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Testing for COVID-19

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

Last updated 1pm 20 February 2021.

All data on this page is as at 9:00am 20 February 2021 unless otherwise stated.

Data on this page is now updated daily.

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

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- [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	689	7196
People working at the border, in managed facilities, or near people travelling internationally	913	7180
Within New Zealand, not linked to the border	8638	52733
Other	107	451
Total	10347	67560

COVID-19 testing status

	Total
All COVID-19 viral tests administered*	1,651,035
Testing kits in stock (updated Mon-Fri only)	212,309

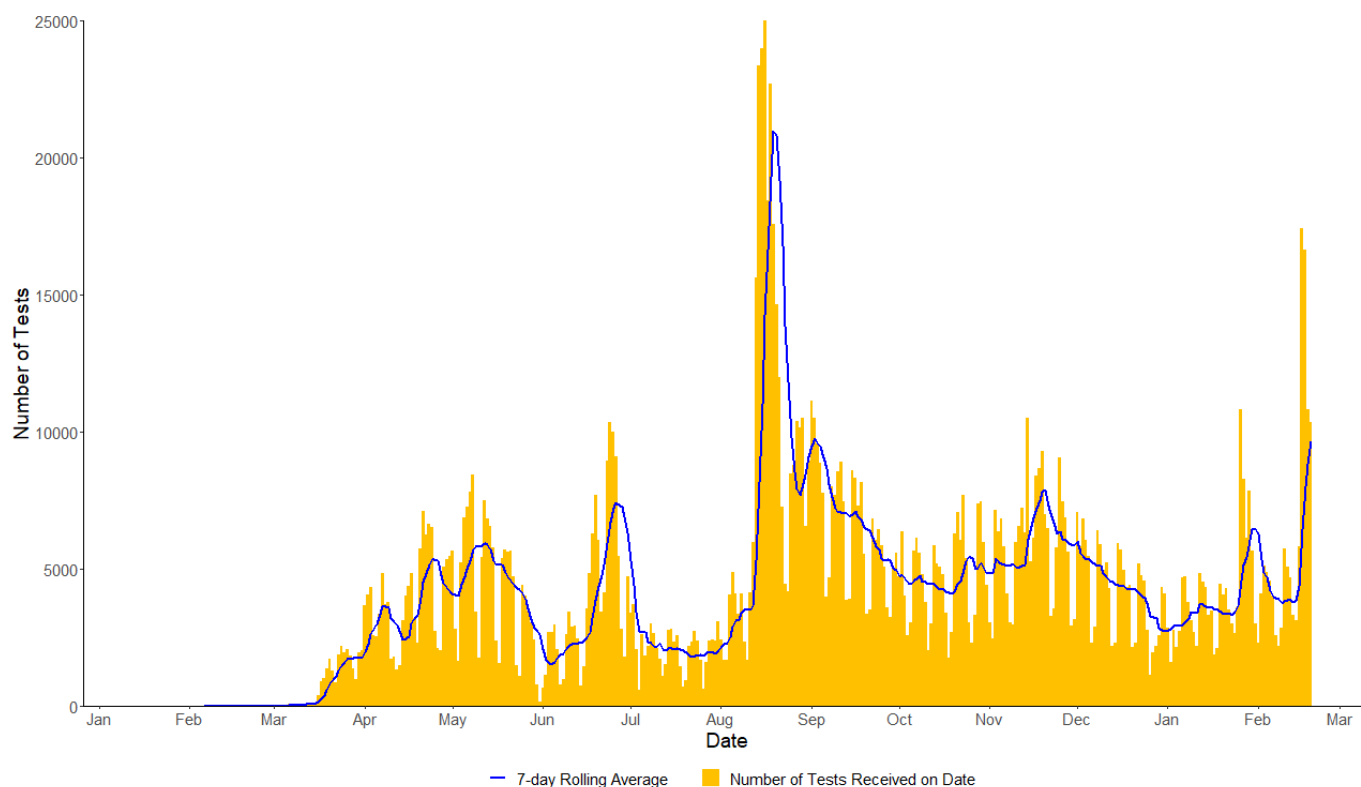
* Covers the period from 22 January 2020 (first test in New Zealand) to 20 February 2021. Note that some people are tested more than once.

