

# COVID-19 and CRVS the show must go on!

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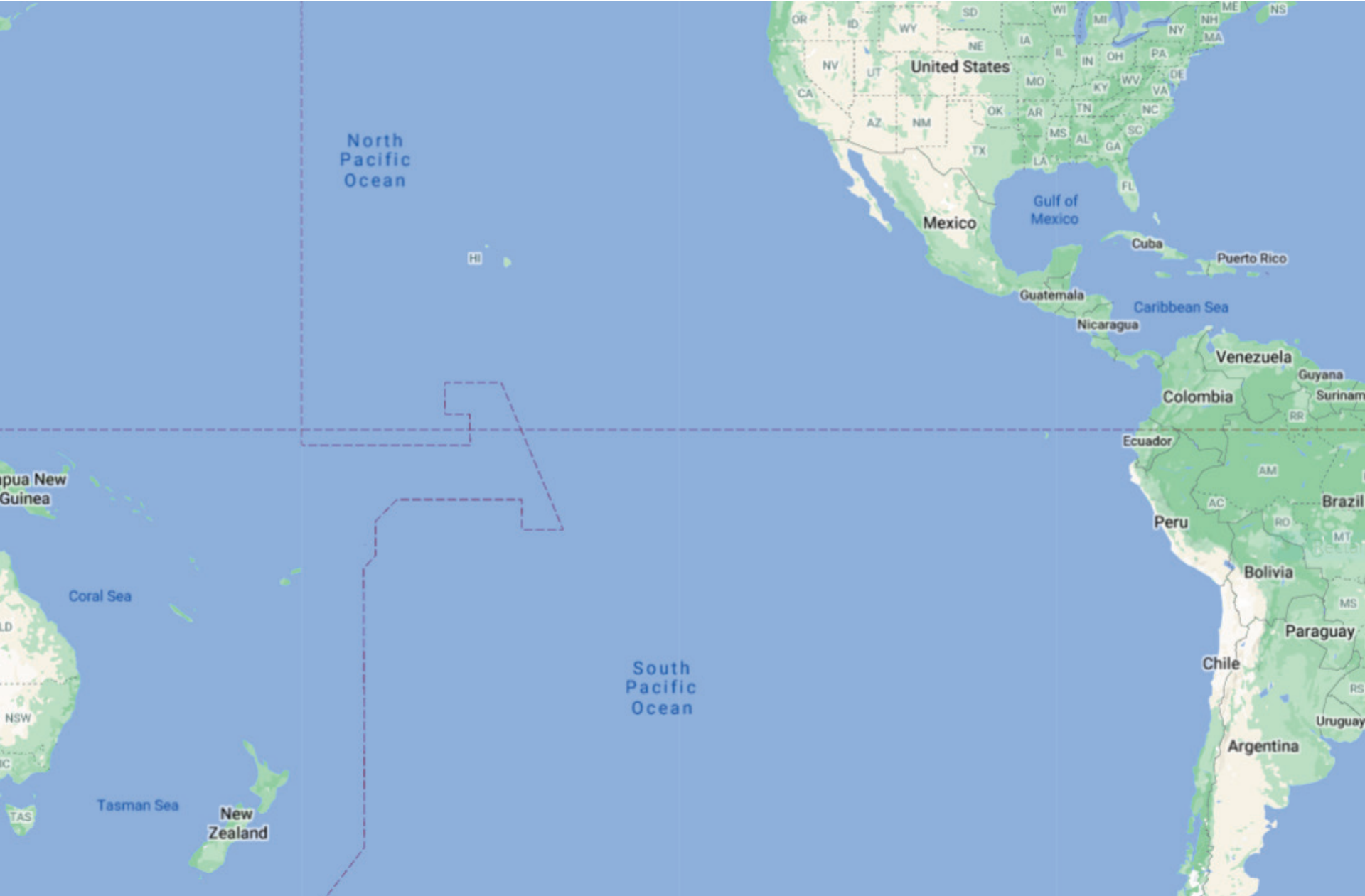
4 December 2020



**Te Tari Taiwhenua**  
**Internal Affairs**

**New Zealand Government**

# New Zealand Context



# New Zealand Context

Population of 5 million – annually 60,000 births, 30,000 migrants become citizens, 30,000 deaths

Over last 7 years moved to 95% births and deaths registered online. MCCD fully online last year.

2050 COVID cases, 25 deaths, 69 border isolation cases, 0 community cases (at 30 November 2020)

First case 25 February. Borders closed 19 March to non-NZ citizens. National lockdown 25 March to 27 April. All restrictions, except border, removed 8 June. Some location specific restrictions now.

