Timeline

Timeline: Nursing's response to key COVID-19 events in Aotearoa New Zealand

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Citation

Hales, C. (2021). Timeline: Nursing's response to key COVID-19 events in Aotearoa New Zealand. *Nursing Praxis in Aotearoa New Zealand*, 37(3), 1-5.

<https://doi.org/10.36951/27034542.2021.042>

Timeline table

The purpose of the table is to provide a timeline summary of key COVID-19 events in Aotearoa New Zealand and the response of the nursing profession to keep the community safe, care for those with COVID-19, support the nursing workforce, and adapt and support nursing students to complete their qualifications. The timeline specifically records Aotearoa New Zealand's COVID-19 response between February 2020 and December 2021 when the "elimination" strategy implemented by the New Zealand Government (New Zealand Government, 2020) guided Ministry of Health directives and nursing practices. The key events have been mapped out using the New Zealand Government (2021) and Ministry of Health (2021a) official sources, namely their two COVID-19 websites. This Special Issue of *Nursing Praxis in Aotearoa New Zealand* provides evidence of nursing's response to the pandemic. Articles are cited in the table in reference to events on the timeline.

Date	Key Events	Summary of nursing response
31 December 2019	Cluster of cases in Wuhan, China	Global pandemic declared
13 January 2020	First case of COVID-19 outside China	Nurses lead the establishment of the National Close Contact Service (Hales et al., 2021).
3 February 2020	Ban on the entry of overseas travellers from or transiting through China	Infection control nurse leaders develop an integrated infection control and prevention strategy (Berger, 2021).
28 February 2020	First reported case in Aotearoa New Zealand	Nurses prepare services for infected patients: Emergency Departments redesign triage practices (Lockett, 2021); ward staff trained in non-invasive ventilation (Malik, 2021).
5 March 2020	The first community transmission	
11 March 2020	World Health Organization declared global pandemic	Aged Residential Care's newly formed Nursing Leadership Group prepare to protect their vulnerable older adult population (Hughes et al., 2021).
19 March 2020	Borders close; New Zealanders returning home to self-isolate 14 days	
17 March 2020	Government announces \$500 million for health services to combat the Disease	
21 March 2020	Government release 4 level Alert level framework; Country at Alert Level 2

23 March 2020	Country enters Level 3	First community outbreak
25 March 2020	Country enters Level 4 (Full national lockdown)	6,228 nurses without Annual Practising Certificates contacted by Nursing Council of New Zealand to aid COVID-19 response (NCNZ, 2020a).
29 March 2020	First death	Nurses seconded to COVID-19 response roles: MIQFs, testing centres and community support.
9 April 2020	Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities (MIQF) operational; All returnees to isolate for 14 days in MIQF	Māori nurse leaders support Māori workforce and communities (Davis et al., 2021).
27 April 2020	Country returns to Level 3	Nursing students withdrawn from clinical placements and all education moves to online learning (Thompson et al., 2021).
13 May 2020	Country returns to Level 2	Nurses engage in information and communication technologies to provide care (Collins & Honey, 2021)
1 June 2020	Country returns to Level 1	Academic nurse educators provide frontline clinical support (Blunden & Poulsen, 2021).
		Nurse educators provide additional pastoral care to nursing students (Winnington & Cook, 2021).
11 August 2020	Community transmission: Auckland enters Level 3; Rest of the country enters Level 2	Second community outbreak
21 September 2020	Except for Auckland, rest of the country returns to Level 1	Nurses working in MIQF feel the pressures of protecting Aotearoa New Zealand borders (Jamieson et al., 2021).
8 October 2020	Auckland returns to Level 1	Frontline nurses' wellbeing under the pressures of working during the pandemic examined (Cook et al., 2021).
11 November 2020	Last reported community case	Nursing students start to return to clinical placements. Tertiary education providers plan for dual mode delivery of nursing programmes. Nursing Council of New Zealand announce two additional State Final Examination opportunities (NCNZ, 2020b).
19 November 2020	Mask mandatory on public transport in Auckland; Masks mandatory for all flights	Nursing Council of New Zealand issued over 1000 interim Annual Practising Certificates to support COVID-19 nursing roles (NCNZ, 2020b)
14 February 2021	Community transmission: Auckland enters Level 3; Rest of the country enters 2	Third community outbreak & Vaccination programme commences
18 February 2021	Auckland returns to Level 2; Rest of the country returns to Level 1	Nurses train as COVID-19 vaccinators. Nationwide vaccination programme commences with border and healthcare workers (Ministry of Health, 2021b).
19 February 2021	First vaccination against COVID-19 (Pfizer-BioNTech vaccine Comirnaty) Vaccinators first recipients of the vaccine	Vaccination centres set up around the country.
20 February 2021	Vaccination of border workers commence	Māori nurses lead the vaccination drive in rural and urban communities providing cultural and clinical reassurance (Clark et al., 2021).
23 February 2021	Auckland returns to Level 1	Tertiary nursing education providers continue to offer dual delivery mode education programmes for the 2021 academic year.
28 February 2021	Auckland returns to level 3; Rest of the country to Level 2

