Trends and Insights Report

For the week ending Sunday 09 January 2022 – Updated 14 January 2022

Current State of Aotearoa



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Snapshot of the past 7 days

- Most cases reported in the past week (40 percent) were reported in Auckland Metro and for the first time since the outbreak, Bay of Plenty emerging as a new focal point. Cases on a whole are decreasing, with large decreases in the Auckland region.
- The majority (82 percent) of cases reported have been 45 and under and have been most concentrated in the 0-12 and 26 45 age band. Cases 66+ represented only 2 percent of cases reported in the past week.
- Māori no longer represent the majority of cases, with Europeans cases now being the largest cohort at 36%. Pacific People case numbers are rapidly decreasing. Ethnicity makeup of cases is significantly shifting.
- The number of cases reported this week (211) is 29% lower than the number of cases reported in the previous week.
- There continues to be a clear correlation can be seen between a higher number of cases reported in areas which are have a higher deprivation score in the Auckland region.
- Hospitalisations peaked during fortnight period of 8 November and 29 November before dropping significantly and this trend has continued into the New Year. This correlates with corresponding a decrease in case numbers.

Demographic Trends

The below figures show the new 211 cases reported in the previous week between Monday 03 January and Sunday 09 January by DHB, age band and ethnicity. This is a decrease of 88 cases and a relative decrease of 29% from the week prior. This trend of a drop in case numbers by 20-30% on the week previous has been consistent since the most recent outbreak reached its peak in mid-late November 2021.

Of the new cases reported in the past week, the trend continues with the majority of cases (40 percent) reported in Auckland Metro, of which just over half were reported in Counties Manukau DHB. However, for the first time since the beginning of the latest outbreak Bay of Plenty is the region that has the highest representation of new cases in the past week. This is likely due to movement out of Auckland into this region.

The ages of cases reported in the past week has changed from a predominance in the 0-12 age band to dominance of cases in the 26-45 age band. In the past week the majority (82 percent) of cases reported have been 45 and under and have been most concentrated in the 26 – 45 age band. Cases 66+ represented only 2 percent of cases reported in the past week.

Case numbers for Māori have decreased significantly in the past week by 37 percent and are now no longer the dominant ethnicity of cases with Europeans now representing the largest cohort making up 36% of cases in the past week. Case numbers for Pacific People has significantly decreased in the past week by 56%. This change in case demographic makeup could be indicative of the latest

outbreak dynamics changing.





^{*}Increases of 100% represent any increase in case number above 0

Epidemiological Curves

The figures below show the number of new cases reported in the previous six weeks from Monday 29 November to Sunday 09 January.

The number of cases this week (211) is lower than the number of cases that were reported in the previous week (299) by 29%. This is a continuation of the downward trend observed towards the end of 2021. Case numbers continue to decline in Auckland and Bay of Plenty and have remained stable in other areas.







Cases by Ethnicity

The figures below show the number of new cases reported in the previous six weeks from Monday 29 November to Sunday 09 January.

The ethnic proportion of cases has become much more evenly distributed, with reasonably equal proportion of cases being either Maori, Pacific Peoples or European. This trend of equal case representation begins to emerge around mid-December. This is a significant change compared to the previous Trends & Insights report (17 December) whereby Maori and Pacific People were largely overrepresented in cases.

As Auckland Metro has largely represented the bulk of the August outbreak, we can see this same trend occurring on a local scale. Interestingly, since the last Trends & Insights report, the Bay of Plenty region has since emerged as a new focal point in the latest outbreak. Previous sustained regional outbreaks have usually been made up of predominantly Maori or Pacific People cases but the latest outbreak in the Bay of Plenty bucks this trend, with Europeans being the predominant case ethnicity. This jump in European cases occurs approximately 27-29th of December which is likely due to travel of individuals out of Auckland post-Xmas for leisure.

It is important to note that a number of music festivals occur in this region around the New Year/Summer period and consequently NZ is currently experiencing a small cluster (currently 3 cases) linked to a music festival in Tauranga on the 3rd of January 2022.



COVID-19 060606060



Cases by Age

The figures below show the number of new cases reported in the previous six weeks from Monday 29 November to Sunday 09 January.

The 0-12, 13-25 and 26-45 age groups all experienced a steady decline in cases following their peak towards the end of November as reported previously. Cases reported in age bands 46 - 65 and 66 + remain stable over the past 6 weeks as was the case when last reported.

Further breakdown of age groups reveals cases are highest in the 0-9. 10-19. 20-29 and 30-39 age bands despite the observed decline in case numbers for those groups. Age bands falling within the 40+ area have significantly lowercase numbers in comparison with those above the age of 70 experiencing the lowest case numbers.



Cases by Age Group in all of New Zealand



Cases by Deprivation

The figures below show the number of new cases reported in the previous six weeks from Monday 29 November to Sunday 09 January.

In the maps below we can see the distribution of cases reported in the past six weeks in Auckland Metro in relation to housing deprivation. A clear correlation can be seen between a higher number of cases reported in areas which are have a higher deprivation score.

Graphs showing cases by vaccination status and housing deprivation shows that the majority of cases in the outbreak across New Zealand are unvaccinated. There is also a correlation between cases and housing deprivation regardless of vaccination status with those most deprived being most represented in case numbers. Within the most deprived group, those who had not been fully vaccinated were significantly more likely to test positive for covid.



Please note that a small proportion of cases (usually between 1% and 2% of the total) do not have a valid geolocation code and are not included in this map

COVID-19 cases by vaccination status and housing deprivation Delta Outbreak community cases, NZ wide



Hospitalisations

The figures below show the 76 hospitalised cases who have been reported in the previous six weeks between Monday 29 November and Sunday 09 January (rolling four-day average) age band, ethnicity, and vaccination status at the time of being reported as a case. As mentioned in the previous report, hospitalisations spiked momentarily in the weeks 8 November and 29 November before decreasing significantly in the weeks following. This correlates with the decreases seen in correspondent case numbers and this trend continues with hospitalisations falling to less than 1 new hospitalisation case per day as at 09/01/22.

Hospitalisation is most common in the age bands 20-29, 30-39 and 40-49. Maori have the highest number of hospitalisations compared to other ethnicities and hospitalisation rates for Maori appear to increase with age with Maori in the 70-79 age band having the highest hospitalisation rate among all ethnicity and age groups. European/Other and Pacific ethnicity groups are comparable to each other with regard to hospitalisation cases and are the second highest compared to Maori. Europeans in the 10-19 age band have a higher rate of hospitalisation compared to all other Europeans. This is compared to the general population where the highest rate of hospitalisation is in the 80-89 age band.

When considering the crossover between sex and ethnicity, Maori males and females have comparable hospitalisation rates. European females have a slightly higher hospitalisation rate to European males and Pacific females have a lower hospitalisation rate to Pacific males.

As expected, based on global trends the highest number of hospitalisation cases is seen in those who have received no doses of vaccine. Those fully vaccinated 7 days or more before being reported as a case, those ineligible for vaccination due to being under the age of 12 and those partially vaccinated were less likely to be hospitalised and all comparatively to each other.











