

COVID-19

Elimination Strategy for Aotearoa New Zealand

Objective: To prevent cases of COVID-19 | KOWHEORI-19 entering New Zealand while being ready to quickly eliminate any chains of transmission in the community

Approach: We learn and iterate our evidence and risk-based approach to the best set of public health measures balancing health, economic and social outcomes for New Zealand, while working closely with New Zealanders to grow and sustain social license for the measures taken

HEALTH
RESPONSE
PILLARS

KEEP IT OUT

1 Pre- & Border Settings, Managed Isolation & Quarantine

Strong but proportionate border settings flex and adapt as health security settings shift



- Clearly defined health criteria | testing at NZ border
- Mutually agreed health and transport protocols between countries for travel & transit
- MIQ settings and wrap-around services
- Negotiated quarantine (-free) travel arrangements
- Travel restrictions align to immigration settings
- Protocols for high-risk staff at border (air crew, maritime crew, airside workers, port workers, MIQ workers)

STRATEGIC
ACTION
AREAS

PREPARE FOR IT

2a Detection & Surveillance

Best-evidence protocols ensure cases are detected and transmission is controlled



- Testing protocols and targeting
- Disease surveillance, e.g. Genome sequencing, Influenza-like illness, Sentinel testing (community sampling)
- Advice via Healthline and other health providers

2b Public Health Measures

Base-level public health behaviours | Alert Level 1



- Lowest Alert Level setting
- Personal protection and hygiene, e.g. frequent hand washing
- Systems to support contact tracing, e.g. technology

STAMP IT OUT

3a Contact Tracing & Case Management

Targeted and timely activities minimise impacts of new outbreaks across the community and health system



- Testing protocols and targeting
- Technology-enabled tracing
- Quarantine & self-isolation protocols
- Escalation protocols
- Community leadership to facilitate tracing

3b Stronger Public Health Measures

Public adherence to tailored health interventions is high due to trust and confidence in our health settings | Alert Levels 2-4



- Staying at home | travel bans
- Limits on social gatherings
- Targeted and timely behavioural intervention campaigns for different population groups
- Community leaders champion public health messages

FOUNDATIONAL
PILLAR

MANAGE THE IMPACT

4 Health System Readiness & Resilience

Proactive planning ensures a proportionate response to manage impacts of COVID-19 and maintain other services. Implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination programme in 2021.



- Health system is adequately prepared e.g. critical care resources and workforce capacity (including surge capacity)
- Vaccine(s) | Therapeutics – Vaccines
- Best Health Evidence Guidelines
- The Ministry / DHBs work with the sector and communities in the planning, coordination and delivery of our response