

Testing on arrival to Aotearoa New Zealand

Context

Testing is strongly recommended for people who are, or become, symptomatic after arriving in, and entering, New Zealand. It supports early detection to inform the need for isolation and emergence of new variants of concern (VOC) introduced from overseas.

Border surveillance strategies are outlined in the [Surveillance strategy and plans](#).

Air border

Air arrivals with any COVID-19 symptoms (except children under six months old) are encouraged to complete a RAT.

Those who return a positive RAT result within seven days of arrival are encouraged to follow it up with a PCR test from a community testing centre or healthcare provider to enable Whole Genome Sequencing testing to detect potential new VOCs.

Those who return a positive PCR test result are encouraged to report this result, and adhere to the same isolation requirements as community cases.

<i>Target test groups</i>	<i>Low transmission (no surge)¹</i>	<i>Medium transmission (escalating or de-escalating)²</i>	<i>High transmission (surge)³</i>
Symptomatic	As per public health guidance for symptomatic people Positive RAT result: encouraged to get a Rapid PCR/NAAT to enable WGS for variant surveillance purposes. RAT packs are available at the airports, with the information on Rapid PCR/NAAT testing should it be required.		
Asymptomatic (household contacts)	As per public health guidance for household contacts found here .		

For more information please visit: [Travelling to New Zealand; Travel to New Zealand by Air](#)

¹ Low transmission (no surge): low-grade community transmission where testing collection/distribution and laboratory testing capacity are meeting testing demand, with a low level of demand on the health system and other sectors.

² Medium transmission (escalating or de-escalating): medium transmission where case numbers (based on surveillance data, circulating variants, and/or modelling) are escalating and de-escalating between high and low transmission scenarios, with evident demand increase in testing services and availability of resources compared to the low-transmission scenario.

³ High transmission (surge): widespread community transmission where testing demand ranges from placing a burden on, to exceeding, testing collection/distribution and laboratory testing capacity, with a high-level burden on the health system and other sectors.

Maritime border

Maritime arrivals on any vessel with any COVID-19 symptoms are encouraged to complete a RAT. Those who return a positive RAT result must isolate for seven days. Follow-up PCR test is not required.

Positive cases should not disembark, unless leaving for permitted essential movement (moving to another place of self-isolation, or undertaking an essential task on, or immediately adjacent to, that vessel).