

Covid 19 coronavirus: Why key questions were unanswered after more than a week

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(Cheng, 2020b)

Dr Ashley Bloomfield under pressure over the numbers of quarantined people, released under compassionate grounds, who haven't been tested. Video / Mark Mitchell



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ANALYSIS

No hold ups, oversights or obstruction. It actually takes this long - over a week - to find out how many of the 55 people granted compassionate leave weren't tested when they should have been.

Since June 9, a negative test and at least a week in isolation were meant to be mandatory before compassionate leave from managed isolation could be granted. But that has only been the practice since June 16.

Both of those rules were bent for two Covid-infected sisters who drove from Auckland to Wellington, but who weren't tested until after they arrived in Wellington.

The subsequent outrage was understandable, given what should have happened, the sacrifices everyone has already made, and the obvious risk of one case quickly turning into dozens.

That outrage then heightened as stories of broken protocols came forward. Mixing and mingling at isolation facilities. Testing being voluntary when it should have been compulsory. Leave for a funeral when that was meant to be banned. Even runaways.

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