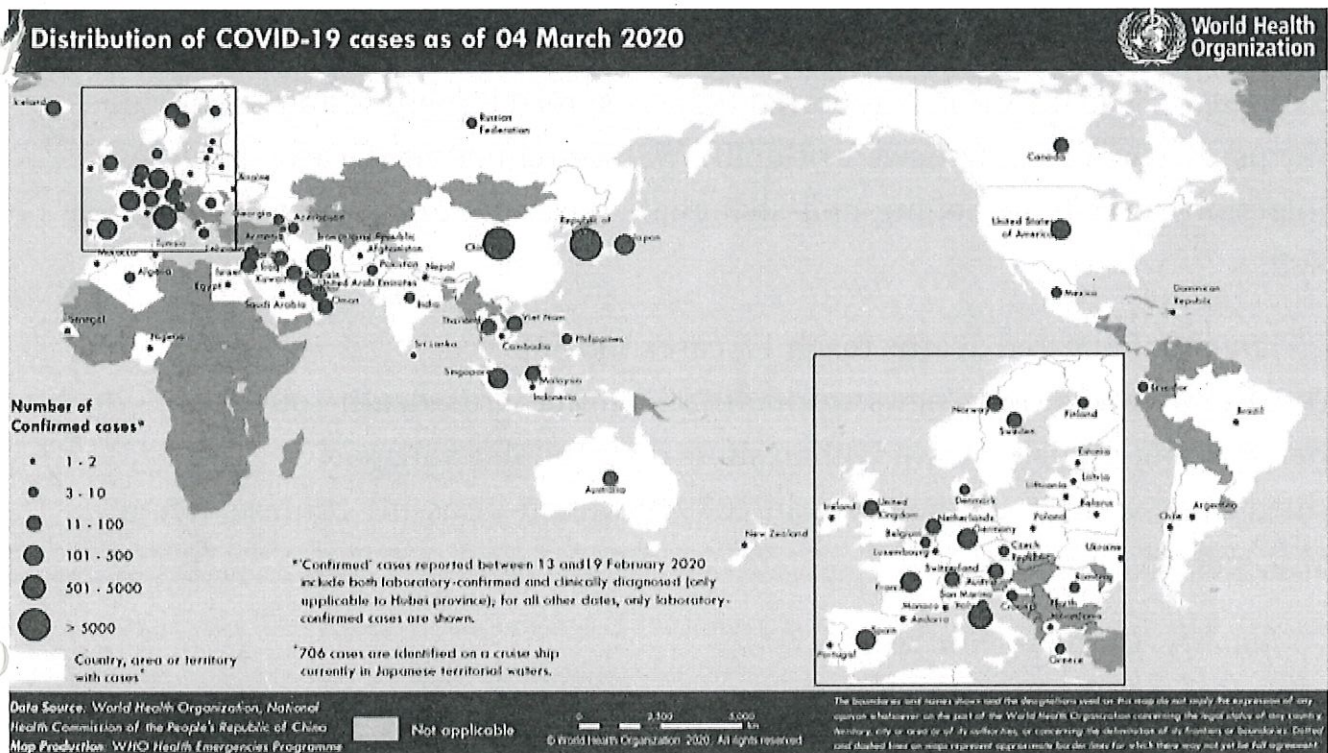


WORLD (/NEWS/WORLD) / COVID-19 (/NEWS/COVID-19)

Covid-19 timeline: Virus's spread across the globe

9:08 pm on 5 March 2020

No one knew of Covid-19 three months ago. It didn't even have a name. But now it's the hot topic as it spreads across the world.



Countries, territories or areas with reported confirmed cases of Covid-19 as of 4 March. Photo: WHO

As the number of confirmed cases in New Zealand continues to rise, travel restrictions are extended, the public is warned against panic buying and scientists across the globe are trying to develop a vaccine.

Here's a timeline on the virus so far:

31 December, 2019: Coronavirus is first reported to the World Health Organisation (WHO). It is described as a pneumonia of unknown cause detected in Wuhan, China

9 January, 2020: WHO warns a cluster of 50 cases of pneumonia in Wuhan may be linked to a coronavirus (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/406989/china-pneumonia-outbreak-may-be-linked-to-new-virus-who>)

13 January, 2020: Thailand reports its first case of the novel coronavirus (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/407340/wuhan-virus-appears-outside-china-first-human-to-human-infection-reported>) - the first outside of China

15 January: New Zealand's Ministry of Health warns health professionals to prepare (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/407390/health-ministry-alerts-hospitals-to-new-deadly-virus-in-china>)

17 January: China reports second death (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/407563/china-says-a-second-person-has-died-in-wuhan-pneumonia-outbreak>) related to the outbreak

21 January: The infection is reported to have spread to Beijing and Shanghai (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/407753/new-china-virus-cases-triple-as-infection-spreads-to-beijing-and-shanghai>). Cases are reported to have topped 200.

