



# COVID-19 Message Grid

## 30 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 30/03/2022 4:49 pm.

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## Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key Message	Supporting Messages	Notes
Workplace vaccination guidance updated	New guidance to support businesses through upcoming changes to vaccine requirements	<p>From 11:59pm Monday, 4 April 2022 some government vaccine mandates for workers will be removed. Those who will still be required to be vaccinated include health and disability sector workers, prison staff, border and MIQ workers.</p> <p>New guidance has been published on <a href="http://www.worksafe.govt.nz">www.worksafe.govt.nz</a> and <a href="http://www.employment.govt.nz">www.employment.govt.nz</a> to help employers update their health and safety risk assessments, reflecting the changes that come into effect on 4 April.</p> <p>The new workplace guidance is centred on public health advice, which suggests that requiring vaccination</p>	Min Wood PR, 30 March / UAC website

		<p>in the workplace should only be permitted if it's deemed an employee is at higher risk of catching and spreading COVID-19 while at work than they would otherwise be in the community.</p> <p>Employers may still be able to maintain vaccination requirements where they continue to be supported by a workplace health and safety risk assessment, but the reason will need to be specific to their role and set of circumstances.</p> <p>Normal employment law and processes continue to apply.</p>	
Distribution of rapid antigen tests	New targeted rural service of rapid antigen tests (RATs)	<p>More than 95 per cent of New Zealanders can access RATs within a 20 minute drive – but there are about 250,000 people who live in remote rural areas where access is more difficult.</p> <p>DHBs have initiatives underway to reach their rural communities. This new service aims to connect households to those local initiatives.</p> <p>If there is no existing initiative in a particular area, RATs will be delivered directly to people's homes.</p> <p>Information about local services is available to people when they order a RAT online at <a href="http://www.requestrats.covid19.health.nz">www.requestrats.covid19.health.nz</a>, or via phoning 0800 222 478.</p>	Min Hipkins and Min Verrall, 1pm standup, 30 March
More RATs now approved	New brand of RAT has been approved and more stock confirmed for delivery	<p>A new brand of RAT has been approved for use in New Zealand - the BIOCREDIT COVID-19 Ag Home test - bringing the total of RATs approved for use in New Zealand to 12.</p> <p>There are 31.5 million RATs in stock and further 48.4 million confirmed for delivery over the next four weeks.</p>	Min Hipkins and Min Verrall, PR, 30 March
Māori providers of rapid antigen tests	Supply of RATs has been increased via Māori providers	<p>Māori providers of RATs have increased from 400 to 1000 in the past month.</p> <p>This has enabled Māori providers to distribute to tangata whaiora - disabled people - in their community who were unable to access RATs through other channels.</p>	Min Hipkins and Min Verrall, 1pm standup, 30 March

<p>The Ministry of Health (MoH) providing RATs to high risk settings</p>	<p>RATs are available at high-risk workplaces and schools</p>	<p>MoH are providing RATs to healthcare workforces and first responders and in settings such as at the border, prisons and youth justice facilities and Aged Residential Care facilities.</p> <p>This helps protect staff on site as well as ensuring visitors can be tested.</p> <p>As was announced last week, RATs are being provided to symptomatic children, young people and staff in schools and for reassurance testing in early learning centres.</p>	<p>Min Hipkins and Min Verrall, 1pm standup, 30 March</p>
<p>Health update</p>	<p>Hospitalisations, cases and testing</p>	<p><b>Hospitalisations</b></p> <p>There are currently 817 people in hospitals across New Zealand.</p> <p>24 cases are in high dependency or intensive care units.</p> <p><b>Deaths</b></p> <p>A total of 14 deaths were reported today. These deaths take the total number of publicly reported deaths with COVID-19 to 317 and the 7-day rolling average of reported deaths to 15.</p> <p><b>Cases</b></p> <p>There are 15,918 new cases in the community and 48 new cases identified at the border.</p> <p>Today's seven day rolling average is 14,969; this compares with the seven day rolling average of cases as at last Wednesday of 17,111.</p> <p><b>Testing</b></p> <p>336 cases were identified through PCR testing and 15,582 via RAT in the last 24 hours.</p>	<p>MoH web, 30 March</p>

# Vaccinations

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Booster programme update	Yesterday 2,329 booster doses were administered in New Zealand	The total number of people who have received boosters – including those vaccinated overseas – is 2,579,735 boosted (72.7% of those eligible).	MoH web, 30 March
Vaccination progress	95.1% of eligible people in New Zealand have had two vaccine doses	Vaccines administered in New Zealand yesterday: 94 first doses; 206 second doses; 25 third primary doses.  People vaccinated (including those vaccinated overseas): all Ethnicities (percentage of eligible people aged 12+): 4,055,206 first dose (96.3%); 4,002,586 second dose (95.1%), 2,578,129 boosted (72.7% of those eligible).	MoH web, 30 March
Paediatric vaccines	112 paediatric first doses and 2,873 paediatric second doses were administered yesterday	To date, 258,732 paediatric first doses and 77,627 paediatric second doses have been administered in New Zealand.	MoH web, 30 March

# International travel

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
New Zealand Traveller Declaration open for all travellers	From 11:59pm 31 March 2022, everyone travelling to New Zealand by air is required to complete and submit a New Zealand Traveller Declaration.	The New Zealand Traveller Declaration system requires travellers to upload their recent travel history and COVID-19 health-related information prior to their departure for New Zealand, which could include their vaccination status and pre-departure test.  The new online system will assess travellers' information before they start their journey and issue a Traveller Pass, which will let them know what they need to do to enter New Zealand – such as self-test on arrival.	Customs PR, 29 March

Over time, the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system will make processing and assessing travellers' information faster and easier and help to manage the higher number of travellers expected at our borders.

The New Zealand Traveller Declaration replaces the current Ministry of Health declaration system, Nau Mai Rā. Declarations can be completed in Nau Mai Rā or the New Zealand Traveller Declaration until 31 March 2022. All traveller declarations after 31 March 2022 must be completed in the New Zealand Traveller Declaration system. More information is available at: [www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz](http://www.travellerdeclaration.govt.nz)