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Testing for COVID-19

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

Last updated 1pm 21 February 2021.

All data on this page is as at 9:00am 21 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.

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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	1424	7883
People working at the border, in managed facilities, or near people travelling internationally	772	7153
Within New Zealand, not linked to the border	5140	56103
Other	56	471
Total	7392	71610

COVID-19 testing status

	Total
All COVID-19 viral tests administered*	1,658,429
Testing kits in stock (updated Mon-Fri only)	212,309

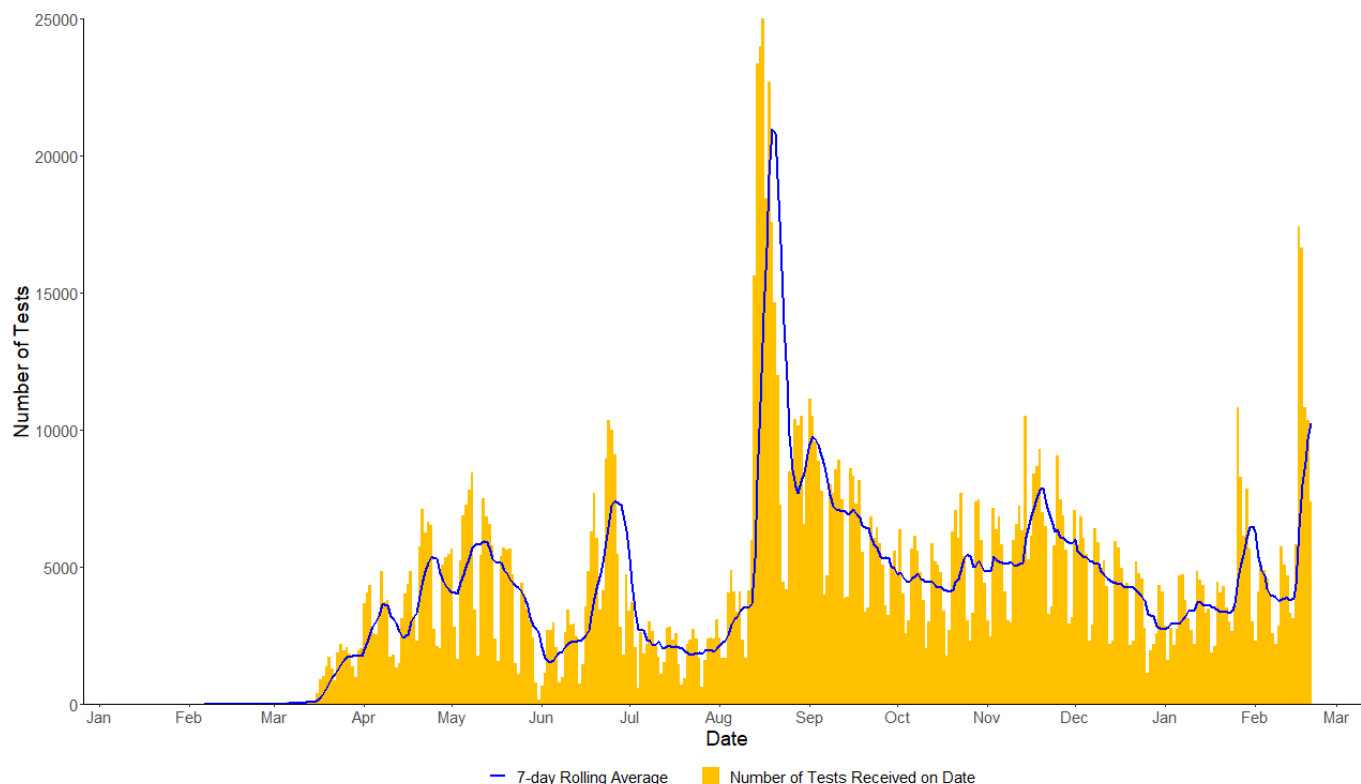
* Covers the period from 22 January 2020 (first test in New Zealand) to 21 February 2021. Note that some people are tested more than once.

Testing results from 22 January 2020* to 21 February 2021

Test results	In managed facilities	Within NZ communities	Total
Tested positive for COVID-19	800	1932	2732

Test results	In managed facilities	Within NZ communities	Total
Tested negative (no COVID-19)	193457	1461989	1655446
Inconclusive result for COVID-19	4	247	251
Total (all tests)	194261	1464168	1658429

* 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	25 Jan to 31 Jan	1 Feb to 7 Feb	8 Feb to 14 Feb	15 Feb to 21 Feb
Managed isolation and quarantine facilities	7630	7249	7328	6469
Auckland	5291	3166	3056	7483
Bay of Plenty	1090	780	764	1794
Canterbury	2479	2107	1960	3907
Capital and Coast	1177	985	898	2465
Counties Manukau	5046	3374	3655	21189
Hawkes Bay	360	370	320	1005
Hutt Valley	390	312	255	882
Lakes	466	318	338	928
MidCentral	592	528	393	1145
Nelson Marlborough	459	452	367	839
Northland	4430	432	419	1064
South Canterbury	140	115	132	319
Southern	1110	785	878	2037
Tairāwhiti	144	119	132	355
Taranaki	418	281	221	1678
Waikato	1589	1027	1124	4028
Wairarapa	101	77	90	188
Waitematā	10401	3468	3162	7844
West Coast	60	36	29	57
Whanganui	116	109	73	427

