

COVID-19 Message Grid

25 January 2022

This contains the most up-to-date and approved messaging on key COVID-19 matters.

Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This version was current at 25/01/2022 6:40 pm

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Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key Message	Supporting Messages	Notes
January Omicron Cluster: community cases update	10 new Omicron cases reported today, taking the total to 29 cases, all associated with the January Omicron Cluster.	<p>All these cases have been linked, directly or indirectly, to a family event and other associated events in Auckland on the weekend of 15 and 16 January.</p> <p>The number of cases and contacts from the January Omicron Cluster are expected to grow given the highly transmissible nature of Omicron and as more is learned from case interviews.</p> <p>At this stage, it is believed that the Nelson-Tasman family associated with this cluster became infected while in Auckland, not in the Nelson-Tasman region.</p> <p>Public health officials are continuing to manage Omicron cases in the community through rapidly</p>	MoH PR, 25 Jan

isolating cases and contacts, contact tracing, and testing in order to slow the spread.

Locations of Interest are published on the Ministry of Health [website](#) as they are confirmed.

Testing capacity

The Government will use Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) to help critical workforces, businesses and supply chains to stay open, and allow a **Test to Return to Work** approach.

Phase one of the response to Omicron means continuing with the same Testing, Tracing Isolation, Quarantine settings as used before, to help slow down the spread of Omicron.

However, as the case load grows the Testing, Tracing, Isolation, Quarantine settings will change. Critical workers identified as close contacts will be able to use proof of a negative RAT to return to work during their required period of isolation if they are not symptomatic.

The Ministry of Health has also significantly increased PCR or nasal swab testing capacity to 60,000 tests a day, with surge capacity to just nearly 78,000 a day, which can be sustained for 7 days.

Once Omicron is more widespread in the community RATS will be more common in the Government’s testing strategy. MoH has 83 million RATs on order, and 4.6 million in the country.

PM post-cab speech; Min Verrall PR, 25 Jan

Enhanced face covering requirements at Red

Masks must now also be worn at food and drink businesses, close proximity businesses, events and gatherings.

When people are eating, drinking and exercising, there is no requirement to wear a face mask.

These changes also won’t apply to non-public facing workplaces and swimming pools.

All masks must now be attached to the head by loops around the ears or head. The Government now requires that a face covering be an actual mask - no more scarves, bandannas, or t-shirts pulled up over the face, for example. Ensure that it is a mask designed to cover the nose and mouth properly.

All workers legally mandated to be vaccinated must now also wear a medical grade mask (for example a Type IIR/Level 2 masks or above) while working in public facing roles. These include the widely available ‘blue’ medical-grade masks that many are already wearing.

PM post-cab speech, 25 Jan

		<p>These changes will come into force at 11:59pm, 3 February, to allow workplaces in particular, time to prepare.</p> <p>People covered by a vaccine mandate at work can no longer wear cloth masks in their workplace.</p> <p>Primary and secondary school students Year 4 and up will also need to wear a face covering on public transport and Ministry of Education funded school transport services. This aligns with requirements for these students in their education settings.</p>	
School ventilation	5,000 portable air cleaners for schools ordered	<p>The Ministry of Education expects the first 500 air cleaners to arrive in March and the remaining 4,500 to be delivered by June. These will be used in targeted areas within some schools in the coming months.</p> <p>Schools will also receive a ventilation self-assessment toolkit with a portable CO2 monitor to help identify areas of concern and approaches to improve ventilation.</p> <p>These 2,500 monitors are in addition to more than 8,000 Internal Environment Monitors already in, or soon to be deployed, in schools early this year.</p> <p>Along with vaccination, testing, good hygiene and physical distancing, good ventilation is important in minimising the risk of airborne transmission of the virus that causes COVID-19.</p>	Min Hipkins PR, 25 Jan
Health update	Cases, testing and contact tracing	<p>Hospitalisations</p> <p>There are 10 people currently in hospitals across New Zealand with COVID-19.</p> <p>None are in high dependency or intensive care units.</p> <p>Cases</p> <p>There are 25 new cases in the community and 37 new cases identified at the border.</p> <p>Testing</p> <p>12,687 tests were processed nationwide yesterday (24 Jan).</p>	MoH PR, 25 Jan

		<p>Contact Tracing</p> <p>5,458 active contacts are currently being managed, 78% of whom have had at least one test result.</p> <p>Wastewater Detections</p> <p>There were no unexpected detections of COVID-19 in wastewater.</p>	
<p>Information about Red status</p>	<p>How people protect each other at Red</p>	<p>With a My Vaccine Pass, people can visit cafes and bars, attend gatherings and events, and visit close contact businesses like hairdressers. Some limits like capacity and distancing requirements will apply.</p> <p>Without My Vaccine Pass, there are more restrictions in place. For example, people can't visit close contact businesses like hairdressers or gyms, attend events like concerts, or dine in at cafes and restaurants.</p> <p>Workplaces and schools are open — public health measures will be in place</p> <p>Keep scanning QR codes and record-keeping</p> <p>Keep physically distanced wherever possible</p> <p>If people have cold or flu symptoms, they should isolate immediately and call Healthline for advice about a test</p>	<p>UAC website, 23 Jan</p>

Vaccinations

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Booster programme	56,788 boosters were administered yesterday, the highest number in one day so far.	<p>Over 73% of people over 65 have now been boosted and every DHB is on track to complete their booster programmes in Aged Residential Care facilities within the next week.</p> <p>Having a booster reduces the chances of developing serious illness on top of the protection having two shots already provides. The more people that get their booster, once eligible, the less likely hospitals will become overrun.</p> <p>The total number of boosters administered is now 1,053,055.</p> <p>Similarly, yesterday was a record for paediatric doses administered of 14,400. Almost 95,000 5-to-11-year-olds have now received a first dose.</p>	PM post-cab speech; MoH PR, 25 Jan
Vaccination progress	93% of eligible New Zealanders are now fully vaccinated	Vaccines administered to date (percentage of eligible people): 3,997,561 first doses (95%); 3,913,001 second doses (93%); 37,159 third primary doses; 1,053,055 booster doses.	MoH PR, 25 Jan
Border Workers and boosters	Vaccination order amendment	85% of active border workers that are now required to get a booster by 15 February, under the Vaccinations Order, have already done so.	MoH BWTR data update