

COVID-19 Inquiry Phase 2   
Public Submissions



Published: March 2025

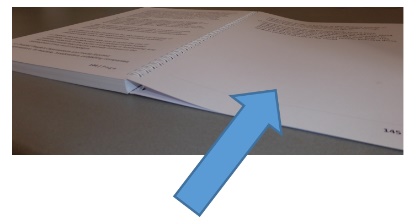
# About this document

****This Easy Read document is from the **New Zealand Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned – Te Tira Ārai Urutā.**

In this document:

the New Zealand Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned – Te Tira Ārai Urutā will be called **the Inquiry**

the words **we / us** mean the Inquiry.

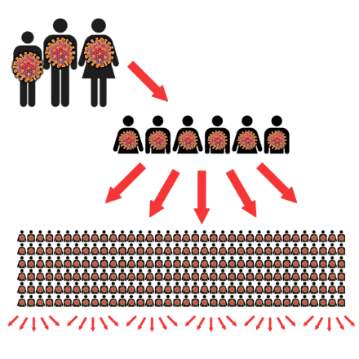
There is more information about the Inquiry on page 3.

**COVID-19** is a type of virus that makes people sick.

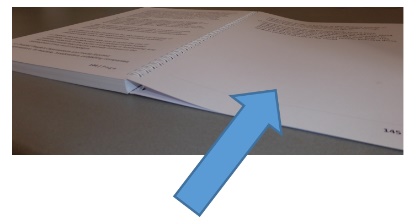


We want to hear from people about their **experience** during the   
COVID-19 **pandemic**.

**Experience** means what you went through.



A **pandemic** is when people around the world get the same sickness at the same time.



Pages 12 to 15 show how you can tell us about your experiences.

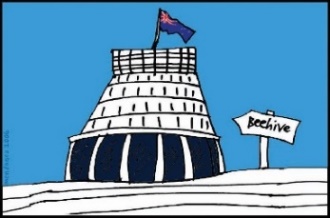
# What is the New Zealand Royal Commission COVID-19 Lessons Learned – Te Tira Ārai Urutā?

The Inquiry website can be found here:

[**tinyurl.com/2hhm88kw**](https://tinyurl.com/2hhm88kw)



The Inquiry is done by the Royal Commission.



The Royal Commission is **not** part of the Government.

The Inquiry was set up:

by the New Zealand Government in 2022

to **review** the experiences people had of the COVID-19 pandemicin Aotearoa New Zealand.

A **review** means looking at something so people know:

how it happened

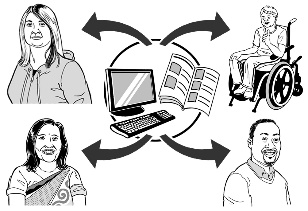
what people did to deal with it

what to do if it happens again.

To review how Aotearoa New Zealand handled the COVID-19 pandemic the Inquiry uses:

publicly available information like research papers

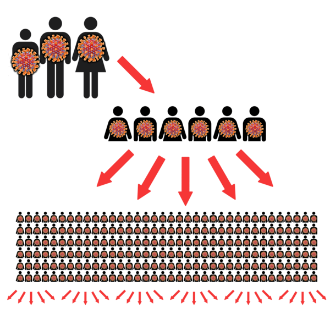
**evidence** from people who made important decisions like former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern

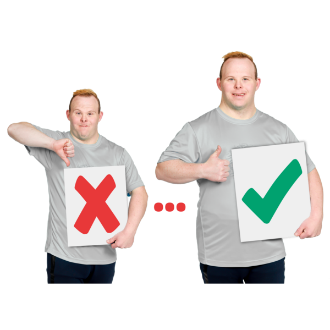
* information from people who were affected by the response Aotearoa New Zealand had to the pandemic.



**Evidence** is facts about something that happened.

The Inquiry then makes **recommendations** to the Government on how Aotearoa   
New Zealand can better:

* prepare for a future pandemic
* respond to a future pandemic.



Here **recommendations** are suggestions on how to do something better.

We have already spent 2 years reviewing how Aotearoa New Zealand responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

At the end of 2024 the Inquiry was asked to:

* review some new **topics**
* look at some of the topics we were already looking at in more detail.



**Topics** are the areas / things the Inquiry is reviewing.

The rest of this document will go through:

* the topics we are reviewing now
* how you can tell us about your experiences on these topics.

