



COVID-19 Message Grid

25 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 25/03/2022 5:19 pm.

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Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key Message	Supporting Messages	Notes
Auckland case numbers and hospitalisations	Need to maintain vigilance despite case numbers starting to decline	<p>Today there are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2,982 new COVID-19 cases in Auckland. - 510 people are in hospital in Tāmaki Makaurau, and 11 of those are in ICU. <p>While overall COVID case numbers are starting to reduce, continued vigilance and caution is needed – especially for the protection of those at high risk.</p> <p>People are encouraged to keep up the mask wearing and other good public health measures, stay home if feeling unwell, and take a test if they have symptoms.</p>	NRHCC regional update, 25 March

		It is important for people to report both positive and negative test results as this will aid in tracking the virus.	
Winter update	People are reminded to get vaccinations for COVID, flu and routine immunisations (MMR) as winter approaches.	<p>As New Zealand's border reopens and winter is approaching there is potential for significant pressure on the health system from COVID-19, flu, and other diseases such as RSV and measles.</p> <p>People are encouraged to get their COVID-19 vaccine or booster, get a flu vaccination, and make sure childhood immunisations such as MMR are up to date.</p>	NRHCC regional update, 25 March
Coordinated regional approach to supporting Pacific communities in Auckland	A range of support is available to hard-hit Pacific communities in the Auckland region.	<p>Pacific peoples have some of the highest hospitalisation rates in the Omicron outbreak due to the volume of cases in Pacific communities.</p> <p>Pacific providers have been partnering with the Northern Region Health Coordination Centre since the start of the pandemic in 2020, as part of the Pacific Response to COVID-19.</p> <p>This has included mobile units for testing and vaccinations, community-based assessment and testing centres, a regional outreach-based vaccination programme and the provision of health care and welfare support for families isolating at home through Whanau HQ and support for the regional Pacific Coordination hub.</p>	NRHCC regional update, 25 March
MIQ update	MIQ voucher booking system to end, decommissioning of facilities underway	<p>The MIQ voucher booking system is currently being decommissioned.</p> <p>As fewer people now need to come into MIQ, the voucher booking system isn't needed anymore.</p> <p>Most travellers entering New Zealand will be able to self-test on arrival. MIQ will only be used in limited circumstances, for example, for some maritime and international air crew. In those circumstances, the voucher booking system will no longer be necessary.</p> <p>Without vouchers we also no longer need a system for emergency allocations of vouchers or time sensitive travel allocations, so those systems are being decommissioned too. From Friday 25 March 2022, MBIE will no longer accept any new emergency allocation or time sensitive travel applications.</p>	MIQ PR, 24 Mar

<p>MIQ facilities update</p>	<p>MIQ have commenced with the decommissioning of 22 out of 32 facilities.</p>	<p>MIQ will now reduce the remaining 10 facilities to 4 by the end of June 2022. These facilities currently accommodate special use groups (Afghanistan arrivals, refugees, mariners, air crew) who are no longer required to enter MIQ.</p> <p>If necessary, these groups could be accommodated across the four facilities remaining past June (3 based in Auckland and 1 in Christchurch).</p> <p>MIQ facilities in Hamilton, Rotorua, and Wellington will be decommissioned by the end of May. This allows MIQ to continue to support community cases across five regions for the time being. It also ensures that hotels have one 'empty' month to prepare for re-entering the market.</p>	<p>MIQ PR, 24 Mar</p>
<p>Health update</p>	<p>Hospitalisations, cases and testing</p>	<p>Hospitalisations</p> <p>There are currently 899 people in hospitals across New Zealand.</p> <p>27 cases are in high dependency or intensive care units.</p> <p>Deaths</p> <p>A total of 13 deaths were reported today. These deaths take the total number of publicly reported deaths with COVID-19 to 234 and the 7-day rolling average of reported deaths to 11.</p> <p>Cases</p> <p>There are 15,871 new cases in the community and 29 new cases identified at the border.</p> <p>Testing</p> <p>360 cases were identified through PCR testing and 15,511 via RAT in the last 24 hours.</p>	<p>MoH web, 25 March</p>

Vaccinations

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<p>Booster programme update</p>	<p>Yesterday 2,996 booster doses were administered in New Zealand</p>	<p>The total number of people who have received boosters – including those vaccinated overseas – is 2,566,414 boosted (72.7% of those eligible).</p>	<p>MoH web, 25 March</p>
<p>Vaccination progress</p>	<p>95.1% of eligible people in New Zealand have had two vaccine doses</p>	<p>Vaccines administered in New Zealand yesterday: 141 first doses; 273 second doses; 18 third primary doses.</p> <p>People vaccinated (including those vaccinated overseas): all Ethnicities (percentage of eligible people aged 12+): 4,054,392 first dose (96.3%); 4,001,578 second dose (95.1%), 2,566,414 boosted (72.7% of those eligible).</p>	<p>MoH web, 25 March</p>
<p>Paediatric vaccines</p>	<p>176 paediatric first doses and 4,024 paediatric second doses were administered yesterday</p>	<p>To date, 257,809 paediatric first doses and 56,485 paediatric second doses have been administered in New Zealand.</p>	<p>MoH web, 25 March</p>