



(MOH, 2021cc)

## COVID-19 update 10 November 2021

### News article

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COVID-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins and Director-General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield updated the media today at 1.00 pm today.

Transcript ▼

>> Good afternoon everybody.

I hand over to the Director-General and he can do us the numbers and the schooling for next year

>> Today 147 new cases in the community. Of these 131 are in Auckland. 14 in Waikato and two in Northland and we have two in managed isolation. Further details and break down in our 1:00 p.m. Statement from the ministry of health.

Sadly reporting sudden death of a man in his 60s who had COVID-19 overnight and he was isolating at home in Auckland. The cause of death will be looked into by the coroner and whether it was COVID-related.

Any deaths that could be COVID-19-related are fully investigated whether they occur at home or in the hospital setting.

Obviously, our thoughts are very much with this man's family and friends at what will be a stressful time.

In terms of hospitalisations 81 people in hospital with COVID-19. 11 are in ICU or high dependency unit and all in the Auckland region.

Good to see testing continue really good volume particularly in Auckland. Yesterday just under 28,000 tests processed around the country and 3,420 swabs taken and processed in Auckland alone.

Further on Auckland our team up there has identified six suburbs of concern because there is a higher risk of their being unidentified cases and transmission there. Anyone in the suburbs of Sunnyvale, Kelston, Birkdale and Māngare if you are vaccinated or not get a test and stay home until you receive a negative result.

Down to the Waikato 14 new cases there. Ten and six-in-one household who were known contacts. Three of today cases are from Hamilton and one in Ngāruawāhia. Interviews are underway at the moment. There is testing widely available through Hamilton and through the Waikato again today.

One location of interest identified yesterday and that is The Base in Hamilton. Please check the ministry website for the time and date and the instructions there.

Up to Northland two cases to report both in the same household in Dargaville and probable links to cases in Auckland identified there. One of those cases is a child under one and it highlights COVID can go effect anyone of any age.

And all the more reason for us to think seriously about vaccination, because it is one of the best ways to protect our people.

Good testing capacity across Auckland today and good to see vaccinations continue to go well in the Northland area. I encourage anyone who hasn't been vaccinated yet to get along and do so today.

Coming back to COVID-related deaths and clarifying our reporting of these, we will be changing our ways that we will be reporting deaths by COVID-19 to ensure it is reported in a timely way and indicate where there are other causes of death.

The clinical criteria will continue to be guided by the WHO definition which is to report any death where the person had an acute COVID-19 infection regardless of what the cause of death might be. We will be publicly reporting confirmed deaths where the death documents or an investigation has shown that the cause was COVID-19. And we will report other deaths where the cause of deaths not certain but the person had COVID-19. We will report them separately.

The latter group will be classified under investigation while we await further information from the clinicians or indeed a coroner's follow-up investigation.

Just an update on our modelling. Last Monday 1st November I showed some modelling from Dr Gary Jackson one of the team up in Auckland recording forecast case numbers, hospitalisations and ICU numbers and the RU value. That modelling had forecast around 200 cases per day by the end of this month in Auckland. Around 1400 cases a week based on median numbers.

As I mentioned on Monday they were spot on with what the model it forecast in terms of numbers. Hospitalisations why somewhat higher but ICU somewhat her. Each week around 150 new hospitalisations and around 11 ICU admissions. I do want to put that in context.

There are more 1700 hospital beds across Auckland and over 100 ICU beds. ICU bed capacity does change on a daily basis depending on what the local needs might be and planning and staffing so numbers can increase both in Auckland and around the country. It is important to know the hospitals in Auckland will have and capacity.

Anyone who needs care for any reason do not delay in seeking it. The hospitals are safe. However, we do want to limit the impact of COVID on our hospital system and indeed your wider health system.