# The topics we are currently reviewing



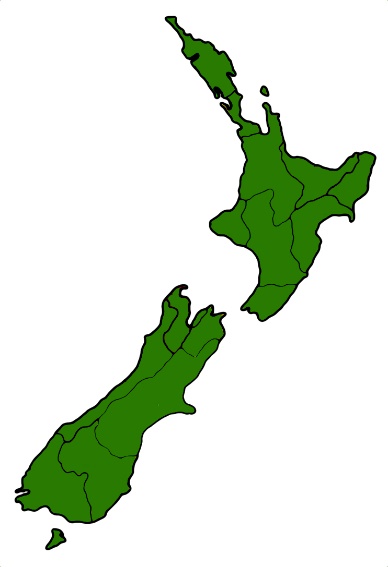
The Inquiry is currently looking at **key decisions** made by the Government during:

* 2021



* 2022.

Here a **key decision** is a decision Government made that:

* affected a lot of people
* cost a lot of money at:
* a regional level like Auckland
* a national level which means the whole country
* both levels.

The topics are:

* public health materials like masks

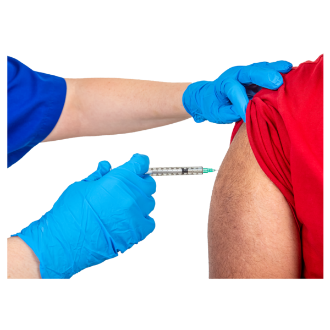
**vaccine** safety

approval for COVID-19 vaccines

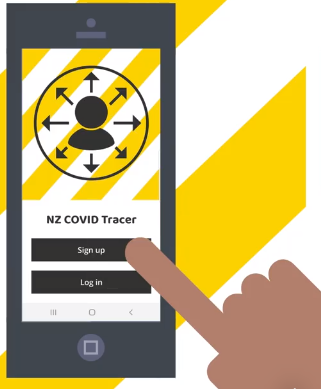
**vaccine mandates**

* **contact tracing**
* **lockdowns** especially the:
* nationallockdown in 2021
* Auckland / Northland lockdowns in 2021 – 2022

COVID-19 testing.

A **vaccine** is a medicine that can help stop you from getting very sick.

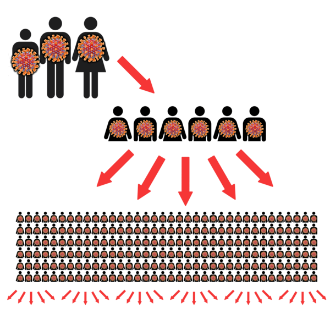
**Vaccine mandates** were rules that said some people like doctors had to have vaccines to keep doing their jobs.



**Contact tracing** means listing:

* where you have been
* the people you have spent time with.

**Lockdowns** were when the Government asked everyone to stay at home so they would not:

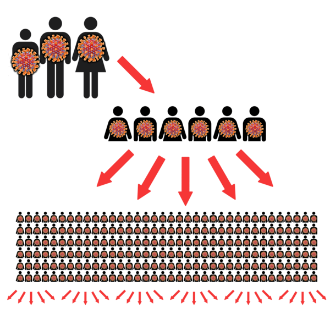
* get sick
* spread COVID-19 to other people.



The Inquiry will:

review the key decisions made by the Government in these areas / topics

give recommendations on how Aotearoa New Zealand could:

* make better decisions if a pandemic happens again in the future
* be better prepared if a pandemic happens again.

# How you can tell us about your experience

You can tell us about your experience in 2 ways:

* fill in an online form
* call the call centre staff to tell them your experience.

You can tell us about your experience until **midnight** on   
**27 April 2025.**



The online form is available at this website:

[**tinyurl.com/yhjnr8ts**](https://tinyurl.com/yhjnr8ts)

Follow the instructions on the form.

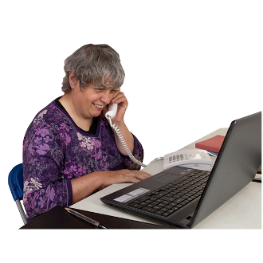
Most screen readers will work on the website.

For support please contact us by:

* **phone** on:  
    
  **0800 500 306**
* **email** on:

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[**InquiryintoCOVID-19lessons@dia.govt.nz**](mailto:InquiryintoCOVID-19lessons@dia.govt.nz)



The call centre staff can also record your experience over the phone.



The call centre is open:

* Monday to Friday
* 10 am to 7 pm.



If you find it hard to use the phone the **New Zealand Relay** service is for people who are:

* Deaf / hard of hearing
* deafblind
* speech impaired / find it hard to talk.

You can find out more about the New Zealand Relay service at:

[**www.nzrelay.co.nz**](http://www.nzrelay.co.nz)

This information has been written by the Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19.

It has been translated into Easy Read by the Make it Easy Kia Māmā Mai service of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



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