


(Strongman, n.d.)

COVID-19 PANDEMIC TIMELINE

How the coronavirus started, spread and stalled life in New Zealand

[Click here to skip to the latest updates](#)



The economy is in turmoil, scared Kiwis are stockpiling and travellers are self-isolating. How did we get here? *Susan Strongman* traces Covid-19 from the first cases in China to the fall out in New Zealand.

DECEMBER 2019

It starts as early as **1 December** when, in Wuhan City, in the central Chinese province of Hubei, cases of pneumonia of an unknown cause surface. Near the end of the month, Li Wenliang, a Wuhan-based ophthalmologist, warns a group of fellow doctors about a possible outbreak of an illness that resembles severe acute respiratory syndrome (SARS).

probable cases of the disease to 1474. The Prime Minister says that yesterday, about 4 percent of children returned to early childhood education facilities and about 1 percent returned to schools.

The following day, three new cases are announced. One is linked to an existing case and the other two are under investigation.

MAY 2020

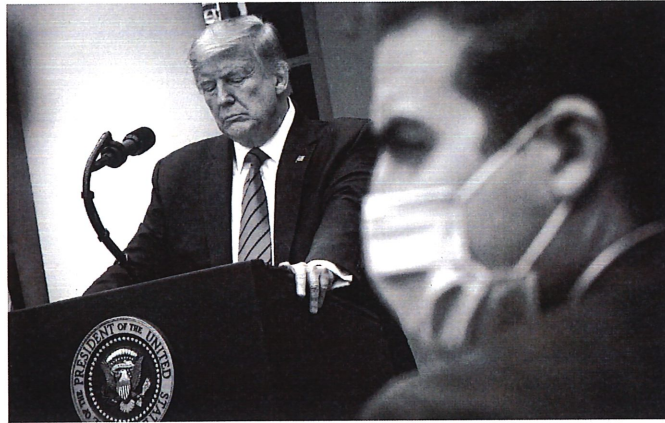
On **1 May**, three new cases of covid-19 are confirmed. The following day, six, new cases are confirmed, as well as the death of a man, George Hollings, (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/415683/covid-19-what-happened-in-nz-on-2-may>) who was part of the Rosewood Rest Home cluster.

On **3 May**, two new cases are reported, bringing the total number of confirmed and probable cases to 1487. Globally, 3,502,126 cases of covid-19 have been confirmed and 247,107 deaths have been attributed to the disease.

On **4 May**, for the first time since 16 March, no new cases of covid-19 are reported in New Zealand. Director General of Health Dr Ashley Bloomfield says "the real test" will be later this week; (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/415771/watch-live-director-general-of-health-ashley-bloomfield-gives-covid-19-update>) new cases then could indicate exposure after a shift to level three. The following day, **5 May**, there are again no new cases.

On **6 May**, two more cases are reported - one is part of the Maris College cluster and the other is linked to the St Margaret's Hospital and Rest Home cluster, both in Auckland. The following day one new case of covid-19 is reported, in a person linked to a cluster of cases in Matamata. The Prime Minister reveals details of what life will be like at alert level two (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/political/416080/covid-19-prime-minister-jacinda-ardern-reveals-alert-level-2-rules>), if cabinet agrees to loosen restrictions when it meets on Monday.

OCTOBER 2020



President Donald Trump, in May 2020

United States President Donald Trump tests positive for Covid-19 on **2 October**. He is hospitalised the following day. (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/427486/us-president-donald-trump-taken-to-hospital-after-positive-covid-result>) At **5 October**, there are 40 active cases of covid-19 in New Zealand. Of those, 34 are imported and six are from community transmission. The last community case of the virus was reported on 25 September. (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/covid-19/426901/covid-19-two-new-cases-one-community-and-one-imported>)

On **8 October**, Auckland joins the rest of the country at alert level one (<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-1/>).

Writer

Susan Strongman