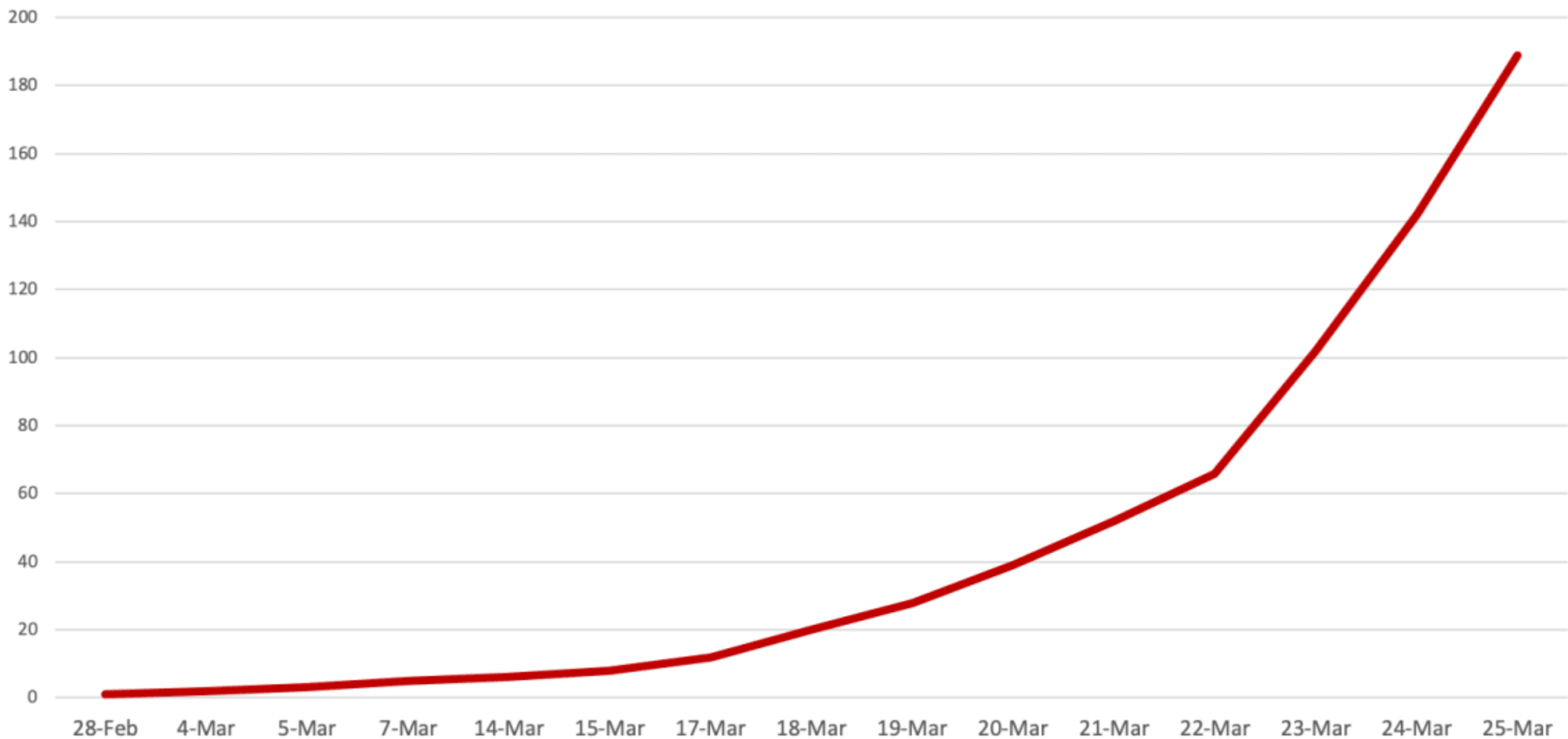


New Zealand and Covid-19

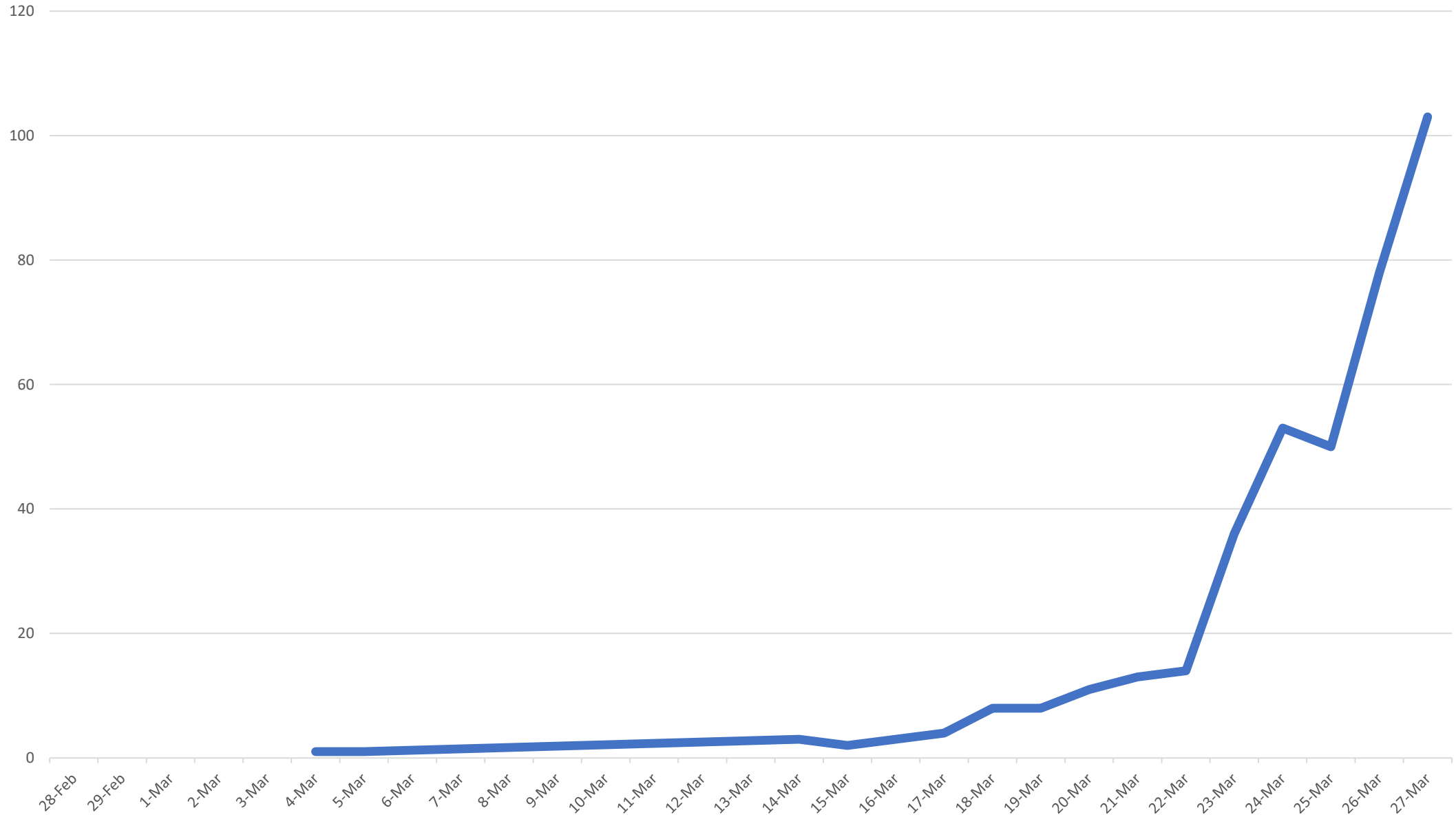
New Zealand

- Currently 283 cases, no deaths
- In lockdown since Wednesday 25 March (4 weeks minimum)
- Only essential businesses allowed to operate
 - Supermarkets, pharmacies, hospitals and their supply chains.
- Those who can are working from home
- Many business closures, employee layoffs
- Central source of information covering all issues
- BusinessNZ designated as an essential service
 - operating call centres in conjunction with government call centre
 - coordinating interface between business and government

NZ confirmed cases 25/03/2020



New Cases



NZs Pandemic Alert System

Stages of alert

ALERT LEVEL ONE: PREPARE

Covid-19 in NZ, but contained

- Activate border measures
- Contact tracing
- Cancel mass gatherings of more than 500 people
- Stay at home if sick and report flu-like symptoms
- Intensive testing for Covid-19
- Physical distancing encouraged

ALERT LEVEL TWO: REDUCE

Contained but risk of community transmission growing

- Entry border measures maximised
- Further restrictions on mass gatherings
- Physical distancing on public transport
- Limit non-essential travel around country
- Employer to begin alternative ways of working if possible (shift work, working from home etc)
- Business contingency plans activated
- High risk people to remain at home (over 70s, people with existing conditions)

