

Update on COVID-19 cases — 21 March 2022

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Read today's update on COVID-19 cases and Omicron from the Ministry of Health.

Today's COVID-19 numbers

- 14,463 new community cases
- 32 new cases identified at the border
- 1,000 cases in hospital
- 1,520 total PCR tests in the last 24 hours
- 29,618 total RATs in the last 24 hours
- 2,244 booster doses administered yesterday

Update from the Ministry of Health

Today we are reporting 14,463 community cases, 1,000 hospitalisations and 9 deaths.

Every COVID-19 hospitalisation is a reminder of the importance of getting vaccinated to prevent severe illness from Omicron. There is a much lower risk of being hospitalised if you are up to date with your vaccinations, which for Omicron includes a third or booster dose.

So, if you're due any dose of the vaccine, including a booster, please get vaccinated as quickly as possible to ensure you are well protected against Omicron.

COVID-19 related deaths

Sadly, we are today reporting an additional 9 people have died with COVID-19.

These deaths take the total number of publicly reported COVID related deaths to 184 and the 7-day rolling average of reported deaths to 10.

Of these 9 people who have died, 5 are from Auckland region, 2 from Waikato, and 1 from Wairarapa and 1 from Bay of Plenty.

One of these people was in their 20s, one in their 60s, one in their 70s, two in their eighties and four in their nineties.

Five were men and 4 were women.

Our thoughts are with their family and friends at this sad time.

Out of respect, we will be making no further comment.

COVID-19 vaccinations

Four million Kiwis are now double dose vaccinated against COVID-19.

More than 95% of those 12 and over have now completed their primary vaccination course, which is a significant achievement for Aotearoa.

Across New Zealand, 3,509,497 have now had their booster, which is 73% of those that have become due. More than 950,000 people can and should get their booster as soon as they can.

[Read the full update on today's cases | health.govt.nz](https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/14463-community-cases-1000-hospitalisations-33-icu-9-deaths-reported-today-more-4-million-people) (<https://www.health.govt.nz/news-media/news-items/14463-community-cases-1000-hospitalisations-33-icu-9-deaths-reported-today-more-4-million-people>)

