Unstoppable summer: our plan to manage COVID-19

In summer New Zealanders travel around the country, socialise, and go to large events, increasing the possible spread of COVID-19 in the community. During the holidays, this can make any response more challenging – but we’ve got a plan.

Our plan outlines how to reduce the risk of, get ready for, and respond to new COVID-19 cases.

**REDUCE**

**What you can do**

- Turn on Bluetooth on your phone and in the NZ COVID Tracer App
- Scan QR Codes wherever you go
- Wash and dry your hands
- Cough/sneeze into your elbow
- Stay home if you’re sick and ring your GP or Healthline for advice
- Travel with a ‘COVID kit’ – soap, sanitiser and a face covering

**READY**

**Our toolkit**

- Border entry measures
  Managed Isolation & Quarantine, and workforce testing.
- Contact tracing
  NZ COVID Tracer app/Bluetooth data and push notifications, and an on-call workforce.
- Community testing
  Targeted testing of contacts, surveillance testing, pop-up stations, and an on-call workforce.
- Face coverings
  Where physical distancing is not possible.
- Alert Level change
  Localised with a boundary to contain the virus, or nationwide.

**RESPOND**

**How we would respond**

**PHASE 1: ASSESSMENT**

Community case confirmed and transmission risk assessed

**PHASE 2: IMMEDIATE RESPONSE**

If needed, Ministry of Health COVID-19 Resurgence Plan and National Resurgence Response Plan activated: location and extent of outbreak risk assessed

- A central government leadership group decides if no further action is required, or monitors the situation, or activates response system

**PHASE 3: SUSTAINED RESPONSE**

If response system activated, a team of central and local government, iwi and community leaders work with local Civil Defence and Emergency Management to manage the outbreak, including:

- Immediate public health response
- Care for vulnerable people and communities
- Support businesses

MAKE SUMMER UNSTOPPABLE

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COVID-19 is a tricky virus – we’ve learned a lot from our experience so far, but we all have a part to play in stopping the spread. Our ‘test, trace and isolate’ approach focuses on being able to test lots of people and quickly trace and isolate contacts. We cannot predict where or how a new case might appear in the community, but we’ve done a lot of planning to handle a wide range of possible situations. While any response will depend on the circumstances such as the location or timing, it’s useful to think of three scenarios over summer:

**SCENARIO: Contained border case**
- A border worker tests positive as part of routine testing.
- Rapid contact tracing finds the person has had limited movements and few contacts with people while not at work.
- This is a standard ‘test, trace, isolate’ case.
- New Zealand would likely remain in Alert Level 1. Summer holidays are not likely to be interrupted.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**
- Keep an eye out for updates on covid19.govt.nz and facebook.com/UniteAgainstCOVID19

**SCENARIO: National response likely**
- A person tests positive while on holiday at a campsite.
- Initial investigation finds the person is related to a border worker. There is a good chance that contact tracing will identify anyone else they may have infected.
- Local or regional testing capacity would be ramped up.
- Targeted restrictions and/or Alert Level changes are possible. Campers would be asked to follow official advice.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**
- Follow official advice, watch for media announcements and keep an eye on covid19.govt.nz

**SCENARIO: National response likely**
- A person tests positive after they travel home from a large music festival in a different region.
- Investigation finds no link to the border. A large number of people were possibly exposed at the festival and have now travelled out of the region. There is a high risk of transmission across the country.
- The nature of the festival will make identifying close contacts difficult. Testing capacity would be ramped up nationwide.
- A nationwide Alert Level change is possible. Events may be cancelled, and New Zealanders may be asked to stay where they are in their bubble while they wait for official advice.

**WHAT YOU SHOULD DO**
- Follow official advice, watch for media announcements and keep an eye on covid19.govt.nz