

# Making a submission to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned

## What is the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned?

The Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned was set up by the New Zealand government in 2022 to review Aotearoa New Zealand’s COVID-19 experience so the country can be more prepared for future pandemics.

The Inquiry uses publicly available information, evidence gathered from key decision-makers, and information from people who were impacted by Aotearoa New Zealand’s response to the pandemic to review our country’s response to the pandemic. We then make recommendations to the Government on how Aotearoa New Zealand could prepare for and respond to a future pandemic.

A Royal Commission’s job is to review matters of public importance. The Royal Commission is set up to be independent from the Government.

The Inquiry reviewed many areas of Aotearoa New Zealand’s COVID-19 response during 2023 and 2024, and produced a report on these areas which you can read on our website <https://www.covid19lessons.royalcommission.nz/reports-lessons-learned/>
(short URL: https://tinyurl.com/2hhm88kw). At the end of 2024, we were asked to review some new topics, and also to look in more detail at some of the topics we were already investigating.

We will produce another report on these topics by 26 February 2026.

We want to hear from the public about their experiences of the topics we are currently reviewing.

## What topics are you currently reviewing?

The Inquiry is currently looking at key decisions made by the New Zealand Government during 2021 and 2022 on the following topics:

Vaccines, including vaccine mandates, approvals of the COVID-19 vaccine, and vaccine safety.

Lockdowns, especially the national lockdown of late 2021 and the Auckland and Northland lockdowns of late 2021 and early 2022.

Testing, tracing, and public health materials – like RAT tests or masks.

A key decision is a decision the Government made that impacted a large number of people or had a large cost at a regional or national level (or both).

The Inquiry will review the key decisions made by the Government in these areas and provide recommendations on how Aotearoa New Zealand could make decisions during a future pandemic, as well as how we could prepare for a future pandemic more broadly.

We want to know about your experiences of any of the areas listed above.

## How do I share my experiences with the Inquiry?

You can tell the Inquiry about your experiences by making a public submission.

### You can make a submission in two ways:

1. Visit [www.covid19inquiry.nz](http://www.covid19inquiry.nz) and use the online submission form.

Follow the prompts on each screen - Please note most screen readers should work on the site.

If you need support to complete the online submission please contact us on 0800 500 306 or email InquiryintoCOVID-19lessons@dia.govt.nz.

1. Call us on 0800 500 306 where the call centre staff will take you through sharing your experience and recording your information.

This phone line is open between 10am and 7pm, Monday to Friday.

People who are Deaf, hard of hearing, speech-impaired or deafblind are welcome to call us using the NZ Relay Service [**https://www.nzrelay.co.nz/index**](https://www.nzrelay.co.nz/index).

**Submissions close midnight 27 April 2025.**

You can contact the Inquiry on **InquiryintoCOVID-19lessons@dia.govt.nz** or visit our website [**https://www.covid19lessons.royalcommission.nz/**](https://www.covid19lessons.royalcommission.nz/) (short URL: [**https://tinyurl.com/2p9t8x95**](https://tinyurl.com/2p9t8x95)) to find more information.

**End of information: Making a submission to the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned**

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