# Prime Minister Ardern – “Flattening the Curve”



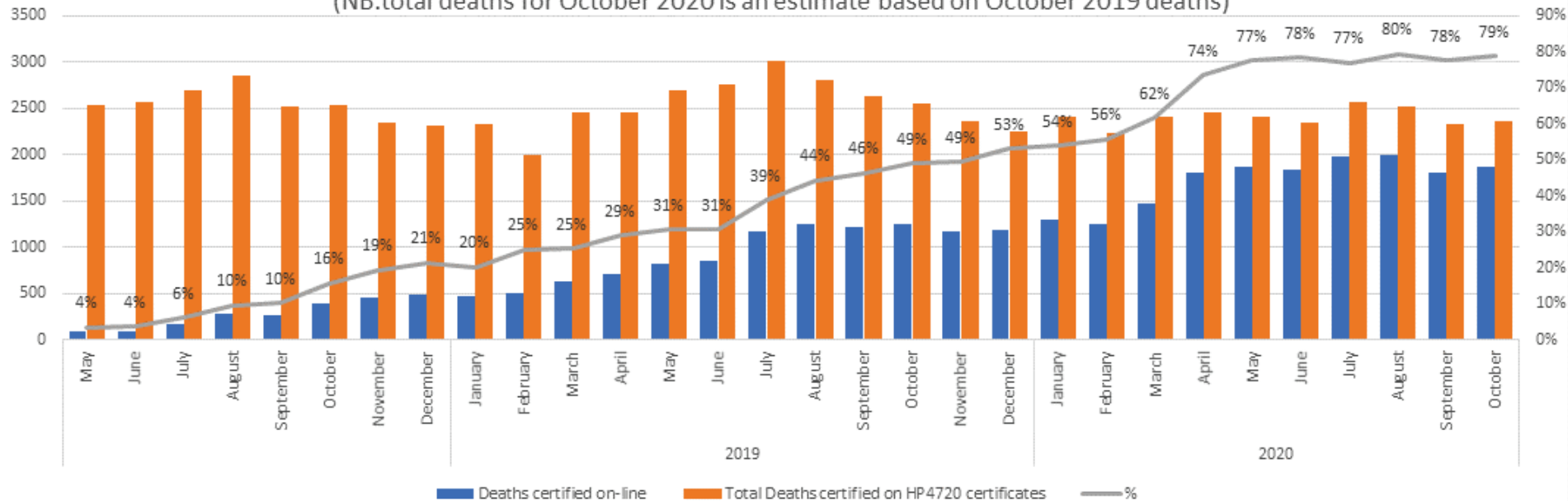
# Maintaining high registration levels

- Civil registration deemed an 'essential service' under any emergency situation
- Business Continuity Plans in place and updated for pandemic response in February
- Understood staffing capacity needed to maintain core services
- Before lockdown started clearing work queues and split teams as infections increased
- Pushed stakeholders and customers online
- During lockdown maintained split teams and 2metre desk distancing. Stopped non-essential tasks.

# Growth of online MCCD

Certificates completed on-line compared to total deaths certified on HP4720 certificates  
as at 02/11/2020

(NB:total deaths for October 2020 is an estimate based on October 2019 deaths)



# Responding to the crisis

- Registrar General a key member of the COVID-19 Mass Fatality Response Team
- Daily reporting of all NZ deaths to predict storage capacity problems
- New database of all funeral directors and their storage capacity
- Daily reporting of storage occupancy and staff availability
- Regular e-newsletter to funeral directors
- Online MCCD reporting - [www.deathdocs.services.govt.nz](http://www.deathdocs.services.govt.nz)

## **Longer-term benefits**

- Now have weekly death statistics on the StatsNZ website – administrative data at its best!
- Now have complete dataset for funeral sector with regular updating through to industry body
- Significant uptake of online DeathDocs, changes to delivery – appointment only and cash-free

