose (95.3%), 2,529,830 boosted (72.8% of those eligible).</p>	MoH web, 16 March
Paediatric vaccines	381 paediatric first doses and 3,889 paediatric second doses were administered yesterday	<p>To date, 255,045 paediatric first doses and 15,673 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>	MoH web, 16 March