

SURVEILLANCE AND TESTING OUTBREAK APPROACH

Purpose is to identify all cases, quarantine close contacts and provide assurance that there is no unknown or unexpected community transmission.

As of 22 September 2021

For further information regarding the Ministry of Health's surveillance and testing, please refer to the Surveillance Strategy and Testing Plan located on the website.

New Zealand continues to take a systematic risk-based approach to testing, focused on having the most sensitive COVID-19 detection system. Rapid identification of COVID-19 cases and effective public health management and response prevents further transmission within the community. Testing for COVID-19 is a primary tool of the 'find it' pillar within the elimination strategy.

Surveillance and testing should be cognisant of the difference in risk between all population groups, in a way that can usefully inform action. Surveillance and testing considers equity for all population groups at risk of poor health outcomes when COVID-19 is being transmitted into the community.

The context for testing in New Zealand, differs from that internationally. Other countries may use a wider range of tests because of ongoing, widespread community transmission and do not need to rely on highly sensitive, more difficult to process tests. In order for other testing methods to be used in New Zealand, it must be aligned with the testing strategy, and laboratories must be accredited by International Accreditation New Zealand (IANZ)