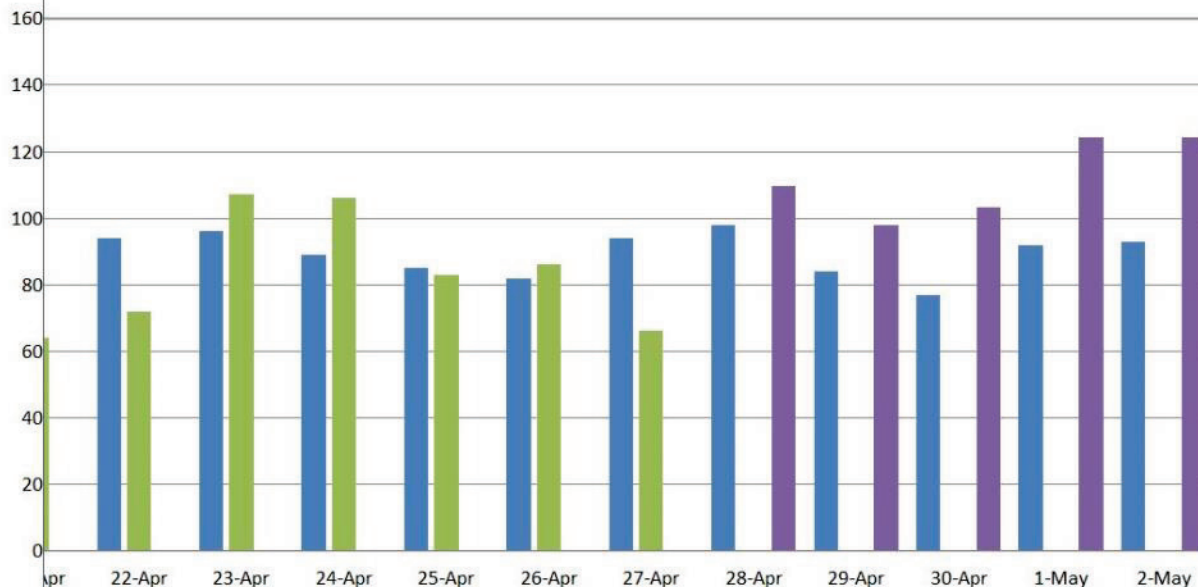
# Daily reporting to Mass Fatality Response Team

Data as at: **Tuesday, 12 May 2020**

**Please be aware of the following caveats:**

- Daily Registrations and Estimates will change over time as DIA and MoH are notified of Deaths.
- Estimates are expected to increase the most during the first 3 days from Date of Death, stabilising 5 days from Date of Death. We are currently looking into alternative methods of calculating Estimates.
- The data provided has been collated to the best of our ability and may have a small variance to any alternative publications.
- Death Estimates is based on the average daily variance (1st Jan 2020 - 17 Mar 2020) between Online Death Documents and Death Registrations Received by day of the week.

- Deaths Registrations Received (2019)
- Deaths Registrations Received (2020)
- Esitimated Deaths



	22-Apr	23-Apr	24-Apr	25-Apr	26-Apr	27-Apr	28-Apr	29-Apr	30-Apr	1-May	2-May
<b>Deaths Registrations Received (2019)</b>	94	96	89	85	82	94	98	84	77	92	93
<b>Deaths Registrations Received (2020)</b>	72	107	106	83	86	66					
<b>Esitimated Deaths</b>							110	98	103	124	124



