

Search



Home > Our work > [Diseases and conditions](#) > [COVID-19](#) > [Data and statistics](#) > 19

Testing for COVID-19

Information on lab testing and capacity and testing rates by ethnicity and DHB.

Last updated 1pm 19 February 2021.

All data on this page is as at 9:00am 19 February 2021 unless otherwise stated.

Change to the updating schedule for this page

Data on this page is now updated daily.

Data is collected from the EpiSurv database (administered by ESR) unless otherwise stated.

On this page:

- [Testing summary, status, and results](#)
- [Testing over the past 4 weeks](#)
- [Testing rate and results by location and ethnicity](#)
- [Testing rate and results by age and gender](#)
- [New Zealand's approach to COVID-19 testing](#)

See also:

- [How testing works - Unite against COVID-19](#)

Testing summary, status, and results

COVID-19 viral testing

People tested	Test results delivered in past 24 hours	Test results delivered during past week
People who travelled internationally	1342	7620
People working at the border, in managed facilities, or near people travelling internationally	1052	6879
Within New Zealand, not linked to the border	8371	46996
Other	68	405
Total	10833	61900

COVID-19 testing status

	Total
All COVID-19 viral tests administered*	1,640,686
Testing kits in stock (updated Mon-Fri only)	212,309

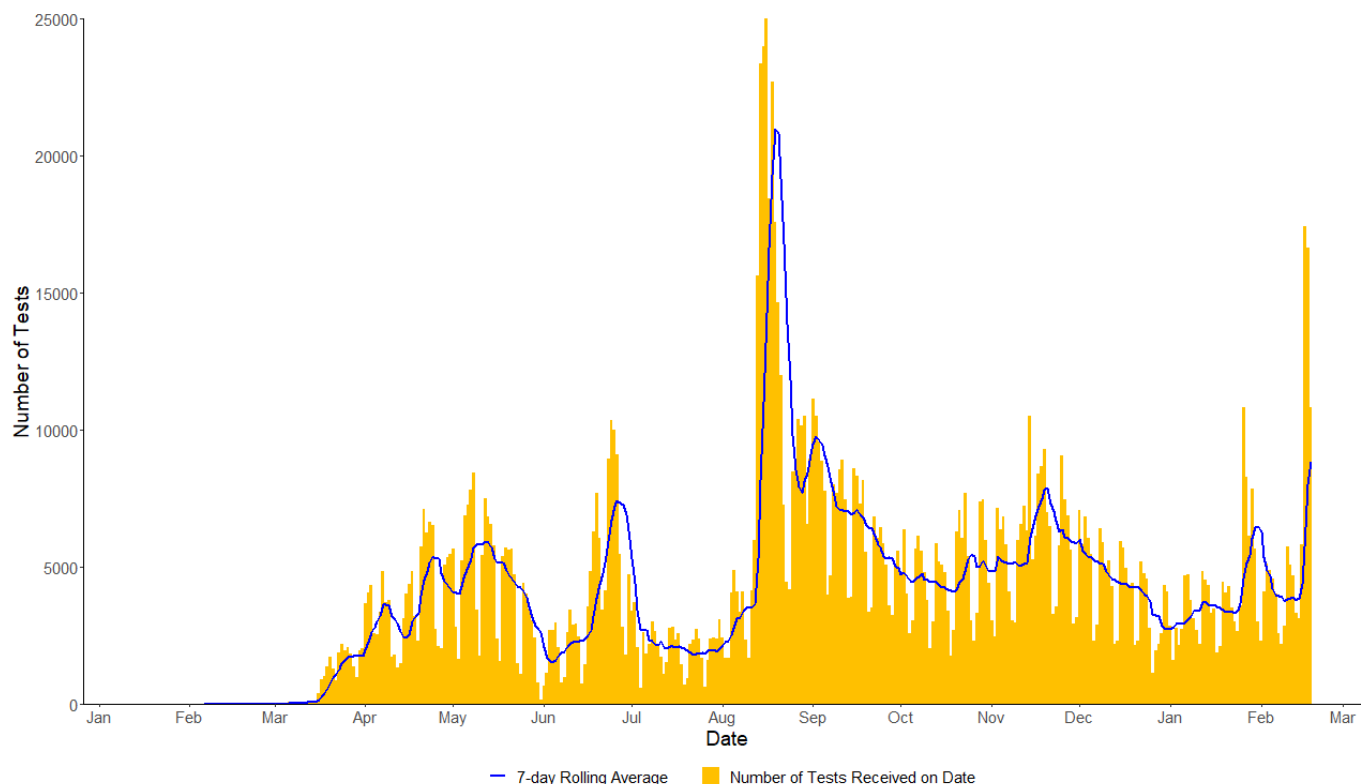
* Covers the period from 22 January 2020 (first test in New Zealand) to 19 February 2021. Note that some people are tested more than once.

