New Zealand and Covid–19
New Zealand

• Currently 283 cases, no deaths
• In lockdown since Wednesday 25 March (4 weeks minimum)
• Only essential businesses allowed to operate
  • Supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitals and their supply chains.
• Those who can are working from home
• Many business closures, employee layoffs
• Central source of information covering all issues
• BusinessNZ designated as an essential service
  • operating call centres in conjunction with government call centre
  • coordinating interface between business and government
NZs Pandemic Alert System

### Stages of alert

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALERT LEVEL ONE: PREPARE</th>
<th>First cases of community transmission</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Activate border measures</td>
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<tr>
<td>Contact tracing</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cancel mass gatherings of more than 500 people</td>
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<tr>
<td>Stay at home if sick and report flu-like symptoms</td>
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<tr>
<td>Intensive testing for Covid-19</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical distancing encouraged</td>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>ALERT LEVEL TWO: REDUCE</th>
<th>Contained but risk of community transmission growing</th>
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<tr>
<td>Entry border measures maximised</td>
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<tr>
<td>Further restrictions on mass gatherings</td>
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<tr>
<td>Physical distancing on public transport</td>
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<tr>
<td>Limit non-essential travel around country</td>
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<tr>
<td>Employer to begin alternative ways of working if possible (shift work, working from home etc)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Business contingency plans activated</td>
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<td>High risk people to remain at home (over 70s, people with existing conditions)</td>
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<tr>
<th>ALERT LEVEL THREE: RESTRICT</th>
<th>Heightened risk that disease not contained</th>
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<tr>
<td>Travel in areas of community transmission limited</td>
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<tr>
<td>Affected educational facilities closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Mass gatherings cancelled</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public venues closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alternative ways of working</td>
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<tr>
<td>required and some non-essential businesses closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Non-face-to-face primary care consultations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Elective surgeries and procedures deferred and healthcare staff reprioritised</td>
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<tr>
<th>ALERT LEVEL FOUR: ELIMINATE</th>
<th>Likely that disease not contained</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>People to stay at home</td>
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<tr>
<td>Educational facilities closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>All non-essential businesses closed</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities</td>
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<tr>
<td>Severe travel restrictions</td>
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<td>Major reprioritisation of healthcare services</td>
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#### Key Dates:
- **21 February**: Alert system announced
- **Declared Level 2**
- **Monday 23 March**: First cases of community transmission
- **Level 3 declared, lifting to level 4 on 25 March**
- **Wednesday 25 March**: Full lockdown
- **National state of emergency declared**
NZ’s 6 Phase Pandemic Action Plan

• Plan For It (Preparedness)
  • Level of influenza at normal seasonal levels
  • Plan and prepare to reduce the health, social and economic impact of a pandemic on New Zealand Deal with disease in animals, if required

• Keep It Out (Border Management)
  • Sustained human-to-human transmission of a novel influenza virus overseas in two or more countries
  • Prevent, or delay to the greatest extent possible, the arrival of the pandemic virus in New Zealand
NZ’s 6 Phase Pandemic Action Plan

• **Stamp It Out (Cluster control)**
  • Novel influenza virus or pandemic virus detected in case(s) in New Zealand
  • Control and/or eliminate any clusters found in New Zealand

• **Manage It (Pandemic management)**
  • Multiple clusters at separate locations, or clusters spreading out of control
  • Reduce the impact of pandemic influenza on New Zealand’s population
NZ’s 6 Phase Pandemic Action Plan

• Manage It (Post-Peak Transition)
  • Recover From Manage It phase and planning for a resurgence or second wave
  • New Zealand wave decreasing
  • Expedite recovery, and prepare for a re-escalation of response

• Recover From It (Recovery)
  • Population protected by vaccination, or pandemic abated in New Zealand
  • Expedite the recovery of population health, communities and society where affected by the pandemic, pandemic management measures, or disruption to normal services
Support for business

• Private sector most impacted (state sector remains fully funded)
• NZD12 billion economic support package (>4% GDP)
  • Wage and leave subsidies
  • Tax and cashflow relief
  • Increased investment in health sector
Wage subsidy

• Supports businesses impacted by COVID that face laying off staff or reducing their hours because of COVID-19.

• Available for all businesses that can show a 30% decline in revenue for any month between January and June 2020 compared to the year before (including projected revenue).

• Applies to all New Zealand employers, contractors, sole traders, self-employed people, registered charities and incorporated societies.

• Paid as lump sum to employer

• Employer to pay to employees at a flat rate of:
  • $585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week
  • $350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week.
Leave Subsidy

• Available to support people financially if they:
  • need to self-isolate (as determined by the Ministry of Health guidelines),
  • cannot work because they are sick with COVID-19, or
  • cannot work because they are caring for dependents who are required to self-isolate or are sick with COVID-19.

• Availability
  • For 8 weeks from 17 March 2020.
  • Paid to employers who have eligible employees and they must pass the payment onto their employees in full (can be applied for more than once).
  • Employees (full and PT), contractors, sole traders or self-employed who are legally working in New Zealand
Leave Subsidy (private sector only)

• Paid at a flat rate of:
  • $585.80 to a person working 20 hours or more per week
  • $350.00 to a person working less than 20 hours per week.

• Not available to state sector employees (they will continue on full pay).
Wider business measures

• Mortgage holidays
• Rent freeze
• Business loans (up to $500,000)
• Provisional tax threshold increased from $2,500 to $5,000 from 2020/2021
• Small asset depreciation threshold increased from $500 to $1,000 — and to $5,000 for the 2020/21 tax year
• Allows depreciation on commercial and industrial buildings from 2020/2021
• Removal of hours test from the In-Work Tax Credit (IWTC) from 1 July 2020.
More information

• Information on NZ’s health guidance and support for business can be found at
  
  http://covid10.govt.nz

• NZ’s Pandemic Action Plan can be found at
  