# Now weekly StatsNZ data – not quarterly

Economic

**Health**

Income support

Social

Contextual

REGION FILTER

ABOUT

DOWNLOAD DATA

Select category

Weekly deaths

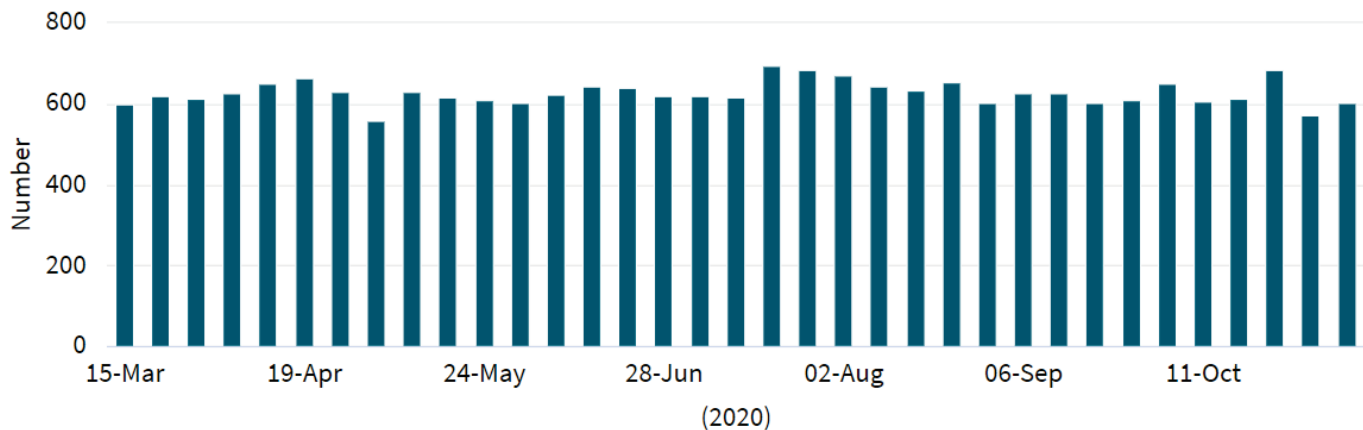
Select an indicator

By age

Select a series

Total

Deaths by age (week ended) – Total



Total

Select date range

2011-01-02

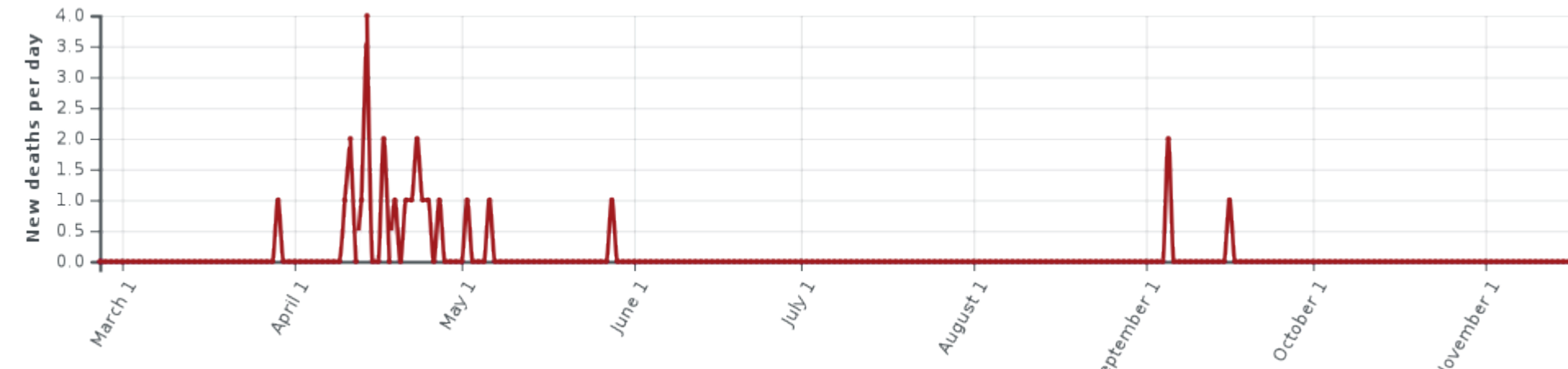
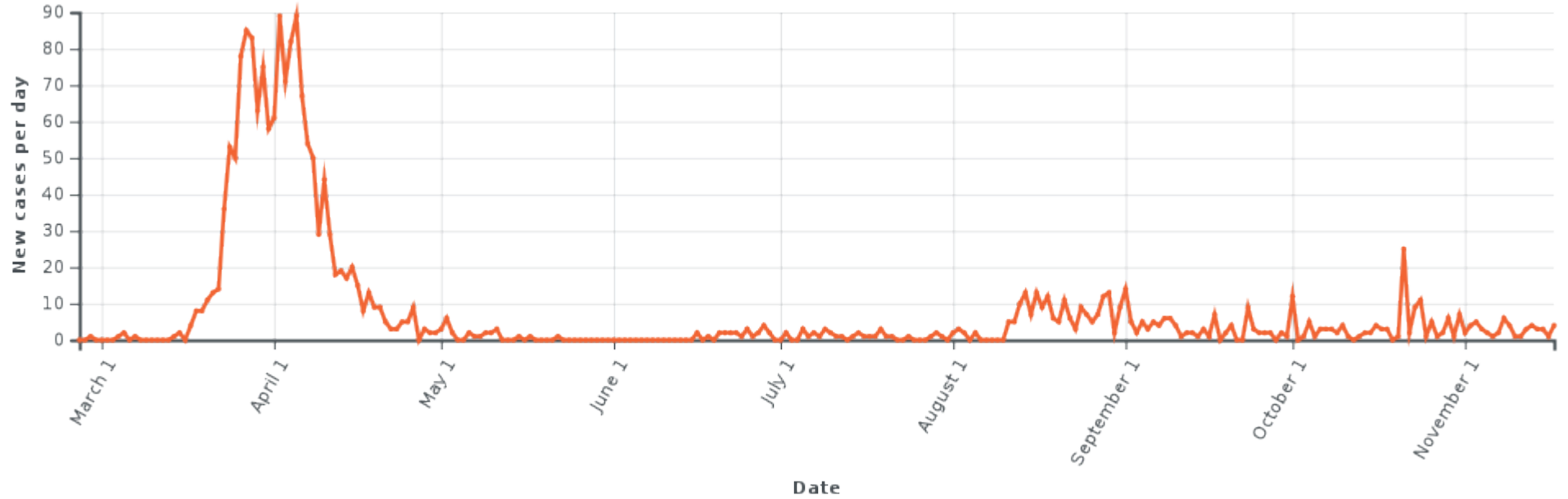
2020-03-10 – 2020-11-08

Last updated: 23 November 2020  
Source: Department of Internal Affairs

# Plan not needed – curve flattened

Cases (including those in border isolation) – 25 February to 15 November

(source Wikipedia)



# Key lessons

- Ensure business continuity plans always up-to-date.
- Online, cloud-based systems give resilience in a crisis.
- Important to have civil registration categorised as an essential service in emergency plans and legislation.
- Administrative data can be provided quickly, is hugely valuable and popular with the public.
- Never miss the opportunity that a crisis brings.

# Questions?