DHB of Patient Domicile	25 Jan to 31 Jan	1 Feb to 7 Feb	8 Feb to 14 Feb	15 Feb to 21 Feb
Unknown	1890	1519	1459	2373
Total	45379	27609	27053	68476

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	25 Jan to 31 Jan	1 Feb to 7 Feb	8 Feb to 14 Feb	15 Feb to 21 Feb
Maori	5693	2708	2846	10379
Pacific peoples	3834	2790	2890	11017
Asian	7355	4652	4433	12059
European/Other	24043	13369	12665	29949
Unknown	4454	4090	4219	5072
Total	45379	27609	27053	68476

Testing rate and results by location and ethnicity

All tests by DHB and in managed isolation and quarantine facilities from 22 January 2020 to 21 February 2021

Location	Total tests	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Managed isolation and quarantine facilities	194261	0.41%	NA
Auckland	207934	0.15%	370.98
Bay of Plenty	57615	0.08%	235.59
Canterbury	125068	0.12%	214.66
Capital and Coast	82855	0.16%	254.69
Counties Manukau	266104	0.09%	458.92
Hawkes Bay	33562	0.14%	199.91
Hutt Valley	30435	0.08%	200.45
Lakes	30607	0.04%	274.1
MidCentral	37453	0.1%	205.1
Nelson Marlborough	30040	0.11%	196.35
Northland	41222	0.09%	224.09
South Canterbury	10513	0.21%	174.76
Southern	69112	0.39%	205
Tairāwhiti	11859	0.04%	239.93
Taranaki	24491	0.05%	201.25
Waikato	103225	0.19%	240.58
Wairarapa	8672	0.05%	188.02
Waitematā	231701	0.13%	359.26
West Coast	3114	0.16%	97.49
Whanganui	11847	0.03%	182.1
Unknown	46739	0.1%	NA
Total	1658429	0.16%	281.83

Tests by ethnicity from 22 January 2020 to 21 February 2021

Ethnicity*	Total test	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Māori	235387	0.09%	297.46
Pacific peoples	192671	0.11%	592.12
Asian	235710	0.17%	293.81
European/Other	886147	0.19%	284.9
Unknown	108514	0.23%	NA
Total	1658429	0.16%	308.18

* 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 21 February 2021

Location	Māori	Pacific peoples	Asian	European/Other
Auckland	405.05	549.73	260.26	405.28
Bay of Plenty	256.6	455.98	162.61	230.13
Canterbury	209.77	280.72	198.03	213.58
Capital and Coast	253.6	301.6	171.75	266.57
Counties Manukau	456.24	763.36	350.71	359.33
Hawke's Bay	203	403.09	131.3	191.4
Hutt Valley	196.22	251.33	165.7	201.39
Lakes	295.78	422.49	229.07	257.91
MidCentral	198.19	262.23	131.12	211.66
Nelson Marlborough	206.27	433.15	142.54	192.33
Northland	250.71	245.52	165.76	211.77
South Canterbury	174.99	497.85	171.45	171.13
Southern	188.42	301.41	153.5	208.64
Tairāwhiti	258.73	322.05	239.54	213.12
Taranaki	200.66	287.17	195.29	198.84
Waikato	269.07	331.16	202.55	226.89
Wairarapa	198.02	318.76	203.52	180.58
Waitematā	374.99	538.41	287.75	361.16
West Coast	90.2	196.52	133.44	95.82
Whanganui	179.95	242.98	134.58	183.24
Total	279.95	554.76	252.16	258.96

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 21 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	0.12
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	0.08
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	0.22	0.09	0.12
West Coast	0	0	0	0.19

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 21 February 2021

Age group	Total people tested	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
0 to 9	141213	0.09%	223.78
10 to 19	148815	0.14%	232.16
20 to 29	309322	0.2%	414.14
30 to 39	300260	0.18%	440.28
40 to 49	241209	0.16%	396.17
50 to 59	235984	0.16%	371.92
60 to 69	169096	0.16%	316.17
70 to 79	77040	0.14%	211.91
80+	35489	0.16%	190.1
Unknown	1	0%	NA
Total	1658429	0.16%	329.75

Tests by sex from 22 January to 21 February 2021

Sex	Total people tested	Tested positive (%)	Test rate per 1000 people
Female	847496	0.16%	333.1
Male	717181	0.18%	288.6
Unknown	93752	0.09%	NA
Total	1658429	0.16%	311.11

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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