Testing results from 22 January 2020* to 19 February 2021

Test results	In managed facilities	Within NZ communities	Total
Tested positive for COVID-19	790	1928	2718

Test results	In managed facilities	Within NZ communities	Total
Tested negative (no COVID-19)	191354	1446363	1637717
Inconclusive result for COVID-19	4	247	251
Total (all tests)	192148	1448538	1640686

* First test for COVID-19 in New Zealand was on 22 January 2020. Note that some people are tested more than once.



Daily number of tests completed for COVID-19 (with seven-day rolling average)

Testing over the past 4 weeks

Tests at managed facilities and within the community in district health boards (DHBs)

DHB of Patient Domicile	18 Jan to 24 Jan	25 Jan to 31 Jan	1 Feb to 7 Feb	8 Feb to 14 Feb
Managed isolation and quarantine facilities	7518	7630	7249	7328
Auckland	2676	5380	3259	3132
Bay of Plenty	581	1101	785	765
Canterbury	2009	2485	2112	1967
Capital and Coast	826	1178	991	899
Counties Manukau	3091	5104	3417	3687
Hawkes Bay	230	362	370	322
Hutt Valley	263	390	313	257
Lakes	260	481	325	351
MidCentral	405	593	530	395
Nelson Marlborough	354	462	454	369
Northland	285	4434	433	418
South Canterbury	114	140	117	132
Southern	729	1115	786	882
Tairāwhiti	135	143	119	132
Taranaki	177	422	284	223
Waikato	809	1598	1038	1138
Wairarapa	72	102	78	91
Waitematā	2465	10446	3486	3182
West Coast	34	60	36	29
Whanganui	85	118	110	72

DHB of Patient Domicile	18 Jan to 24 Jan	25 Jan to 31 Jan	1 Feb to 7 Feb	8 Feb to 14 Feb
Unknown	1037	1635	1317	1282
Total	24155	45379	27609	27053

Note: some people are tested more than once. We cannot give you detailed information about tests in your district, city or town, as we must protect the privacy of the people concerned.

Tests by ethnicity

Ethnicity	18 Jan to 24 Jan	25 Jan to 31 Jan	1 Feb to 7 Feb	8 Feb to 14 Feb
Maori	2253	5694	2710	2847
Pacific peoples	2444	3880	2873	2948
Asian	4118	7527	4790	4552
European/Other	11698	24099	13411	12701
Unknown	3642	4179	3825	4005
Total	24155	45379	27609	27053

Testing rate and results by location and ethnicity

All tests by DHB and in managed isolation and quarantine facilities from 22 January 2020 to 19 February 2021

Location	Total tests	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Managed isolation and quarantine facilities	192148	0.41%	NA
Auckland	209188	0.15%	373.22
Bay of Plenty	57405	0.08%	234.73
Canterbury	124354	0.12%	213.44
Capital and Coast	82473	0.16%	253.52
Counties Manukau	262178	0.09%	452.15
Hawkes Bay	33665	0.14%	200.52
Hutt Valley	30333	0.08%	199.78
Lakes	30904	0.04%	276.76
MidCentral	37300	0.1%	204.26
Nelson Marlborough	30034	0.11%	196.32
Northland	41094	0.09%	223.39
South Canterbury	10428	0.21%	173.35
Southern	68963	0.39%	204.56
Tairāwhiti	11786	0.04%	238.45
Taranaki	24311	0.05%	199.77
Waikato	103008	0.2%	240.07
Wairarapa	8645	0.05%	187.44
Waitematā	230555	0.13%	357.48
West Coast	3115	0.16%	97.52
Whanganui	11773	0.03%	180.97
Unknown	37026	0.13%	NA
Total	1640686	0.17%	280.66

Tests by ethnicity from 22 January 2020 to 19 February 2021

Ethnicity*	Total test	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Māori	233332	0.09%	294.86
Pacific peoples	191165	0.11%	587.49
Asian	238004	0.17%	296.67
European/Other	881621	0.19%	283.45
Unknown	96564	0.25%	NA
Total	1640686	0.17%	307.02

* The prioritised ethnicity classification system is used in this table and below. This means each person is allocated to a single ethnic group, based

on the ethnic groups they identify with. Where people identify with more than one group, they are assigned in this order of priority: Māori, Pacific Peoples, Asian, and European/Other. So, if a person identifies as being Māori and New Zealand European, the person is counted as Māori. See [Ngā tapuae me ngā raraunga: Methods and data sources](#) for further information.

