

Weekend Herald
The New Zealand Herald

FIRST NZ CORONAVIRUS CASE PANDEMONIUM

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FIRST NZ CORONAVIRUS CASE PANDEMONIUM

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likely.

New Zealanders are being urged to remain calm after the first case of coronavirus was confirmed here — despite public health officials saying more cases are highly likely.

After the news broke, panicked shoppers last night descended on supermarkets across Auckland to stock up on essentials. Queues more than a kilometre long snaked around stores. Residents reported canned and fresh food selling out

as well as hand sanitiser and face masks.

"People at Pak'nSave stocking up for the apocalypse," one shopper said.

"We have been doing our groceries on Friday evenings for the past four years. Never seen anything this bad."

A New Zealand resident, aged in their 60s, is in isolation at Auckland City Hospital after arriving on an Emirates flight from Iran, via

Bali, on Wednesday with a cough and difficulty breathing.

The person travelled home in a private car but felt unwell so family called Healthline. They were advised to seek medical attention and went to the hospital's emergency department.

"All were wearing masks on arrival," a Ministry of Health spokesman said. "As a result of the individual's symptoms and travel history they were admitted and tested."

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Scramble to curb NZ cases

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The first case of coronavirus has been confirmed in New Zealand, and authorities are now scrambling to track down people who may have come into contact with the patient.

The person — who is in their 60s — is in a stable and improving condition in Auckland City Hospital, Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern said. The person is a citizen of New Zealand who had been to Iran and flown back to New Zealand via Bali.

Ardern said New Zealand's pandemic plan was now being fully put into place.

"It has been through good care and good management that New Zealand has gone through such a long period of time without having a case arriving on our shores," Ardern added.

The Ministry of Health had earlier confirmed testing was underway for a suspected coronavirus case. The results of the tests were formally reported to the ministry

about 4.15pm yesterday.

"I'm confident that the risk of this disease is being very well managed," Health Minister David Clark said last night.

It was revealed the person diagnosed with the disease had tested negative for coronavirus on two previous occasions but continued to show symptoms.

"Clinical judgment was to continue and look into greater detail," Clark said.

New Zealand was the 48th country to have a confirmed case and more sporadic cases may continue to arrive in New Zealand, Clark said.

Donation scandal grows



Lianne Dalziel



Phil Goff

Coronavirus: NZ's first case

Henry Cooke and Andre Chumko

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David Lam Rock



David Lam Rock

"This goes to the heart of our democracy. If we don't know who is funding our politicians then we don't know what questions to ask about conflicts of interest."

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Coronavirus: NZ's first case

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"We are well prepared, because



Iran flight: Passengers tracked

First case of virus in NZ

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Card from the Queen, at only 25

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First case of virus in NZ

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+19 more JOHN GIBB john.gibb@odt.co.nz

AUCKLAND: The Ministry of Health has confirmed that a case of Covid19 is being treated at Auckland Hospital and that the person had to be tested three times before showing a positive result.

Auckland Mayor Phil Goff said: "As the gateway to New Zealand, a case of the coronavirus in Auckland

was close to inevitable and health authorities are well prepared to handle it.

"The Ministry of Health advises that the patient is being treated in a negative pressure room [air cannot escape] to prevent the virus from spreading, and people who were in immediate contact with the patient are also in isolation.

"The ministry has said the risk of a community outbreak remains low, and a pandemic plan is in place to manage the situation.

"Health authorities are closely monitoring the situation in line with World Health Organisation guidance and I encourage Aucklanders to remain calm. The ministry will advise if any public

health measures become necessary."

Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern confirmed the news speaking to media in Sydney yesterday.

The person is aged in their 60s and arrived in New Zealand on Wednesday on Emirates flight EK450 from Teheran, via Bali.