Covid-19 timeline: A look back at how NZ responded to the crisis, eliminating all active cases

(1News, 2020a)
[9 Apr 2020]

MON, JUN 8 • SOURCE: 1 NEWS

It was announced this afternoon that no active Covid-19 cases remain in New Zealand. Here's a look back at how we achieved elimination.

Health officials announced today that there are no longer any active Covid-19 cases. Source: 1 NEWS

ebruary 2: Jacinda Ardern announces a **ban on travellers from mainland China** as cases there continue to grow.

February 28: The **first case of Covid-19** is announced in New Zealand, as a person in their 60s tests positive after arriving from Iran.

March 5: First locally transmitted case occurs, as an Auckland man in his 40s was infected by a family member who had returned from Iran.

March 19: All border entries closed to non-New Zealand residents and those arriving must self-isolate for 14 days.

March 21: A four-tiered **alert level system is introduced** to try and manage Covid-19 in New Zealand, and those over 70 years old are asked to stay home. The country begins at Alert Level 2, but this is quickly moves to Alert Level 3 two days later.

March 25: The nation moves from Alert Level 3 to Alert Level 4, putting all of New Zealand into a full lockdown in which only trips for essential needs are allowed and essential workers are the only people allowed to leave home for work.

March 29: First death from **Covid-19 recorded in the country**. The woman who died was in her 70s and lived on the West Coast.

4th.

Anne Guenole died from Covid-19 in Greymouth. Source: 1 NEWS

April 5: The country reaches over 1000 cases at 1039.

April 10: All people arriving into New Zealand must undergo a 14-day supervised quarantine.

April 27: Alert Level 4 drops to 3 after just over one month at Level 4.

May 13: As the rate of cases continues to slow, New Zealand moves to Alert Level 2.

May 29: The social gathering limit is raised from 10 to 100 people.

But other restrictions to gatherings still apply as New Zealand remains in Alert Level 2. Source: 1 NEWS

June 5: The 14th day of no new Covid-19 cases is recorded.

June 8: For the first time since the pandemic first took hold in New Zealand, there are no **active cases of Covid-19** detected within our borders.

This afternoon, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern announced New Zealand will move to Covid-19 Alert Level 1 at midnight tonight.

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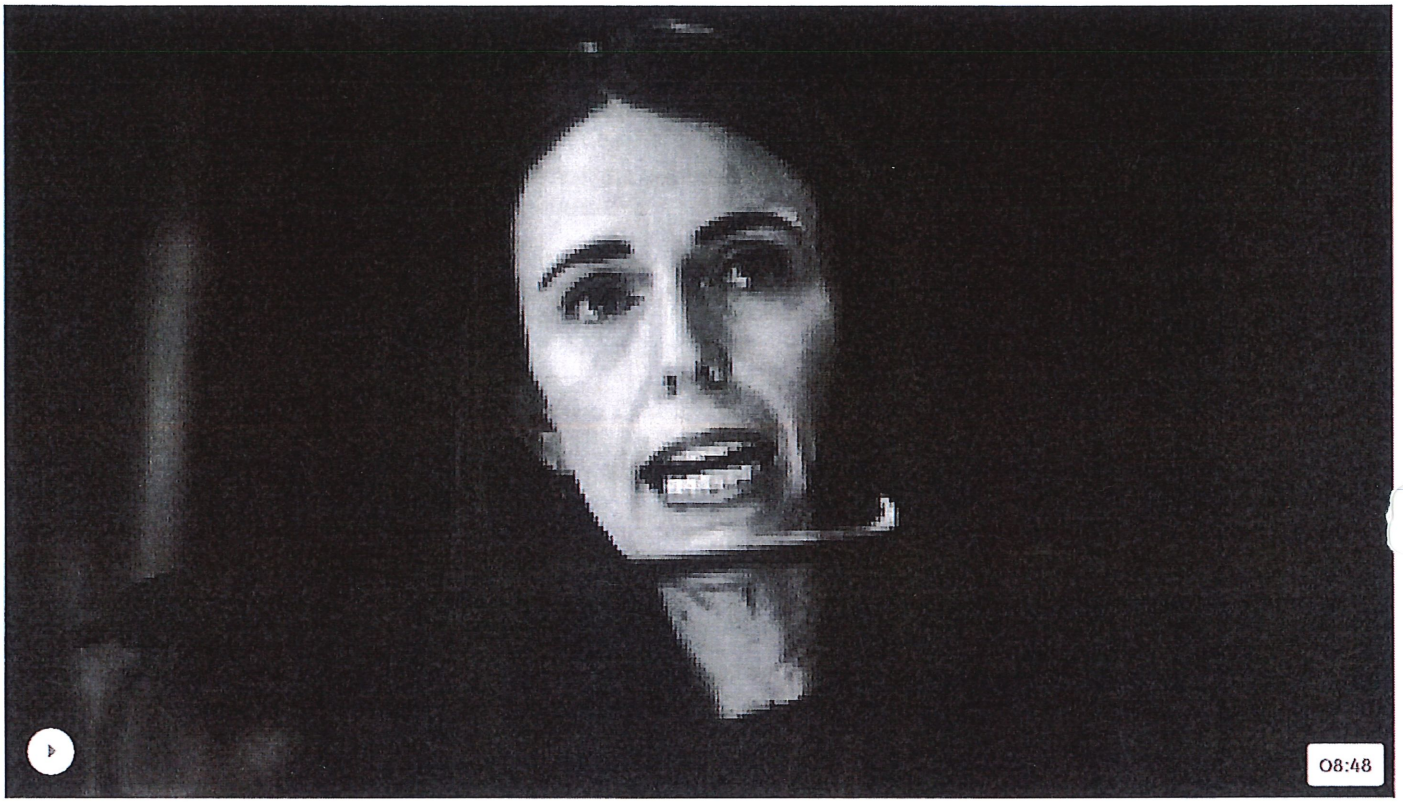

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NSW premier under pressure over failure to isolate while awaiting Covid-19 test result

TUE, NOV 24 • SOURCE: AAP

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian is under pressure to prove she did not breach health rules on budget day last week by failing to isolate while waiting for the result of her coronavirus test.

NSW Premier Gladys Berejiklian. Source: Getty

NSW Health guidelines require anyone who has undergone a Covid-19 test to self-isolate until a negative result is received.

A spokeswoman for the premier denied she did the wrong thing as she never had any symptoms of the virus, and the test itself was precautionary.

"At no stage did the premier have Covid-19 symptoms and therefore (she) did not require a test," she said yesterday.

"However, as the premier began losing her voice, she took a precautionary test as she anticipated that she would be asked if she had had a Covid test."

Tourism Minister Stuart Ayres told ABC television's Q&A programme yesterday the premier did not breach any health protocols.

"If you're not exhibiting symptoms and you're taking a precautionary test, I think what the premier's done here is right," he said.

The test was administered last Tuesday in the afternoon and in her office, the spokeswoman said.

"A rapid negative result was returned in around two hours."

Berejiklian was present at the treasurer's budget speech at noon (2pm NZT) and for Question Time in state parliament from 2.15pm (4.15pm NZT) on Tuesday.

Opposition health spokesman Ryan Park said the premier needed to clarify if she attended meetings with colleagues before her results were known.

"It was clear last week that the premier had a scratchy throat which we all know is a symptom of Covid-19," he said in a statement.

"There must be no doubt that the premier followed her own health department's advice."

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