

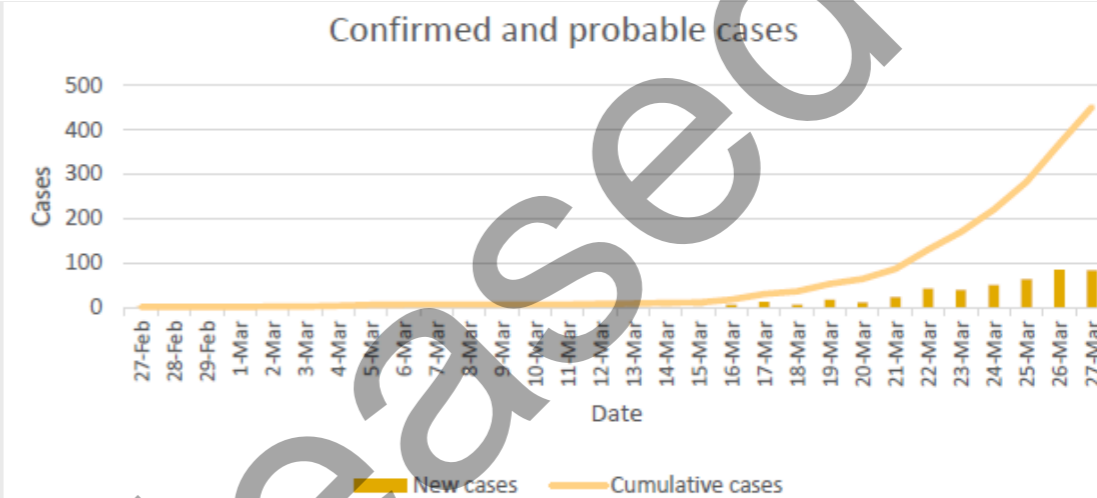
CURRENT STATE

As at 9am 29 March, we have 514 confirmed and probable cases and have recorded the first NZ death linked to COVID-19. Cases are anticipated to grow over coming weeks; however we remain well behind other places internationally in the expected progress of the disease.

We have enacted rigorous plans to slow the progression, taking steps early and scaling up system capacity and preparedness to cope with potential demand.

Modelling of the unmitigated progression of COVID-19 shows the peak 5/6 months away. The impact of our current mitigations, if successful, shows we can flatten the peak, and avoid reaching it entirely, if we can keep up reasonable controls.

These controls would not necessarily be the full level 4 measures. This model assumes ending the control measures after nine months, which pushes the peak into March 2021.



HEALTH-RELATED ACTIONS AT ALERT LEVEL 4

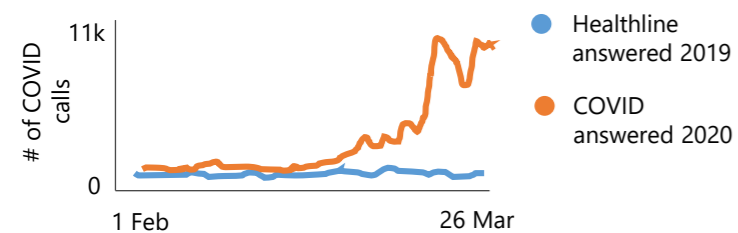
At 1159 hrs on 25 March, New Zealand shifted to Alert Level 4. This activated a range of public health and social measures to support our elimination strategy, including: instructing people to stay at home, closing educational facilities, closing businesses (except essential services and lifeline utilities), rationing supplies and requisitioning facilities as required, severely limiting travel, and reprioritising healthcare services. See below for an update on the health-related actions to support activation of Level 4.

HEALTHLINE

Status: Stabilised and more capacity planned

Healthline has experienced a ten-fold increase in calls compared with the same time last year to almost 10,000 calls. Call times have stabilised in recent days and wait times have reduced as 120+ staff have been activated between 24 – 27 March.