Testing results from 22 January 2020* to 20 February 2021

Test results	In managed facilities	Within NZ communities	Total
Tested positive for COVID-19	796	1931	2727
Tested negative (no COVID-19)	192036	1456021	1648057
Inconclusive result for COVID-19	4	247	251

Test results	In managed facilities	Within NZ communities	Total
Total (all tests)	192836	1458199	1651035

* 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	2622	5309	3173	3070
Bay of Plenty	581	1092	781	764
Canterbury	2004	2481	2108	1967
Capital and Coast	824	1177	986	897
Counties Manukau	3065	5050	3382	3659
Hawkes Bay	229	360	370	320
Hutt Valley	260	390	312	256
Lakes	254	470	318	340
MidCentral	403	594	529	393
Nelson Marlborough	354	460	452	368
Northland	284	4431	432	419
South Canterbury	114	140	116	132
Southern	729	1112	785	878
Tairāwhiti	135	144	119	132
Taranaki	176	418	281	221
Waikato	800	1590	1032	1130
Wairarapa	72	101	77	90
Waitematā	2448	10421	3474	3169
West Coast	34	60	36	29
Whanganui	84	116	109	73
Unknown	1165	1833	1488	1418
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	2252	5694	2712	2847
Pacific peoples	2438	3861	2844	2923
Asian	4018	7390	4669	4456
European/Other	11673	24060	13380	12675
Unknown	3774	4374	4004	4152
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 20 February 2021

Location	Total tests	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Managed isolation and quarantine facilities	192836	0.41%	NA
Auckland	207729	0.15%	370.62
Bay of Plenty	57475	0.08%	235.02
Canterbury	124776	0.12%	214.16
Capital and Coast	82672	0.16%	254.13
Counties Manukau	264446	0.09%	456.06
Hawkes Bay	33647	0.14%	200.41
Hutt Valley	30394	0.08%	200.18
Lakes	30550	0.04%	273.59
MidCentral	37399	0.1%	204.8
Nelson Marlborough	30058	0.11%	196.47
Northland	41114	0.09%	223.5
South Canterbury	10482	0.21%	174.25
Southern	69044	0.39%	204.8
Tairāwhiti	11822	0.04%	239.18
Taranaki	24455	0.05%	200.95
Waikato	103020	0.2%	240.1
Wairarapa	8683	0.05%	188.26
Waitematā	231187	0.13%	358.46
West Coast	3118	0.16%	97.62
Whanganui	11837	0.03%	181.95
Unknown	44291	0.11%	NA
Total	1651035	0.17%	281.13

Tests by ethnicity from 22 January 2020 to 20 February 2021

Ethnicity*	Total test	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Māori	234520	0.09%	296.36
Pacific peoples	192059	0.11%	590.24
Asian	235451	0.17%	293.49
European/Other	884147	0.19%	284.26
Unknown	104858	0.23%	NA
Total	1651035	0.17%	307.43

* 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 20 February 2021

Location	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	European/Other
Auckland	402.86	547.69	260.08	404.62
Bay of Plenty	255.48	457.5	162.61	229.62
Canterbury	209.12	279.55	198.47	212.94
Capital and Coast	252.93	300.53	171.83	265.91
Counties Manukau	452.72	758.61	348.1	357.65
Hawke's Bay	202.59	421.49	132.02	191.13
Hutt Valley	196.15	250.99	165.8	200.97
Lakes	295.11	420.52	231.58	257.06
MidCentral	197.67	261.87	131.55	211.3
Nelson Marlborough	205.78	441.01	142.66	192.34
Northland	249.69	244.23	165.99	211.31
South Canterbury	174.63	495.85	170.67	170.63
Southern	187.86	300.14	154.05	208.42
Tairāwhiti	257.65	321.16	241.17	212.53
Taranaki	200.03	287.17	198.21	198.36
Waikato	268.43	330.8	202.81	226.34
Wairarapa	198.64	317.57	203.52	180.77
Waitematā	373.8	536.54	287.76	360.22
West Coast	90.2	196.52	135.51	95.9
Whanganui	179.73	242.98	133.96	183.03
Total	278.83	552.58	251.76	258.34

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 20 February 2021

Location	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	European/Other
Auckland	0.07	0.19	0.13	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	0.15	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	0.1	0	0.69	0.2
Southern	0.4	0.14	0.14	0.42
Tairāwhiti	0.02	0	0	0.09
Taranaki	0	0	0.08	0.06
Waikato	0.09	0.04	0.25	0.24
Wairarapa	0.06	0	0	0.05
Waitematā	0.21	0.23	0.09	0.12
West Coast	0	0	0	0.19
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 20 February 2021

Age group	Total people tested	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
0 to 9	140460	0.1%	222.58
10 to 19	147827	0.14%	230.62
20 to 29	307912	0.2%	412.25
30 to 39	298979	0.18%	438.4
40 to 49	240156	0.16%	394.44
50 to 59	235075	0.16%	370.49
60 to 69	168450	0.17%	314.97
70 to 79	76791	0.14%	211.23
80+	35384	0.16%	189.54
Unknown	1	0%	NA
Total	1651035	0.17%	328.28

Tests by sex from 22 January to 20 February 2021

Sex	Total people tested	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Female	845697	0.16%	332.39
Male	716472	0.18%	288.31
Unknown	88866	0.09%	NA
Total	1651035	0.17%	310.61

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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