7 March 2021	Auckland returns to Level 2; Rest of the country to Level 1	
12 March 2021	Auckland returns to Level 1	
22 March 2021	Border worker case	MIQF border-community transmission & Quarantine Free Travel MIQF nurses encounter further stigmatisation following border worker COVID-19 cases (Jamieson et al., 2021). Nursing Council of New Zealand publishes a guideline statement: COVID-19 vaccine and your professional responsibility (NCNZ, 2021a). Nursing Council of New Zealand announces there is no place for antivaccination messages in professional nursing practice, including via social media (NCNZ, 2021b).
8 April 2021	Border worker case	
11 April 2021	Border worker case	
19 April 2021	Trans-Tasman quarantine free travel commences	
20 April 2021	Border worker case	
24 April 2021	Quarantine free travel suspended between different Australian States and Aotearoa New Zealand over the following month	
23 June 2021	Wellington enters Level 2 for 3 days. Quarantine free traveller with COVID visits Wellington	
12 July 2021	Mandatory vaccinations for border worker	
30 July 2021	Health care worker quarantined due to minor PPE breach	
17 August 2021	Community transmission: Country moves to Level 4	Delta variant (fourth) community outbreak New Zealand Nurses Organisation cancels planned Strike Action for 19 th August considering the new community outbreak (NZNO, 2021). Pacific communities are most affected by the Delta outbreak. Pacific nurse leaders call for the strengthening of the pacific nursing workforce (Smith et al., 2021). Mandatory COVID-19 Vaccination Order announced for nurses. Nurses must be fully vaccinated by 1 Dec 2021 (Hipkins, 2021, October 11). Auckland nursing students given permission to sit State final examinations ahead of completing required clinical hours for the transition to practice placement (NCNZ, 2021c). Nursing Council of New Zealand announce an extra state final examination date for students (NCNZ, 2021c). Nursing Council of New Zealand publish guidance statement on providing care to patients not vaccinated against COVID-19 (NCNZ, 2021d)
20 August 2021	People aged 12-15 now eligible for vaccination with Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine	
31 August 2021	Auckland and Northland remain at Level 4; Rest of the country returns to Level 3	
7 September 2021	Auckland remains at Level 4; Rest of the country moves to Level 2 Delta	
16 September 2021	Government announces vaccination rate target of 90%	
3 October 2021	Hard border instigated around Auckland, Police Road checks in place	
17 November 2021	'My Vaccine pass' launched – official proof of full vaccination status	
26 November 2021	Omicron named a variant of concern by the World Health Organization

3 December 2021	New Zealand moves to COVID-19 Protection framework; known as Traffic light system	Living with COVID Elimination strategy replaced. New era in COVID-19 nursing commences.
5 December 2021	Aotearoa New Zealand statistics Total cases: 12,195 COVID-19 deaths: 44 Vaccine doses administered: 7,724,694	Global statistics (John Hopkins University, 2021) Total cases: 265,388,145 COVID-19 deaths: 5,248,747 Vaccine doses administered: 8,151,907,206

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Funding: None

Conflicts of Interest: None