ALERT LEVEL THREE: RESTRICT

Heightened risk that disease not contained

- Travel in areas of community transmission limited
- Affected educational facilities closed
- Mass gatherings cancelled
- Public venues closed
- Alternative ways of working required and some non-essential businesses closed
- Non-face-to-face primary care consultations
- Elective surgeries and procedures deferred and healthcare staff reprioritised

ALERT LEVEL FOUR: ELIMINATE

Likely that disease not contained

- People to stay at home
- Educational facilities closed
- All non-essential businesses closed
- Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities
- Severe travel restrictions
- Major reprioritisation of healthcare services

21 February
Alert system announced
Declared Level 2

Monday 23 March
First cases of community transmission
Level 3 declared, lifting to level 4 on 25 March

Wednesday 25 March
Full lockdown
National state of emergency declared

NZ's 6 Phase Pandemic Action Plan

- **Plan For It (Preparedness)**

- Level of influenza at normal seasonal levels
- Plan and prepare to reduce the health, social and economic impact of a pandemic on New Zealand Deal with disease in animals, if required

- **Keep It Out (Border Management)**

- Sustained human-to-human transmission of a novel influenza virus overseas in two or more countries
- Prevent, or delay to the greatest extent possible, the arrival of the pandemic virus in New Zealand

NZ's 6 Phase Pandemic Action Plan

- **Stamp It Out (Cluster control)**

- Novel influenza virus or pandemic virus detected in case(s) in New Zealand
- Control and/or eliminate any clusters found in New Zealand

- **Manage It (Pandemic management)**

- Multiple clusters at separate locations, or clusters spreading out of control
- Reduce the impact of pandemic influenza on New Zealand's population

NZ's 6 Phase Pandemic Action Plan

- **Manage It (Post-Peak Transition)**

- Recover From Manage It phase and planning for a resurgence or second wave
- New Zealand wave decreasing
- Expedite recovery, and prepare for a re-escalation of response

- **Recover From It (Recovery)**

- Population protected by vaccination, or pandemic abated in New Zealand
- Expedite the recovery of population health, communities and society where affected by the pandemic, pandemic management measures, or disruption to normal services

Support for business

- Private sector most impacted (state sector remains fully funded)
- NZD12 billion economic support package (>4% GDP)
 - Wage and leave subsidies
 - Tax and cashflow relief
 - Increased investment in health sector

Wage subsidy

- Supports businesses impacted by COVID that face laying off staff or reducing their hours because of COVID-19.
- Available for all businesses that can show a 30% decline in revenue for any month between January and June 2020 compared to the year before (including projected revenue).
- Applies to all New Zealand employers, contractors, sole traders, self-employed people, registered charities and incorporated societies.
- Paid as lump sum to employer
- Employer to pay to employees at a flat rate of:
 - \$585.80 for people working 20 hours or more per week
 - \$350.00 for people working less than 20 hours per week.

Leave Subsidy

- Available to support people financially if they:
 - need to self-isolate (as determined by the [Ministry of Health guidelines](#)),
 - cannot work because they are sick with COVID-19, or
 - cannot work because they are caring for dependents who are required to self-isolate or are sick with COVID-19.
- Availability
 - For 8 weeks from 17 March 2020.
 - Paid to employers who have eligible employees and they must pass the payment onto their employees in full (can be applied for more than once).
 - Employees (full and PT), contractors, sole traders or self-employed who are legally working in New Zealand

Leave Subsidy (private sector only)

- Paid at a flat rate of:
 - \$585.80 to a person working 20 hours or more per week
 - \$350.00 to a person working less than 20 hours per week.
- Not available to state sector employees (they will continue on full pay).

Wider business measures

- Mortgage holidays
- Rent freeze
- Business loans (up to (\$500,000))
- Provisional tax threshold increased from \$2,500 to \$5,000 from 2020/2021
- Small asset depreciation threshold increased from \$500 to \$1,000 — and to \$5,000 for the 2020/21 tax year
- Allows depreciation on commercial and industrial buildings from 2020/2021
- Removal of hours test from the In-Work Tax Credit (IWTC) from 1 July 2020.

More information

- Information on NZ's health guidance and support for business can be found at

<http://covid10.govt.nz>

- NZ's Pandemic Action Plan can be found at

<https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/influenza-pandemic-plan-framework-action-2nd-edn-aug17.pdf>