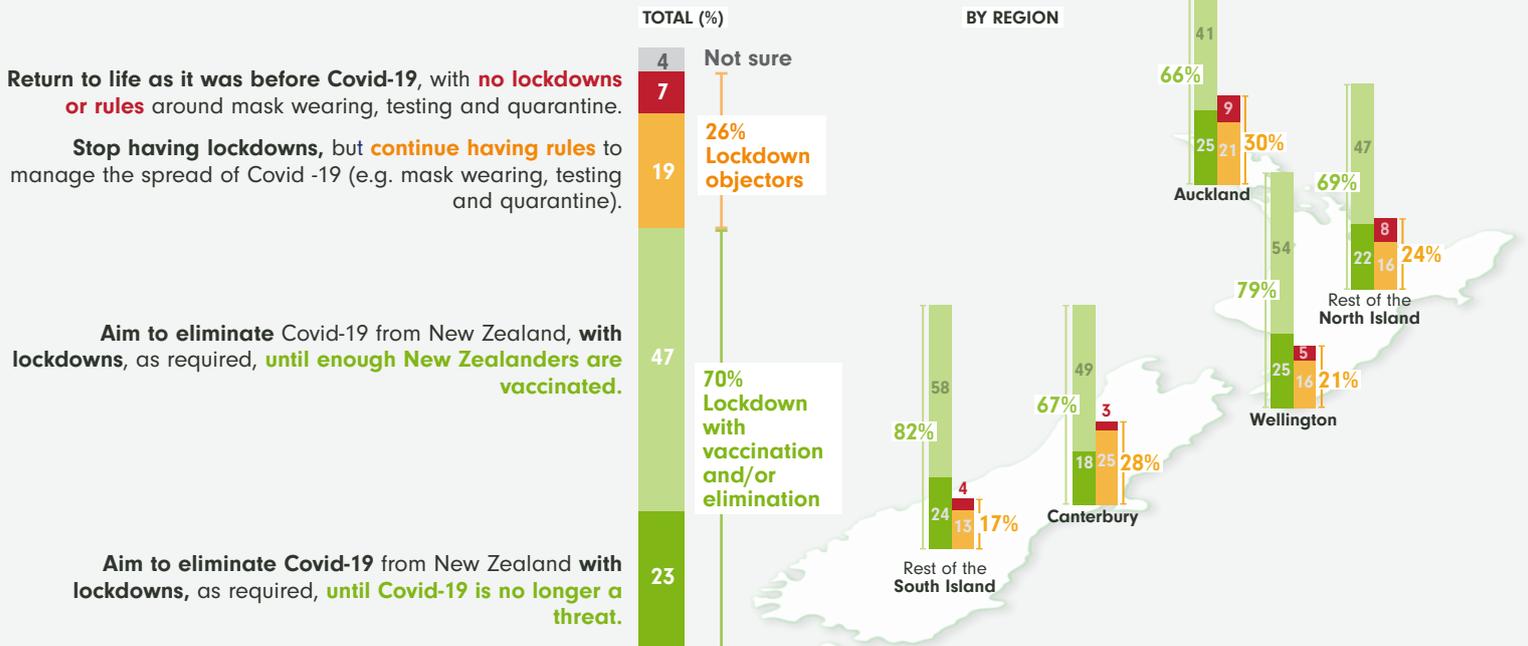


# State of the nation

## Vaccination, lockdown, elimination or exasperation?



We asked what New Zealand should be doing to manage Covid-19 – from easing all restrictions through to eliminating Covid-19 through lockdowns.



Almost three quarters (70%) support lockdowns to eliminate Covid-19, although most of this support (47%) is for lockdowns until the vaccination target has been reached. Significant differences occur across New Zealand, with the South Island (except Canterbury supporting lockdowns (82%) to a much greater extent than Canterbury (67%), Auckland (66%) and the North Island (excluding Wellington) (69%). Aucklanders were significantly more opposed to lockdowns (30%) than Mainlanders (17%), bar Cantabrians.

We also asked New Zealanders about mandatory vaccination for workers...

Vaccination should be mandatory (required) for all...	YES %	NO	Not sure
Health and quarantine frontline workers	85	11	4
Emergency services (i.e. police, ambulance and fire)	82	13	5
Airline workers	81	13	7
Teachers and childcare workers	78	15	7
Postal workers and couriers	71	20	9

There was strong support for **mandatory vaccination** for certain essential workers and for international arrivals.

Older New Zealanders (55+) were more likely to support wide-spread vaccination, e.g. **93%** agreeing that vaccinations should be mandatory for **health and quarantine frontline workers**.

And whether...

Our international borders should only be opened to those with vaccination passports and a recent negative test	79	12	8
Businesses should be able to decide whether to make vaccination and testing a requirement for continued employment	57	28	15
Restaurants and bars should only serve vaccinated patrons	50	32	18
People who are not vaccinated should not be disadvantaged in terms of where they can go and what they can do.	34	46	21

A clear majority think our international borders should only be opened to those with vaccination passports and a recent negative test (79%). There is **less support** for rules that **impinge on business and personal freedoms** with more than one half thinking businesses should be able to make vaccination and testing compulsory for continued employment (57%), but more than one-quarter disagreeing (28%).

These results are based on our survey of 1,002 respondents between 17 and 20 September 2021, aged 18 years and over, sourced from Dynata, and conducted online. The maximum margin of error is +/- 3.1% (at the 95% confidence level). The sample has been weighted by gender and age to ensure the results are representative of the population 18 years and over. The survey was not undertaken on behalf of any organisation, but as part of Research New Zealand's social polling of New Zealanders' opinions about topical issues.