23 January: Reported deaths reach 17, cases top 540 (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/407935/china-virus-death-toll-rises-heightening-global-alarm>). Wuhan shuts down public transport (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/407949/wuhan-virus-hit-chinese-city-to-shut-public-transport>)

25 January: Chinese New Year

29 January: NZ government announces it will try to get New Zealanders out of Wuhan (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/408383/wuhan-coronavirus-govt-to-team-up-with-australians-to-get-nz-ers-out-of-city>) with help from Australia. China total cases at 5355, deaths reach 131. Virus reported in 15 other countries but no deaths outside China

31 January (NZ time): The outbreak is declared a Public Health Emergency of International Concern (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/408540/coronavirus-declared-global-health-emergency>)

2 February: New Zealand Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announces (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/408675/nz-to-close-doors-on-foreign-travellers-from-china>) a two-week travel ban on foreign nationals travelling from

or through mainland China. The epidemic in China has peaked between 23 January and 2 February, and cases begin to decline in the country (WHO)

5 February: 3700 people on board the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship, off Yokohama, Japan, begin a two-week quarantine after 10 people tested positive for the virus (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/408938/cruise-ship-in-quarantine-for-two-weeks-after-coronavirus-confirmed>)

6 February: Nearly 200 people, mostly New Zealanders, are evacuated from China and flown to Auckland (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/408926/wuhan-evacuation-air-nz-flight-lands-in-auckland>), where they prepare to spend two weeks in quarantine. A New Zealander on board *Diamond Princess* tests positive (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/408985/a-new-zealander-has-tested-positive-for-coronavirus-on-a-cruise-ship-in-yokohama-japan-mfat-has-confirmed>) for the virus

11 February: The disease is officially named Covid-19 (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/409317/coronavirus-officially-named-covid-19-says-who>). The death toll surpasses 1000, infections top 42,000

12 February: UN activates WHO-led Crisis Management Team

19 February: Passengers who tested negative for Covid-19 start to leave (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/409860/coronavirus-quarantined-cruise-ship-passengers-set-for-nz-return>) the *Diamond Princess* cruise ship. The 157 people at the Whangaparāoa navy base leave quarantine (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/409831/coronavirus-quarantine-at-whangaparaoa-military-base-ends-for-first-group-of-evacuees>)

27 February: WHO reports there are more new cases of the virus outside of China than inside (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/410460/coronavirus-more-new-cases-outside-china-than-inside-who>). Cases globally top 80,000

28 February: The first case of coronavirus in New Zealand (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/410625/new-zealand-confirms-case-of-covid-19-coronavirus>) is confirmed. The woman had travelled from Iran to New Zealand on 26 February. New Zealand imposes travel restrictions on anyone travelling from Iran (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/410613/coronavirus-new-travel-restrictions-for-iran-announced>). Japan asks all schools to close until the end of the school year in late March.

29 February: WHO says the risk of spread and impact of the coronavirus is now "very high" at a global level, the highest level of alarm, but containment is still possible

2 March: New Zealand extends travel restrictions

(<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/410790/new-travel-conditions-for-people-arriving-from-coronavirus-hotspots>) from Iran and China for a further seven days, while people arriving from northern Italy and South Korea are told to self-isolate.

3 March: WHO says nurses, doctors and frontline health workers are "dangerously ill-equipped" (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/410948/who-warns-of-global-shortage-of-medical-equipment-to-fight-coronavirus>) to care for Covid-19 patients. It warns industry must increase manufacturing of personal protective equipment by 40 percent to meet global demand

4 March: New Zealand's second confirmed case

(<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/410909/second-case-of-coronavirus-confirmed-in-new-zealand>) is a woman in her 30s who travelled to northern Italy, returning to New Zealand on 25 February. Scientists suggest there may be two types (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/world/410966/researchers-identify-two-coronavirus-types-as-china-cases-dwindle>) of coronavirus

5 March: A third case (<https://www.rnz.co.nz/news/national/410974/third-coronavirus-case-confirmed-in-new-zealand>) of coronavirus is confirmed in New Zealand. The Auckland man, in his 40s, contracted the disease from a family member, having not travelled himself - the first case of local transmission in New Zealand. New Zealand is one of more than 80 countries with confirmed cases. Globally, about 3200 people have died and more than 90,000 people have been infected

- **RNZ / BBC**