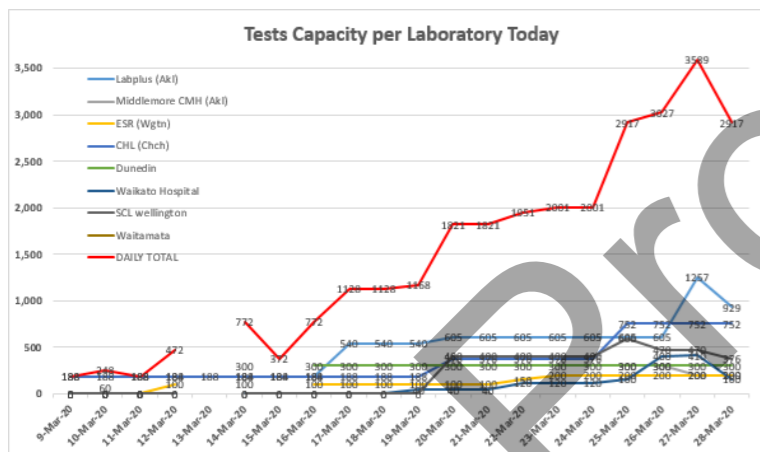
There are plans to further increase the workforce by end April to c600 people in Healthline 250 call takers delivered by third party services.



LAB TESTING

Status: Increasing

Testing capacity has steadily increased – at 27 March this had reached 3,589 tests per day.



ICU CAPACITY

Status: Sufficient ICU/ventilator capacity, but working to expand to meet anticipated demand

As at 29 March there are 9 people in hospital for COVID-19 in New Zealand, with two in an Intensive Care Unit (ICU).

Across New Zealand District Health Boards at present there are:

533 Ventilated ICU beds available

There are also an additional 84 viable ICU bed spaces in private hospitals and other providers.

A pressing issue is ensuring there are sufficient staff to meet expected demand for ICU care. There is work underway to mitigate this:

- Requesting DHBs train further nurses in the ICU specialty, or refresh training for people who have previously worked in ICU or similar
- Seeking retired healthcare professionals who would be willing to re-join the workforce to assist in the COVID-19 effort
- Postponing the rotation of Junior Doctors scheduled for the end of May to maintain competency of the workforce.

PERSONAL PROTECTIVE EQUIPMENT (PPE)

Status: Sufficient supply and working to secure replenishments

DHBs have operational supplies of PPE, plus they also have access to national reserves which are substantial. Further action is being taken to ensure the sufficient and ongoing supply of PPE in NZ.

640,000 masks were issued to DHBs from the Ministry on 26 March, with plans to supply 4 million masks to the health sector and another 4 million to non-health essential workers in April, and more in May.

PPE Item	National Reserve	
	DHB reserves	MOH reserve
Masks	5.1 million	18 million
Coverage (gowns/aprons)	1.8 million	
Gloves	2.4 million	
Surgical handwash/sanitiser	21,000 bottles	
Face shield/eye protection	60,000 items	

COVID-19 HEALTH BUDGET



To date, Cabinet has agreed to draw down \$261.2m of the \$500m contingency for Health responses to COVID-19.

This includes the establishment of Community Based Assessment Centres, increased support for Māori health providers, and the rapid scaling up of contact tracing, Healthline and DHB workforces.

A proposal for a further \$17.0m to increase our response for Pacific people is due shortly.

HEALTHCARE WORKFORCE SUPPLY

Status: Workforce surge capacity available as required

4,011 additional health professionals available (2,637 have an active practicing certificate)

To date, 4,011 former health professionals have registered with our emergency workforce supply database. This includes doctors, nurses, midwives, medical laboratory scientists, physiotherapists, paramedics and kaiawhina.

Of the 4,011 health professionals available, 2,637 currently have an active practicing certificate.

- **661** doctors – **233** have practicing certificates
- **900** nurses – **662** have practicing certificates
- **74** midwives – **21** have practicing certificates
- **225** medical laboratory scientists – **53** have practicing certificates

CONTACT TRACING

	Total to date (from 24/3)	Daily total for 28/3
Requests processed by NCCS Triage team	5191	1465
Number of close contacts passed to NCCS	2961	673
Requests referred to 'Finding Services'	2237	375
Attempted calls	4234	1532
Contacts traced (resolved)	1927	431
Non-compliant close contacts	15	1