The data categorized by ethnicity come from National Health Index (NHI) data collection, linked to data held in the EpiSurv database.

Testing rates per 1000 people by location and ethnicity from 22 January 2020 to 19 February 2021

Location	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	European/Other
Auckland	400.83	546.15	266.79	405.19
Bay of Plenty	254.49	460.97	164.62	229.18
Canterbury	207.88	277.97	199.55	212.01
Capital and Coast	251.91	299.23	171.69	265.31
Counties Manukau	447.9	751.94	348.34	352.41
Hawke's Bay	202.11	424.71	133.98	190.9
Hutt Valley	194.94	250.23	167.08	200.49
Lakes	293.98	429.6	261.63	257.91
MidCentral	196.92	261.7	132.41	210.62
Nelson Marlborough	203.71	461.08	147.62	191.69
Northland	249.33	243.71	167.35	211.19
South Canterbury	173.35	495.85	174.21	169.54
Southern	187.04	299.58	155.84	208
Tairāwhiti	256.41	322.05	242.81	212.03
Taranaki	198.39	286.46	199.44	197.09
Waikato	267.54	329.63	207.26	225.89
Wairarapa	197.41	316.39	203.52	179.96
Waitematā	371.67	535.47	288.72	358.58
West Coast	89.69	200.53	137.58	95.71
Whanganui	176.82	239.78	133.33	182.89
Total	277.24	549.72	254.62	257.43

Note: some people are tested more than once. We cannot give you detailed information about tests in your district, city or town, as we must protect the privacy of the people concerned.

Percentage of tests returning a positive result by DHB and ethnicity from 22 January to 19 February 2021

Location	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	European/Other
Auckland	0.07	0.19	0.12	0.15
Bay of Plenty	0.04	0	0.15	0.1
Canterbury	0.05	0.2	0.09	0.12
Capital and Coast	0.04	0	0.11	0.2
Counties Manukau	0.02	0.07	0.1	0.13
Hawke's Bay	0.03	0.14	0.23	0.17
Hutt Valley	0.12	0	0	0.09
Lakes	0.03	0	0.04	0.05
MidCentral	0.05	0	0	0.12
Nelson Marlborough	0.15	0	0	0.12
Northland	0.06	0.11	0	0.1
South Canterbury	0.11	0	0.68	0.21
Southern	0.41	0.14	0.14	0.42
Tairāwhiti	0.02	0	0	0.09
Taranaki	0	0	0.08	0.06
Waikato	0.1	0.04	0.25	0.24
Wairarapa	0.06	0	0	0.05
Waitematā	0.22	0.23	0.09	0.12
West Coast	0	0	0	0.2

Location	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	European/Other
Whanganui	0	0	0.47	0.03
Total	0.09	0.11	0.17	0.19

Note: we cannot give the total number of people testing positive per DHB and ethnicity for privacy reasons.

Testing rate and results by age and sex

Tests by age group from 22 January to 19 February 2021

Age group	Total people tested	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
0 to 9	139374	0.1%	220.86
10 to 19	146292	0.14%	228.23
20 to 29	306023	0.2%	409.72
30 to 39	297044	0.18%	435.56
40 to 49	238630	0.16%	391.94
50 to 59	233918	0.16%	368.66
60 to 69	167633	0.17%	313.44
70 to 79	76495	0.15%	210.42
80+	35276	0.16%	188.96
Unknown	1	0%	NA
Total	1640686	0.17%	326.22

Tests by sex from 22 January to 19 February 2021

Sex	Total people tested	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Female	843992	0.16%	331.72
Male	716890	0.18%	288.48
Unknown	79804	0.11%	NA
Total	1640686	0.17%	310.36

New Zealand's approach to COVID-19 testing

New Zealand has a goal of maintaining the elimination COVID-19 in our country. Planned, targeted testing is one of the tools that can help meet this goal.

COVID-19 is a new disease, so we had to build a completely new testing capability.

There are two types of test for COVID-19:

- a viral test that shows if you are currently infected with the virus (also called a PCR test)
- an antibody test that shows whether you were infected before (also known as a serology test).

In New Zealand, the only publicly-available test is the viral test. This test is most reliable for diagnosing COVID-19 if it is taken at the right time (during the first week of the illness).

The first viral test result for COVID-19 was available on 22 January 2020, just over a month before the first case was detected here.

We don't test without planning. A testing strategy is agreed in advance, based on each stage of the crisis and how we decide to manage it.

[Find out more about our testing strategy](#)

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