

Is coronavirus over in New Zealand?

Elementary

1 Warmer

What do you know about New Zealand? Are these statements true or false? Correct the false statements.

1. The capital of New Zealand is Auckland.
2. New Zealand was the first country in the world to allow women to vote in elections.
3. People from New Zealand are known as Kiwis.
4. Football is the national sport of New Zealand.
5. Jacinda Ardern is the president of New Zealand.
6. New Zealand has two main islands: North Island and South Island.

2 Key words

Fill the gaps in the sentences with these key words from the text. The paragraph numbers will help you.

lockdown

relative

case

measure

crowded

disease

1. If a place is _____, there are a lot of people in it. (para 1)
2. A _____ is when people are not allowed to leave their homes. (para 2)
3. A _____ is an example of something. (para 2)
4. A _____ is something that the authorities do to solve a problem. (para 3)
5. A _____ is an illness that people get from an infection. (para 4)
6. A _____ is a person in your family. (para 5)

3 Find the information

Find the following information in the text as quickly as possible.

1. What is the population of New Zealand?
2. When did New Zealand start its lockdown?
3. How many cases of coronavirus have there been in New Zealand?
4. How many cases of coronavirus have there been in the USA?
5. How many people watched the rugby match on 13th June in Dunedin?
6. When did the two people who had just arrived in New Zealand test positive for coronavirus?

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9 July, 2020

- 1 New Zealand is in the south-west Pacific Ocean, around 2,000 kilometres east of Australia. It is a country with an area of 268,000 square kilometres. It is a bit bigger than the UK. The UK has an area of 242,000 square kilometres. But New Zealand has a population of just five million people, and the UK is much more crowded. It has 66 million people.
- 2 It is a long way from other countries, but New Zealand did not escape the coronavirus epidemic. The country started its lockdown on 25th March, after the first cases of the virus. Most businesses shut, all schools closed and people had to stay at home.
- 3 As a result of these measures, New Zealand has had fewer cases of coronavirus than many other countries around the world. At the time of publication, there have been a total of 1,534 cases and just 22 deaths. This compares with just under 300,000 cases in the UK and over 44,000 deaths, and just under three million cases in the United States and 133,000 deaths.
- 4 On 8th June, after no new cases of coronavirus for more than two weeks, the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, said that the country was free of the disease. People could now return to work, go shopping, travel inside the country, and meet friends and family. On 13th June, live sport returned to New Zealand. More than 20,000 people watched a rugby match in Dunedin.
- 5 Then, after 24 days with no new cases, two people tested positive for coronavirus on 16th June. They arrived in New Zealand on 12th June. They flew from Brisbane, Australia. The two people travelled to New Zealand to visit a seriously ill relative. They flew to Brisbane from the UK.

4 Comprehension check

Match the beginnings and endings to make statements about the text.

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Although New Zealand is a bit bigger than the UK,... | a. ... the Prime Minister announced that the country was free of the disease. |
| 2. New Zealand is a long way from other countries, but ... | b. ... two people who had arrived from the UK tested positive for the disease. |
| 3. After the first cases of the virus, ... | c. ... it has a much smaller population. |
| 4. After no new cases of the virus for more than two weeks, ... | d. ... more than 20,000 people watched a rugby match in Dunedin. |
| 5. Live sport returned to New Zealand on 13th June when ... | e. ... it did not escape the coronavirus epidemic. |
| 6. The virus returned to New Zealand when ... | f. ... New Zealand started its lockdown on 25th March. |

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5 Two-word phrases

Match the words in the left-hand column with the words in the right-hand column to make expressions from the text.

- | | |
|--------------|--------------|
| 1. square | a. case |
| 2. new | b. minister |
| 3. live | c. positive |
| 4. seriously | d. sport |
| 5. test | e. kilometre |
| 6. prime | f. ill |

6 Prepositions

Complete the sentences from the text using these prepositions.

around under of on in from

1. The UK has an area _____ 242,000 square kilometres.
2. New Zealand is a long way _____ other countries.
3. It has had fewer cases of coronavirus than many other countries _____ the world.
4. There have been just _____ three million cases in the United States.
5. The two people arrived _____ New Zealand _____ 12th June.

7 Chunks

Rearrange the words to make phrases from the text.

1. two than for weeks more
2. cases after virus the of the first
3. east around kilometres thousand of Australia two
4. population people five a of million just

8 Discussion

Why do you think New Zealand has had fewer cases of coronavirus than other countries, such as the UK?