



# All Blacks Case Study

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Cignpost deliver COVID-19 testing for the  
New Zealand All Blacks during their European Tour.

Cignpost



# Success Case

Cignpost implemented a rigorous testing regime enabling the New Zealand All Blacks were able to compete across multiple different locations with no outbreaks of COVID-19.



## LOCATIONS

**8 locations in 4 international countries**



## TOTAL NUMBER OF TESTS:

**207 PCR / 462 Lateral Flow**



## GROUP SIZE

**72 (Players, coaches, management & executives)**



**0 COVID-19 outbreaks**



# The All Blacks' Story



In 2020, The New Zealand All Blacks had been unable to travel to Europe for that year's Autumn International Series due to the pandemic.

November 2021 marked the team's first return to Europe in three years. The New Zealand All Blacks had a complicated tour planned, covering four countries in just four weeks. They required regular COVID-19 testing, taking place every 3 days, to keep their players safe.

Cignpost have proved their capability across many sporting properties including F1 teams, Scottish Football and the DP World Golf Tour. The team required a testing strategy and expert advice that would have minimal impact on the daily lives of the squad, coaches, management and executives.



# The Challenges

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## TIGHT SCHEDULE

The All Blacks had a fixture every 7-days and were required to travel all over Europe, whilst continuing with their rigorous training schedule during the week.

## CLIENT EXPECTATIONS

The All Blacks do not take risks and the continued bio-secure integrity of the team bubble was paramount. Games were also played to sell-out crowds so any games cancelled due to a COVID-outbreak would have had significant financial implications.

## TRAVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

Each country of entry on the tour had differing entry requirements depending on a number of factors, including vaccination status, travel corridors /non-travel lists and quarantine rules.





# Our Solutions

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## TIGHT SCHEDULE

Efficiency at the point of sample collection was key to ensuring seamless travel. The Cignpost team also remained flexible around the All Blacks' training schedule.

## CLIENT EXPECTATIONS

To minimise risk only three Cignpost staff were selected for the entirety of the project. Each member of the Cignpost team was PCR tested every 48 hours, and their traveling footprint minimised. There were 0 'inconclusive results' and all PCR test results were returned within 12 hours from the point of sample.

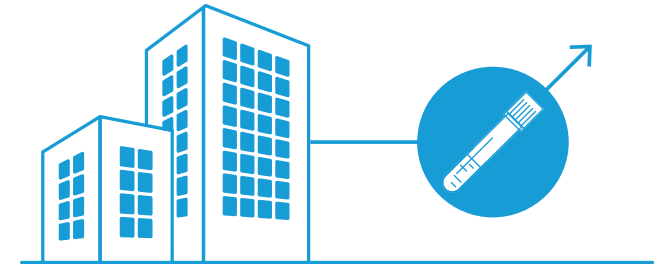


## TRAVEL ENTRY REQUIREMENTS

The Cignpost team consulted closely with the All Blacks' Doctor, Dr James McGarvey on the specific medical histories on players to ensure they had the correct testing certification when entering a country.

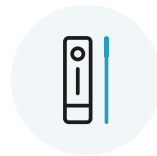


# Products Used



## HUB & SPOKE TESTING

Samples were couriered to our fixed Heathrow high-throughput laboratory.



## LATERAL FLOW

Players were tested every 3 days using rapid tests.



## ON-SITE TRAVEL TESTING

Testing prior to and after travel with the correct certification for each country.

# What The Client Said

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For the All Blacks 2021 Northern Hemisphere tour, we were looking for a provider who could deliver the difficult COVID testing schedule needed to keep our squad and management safe.

Cignpost had a great reputation from their work with the PGA European tour and they were able to create a bespoke solution for us. Their staff were professional and adapted to late changes, whilst always providing rapid turnaround of results independent of which country we were in.

Flexibility, speed, and a low profile in the team environment are key attributes for any external provider we use, and they delivered all of these without fail. We would have no hesitation in working with them in the future and I would strongly recommend their services.

Dr. James McGarvey, All Blacks Doctor

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It was reassuring our welfare remained paramount in our COVID-bubbles, enabling us to focus on our training and playing well.

David Havili, All Blacks Full Back

# About Us



**3 million+** Tests conducted, and counting



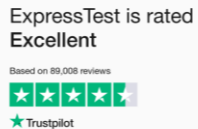
**30+** Laboratories across the UK and the world



**200+** Scientists led by Immunology expert, Professor Denis Kinane



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2016

As a response to the corporate and sports worlds' requirements for diagnostics testing.

2020

COVID-19 struck and Cignpost Diagnostics welcomed one of the world's foremost immunologists who lead on redeploying our diagnostic infrastructure to create COVID-safe environments.

2022

Today, we have successfully delivered over 3 million PCR and lateral flow tests to organisations including the DP World Tour, the All Blacks, the Ryder Cup and a host of Formula 1 teams.

Future

Providing additional diagnostics testing and health services, from cardiovascular risk assessments to elite performance 'MOTs', to both consumers and organisations around the world.





# Our Partners

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Would you also like to work with us?

Email: [info@cignpostdiagnostics.com](mailto:info@cignpostdiagnostics.com) for a free consultation with our head of elite sport.

