



TE TIRA ĀRAI URUTĀ

# NZ ROYAL COMMISSION COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED



## COVID-19 Inquiry Phase 2 Public Submissions



Published: March 2025

# About this document

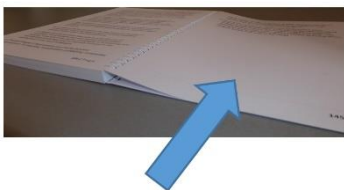


This Easy Read document is from the **New Zealand Royal Commission of Inquiry into COVID-19 Lessons Learned – Te Tira Ārai Urutā.**



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.

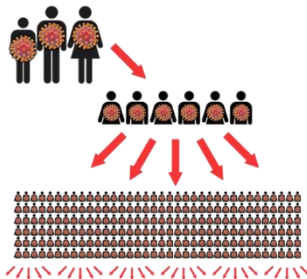


**COVID-19** is a type of virus that makes people sick.

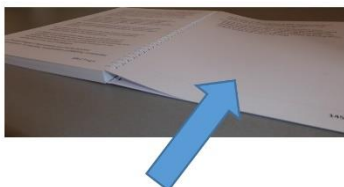


We want to hear from people about their **experience** during the **COVID-19 pandemic**.

**Experience** means what you went through.

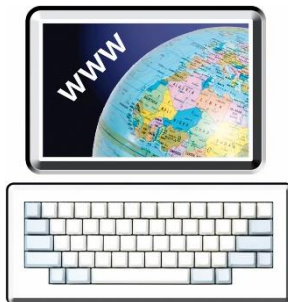


A **pandemic** is when people around the world get the same sickness at the same time.



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?

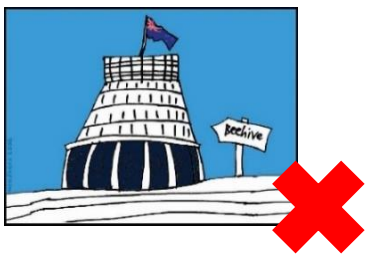


The Inquiry website can be found here:

[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:

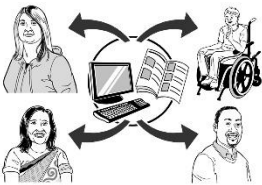
- by the New Zealand Government in 2022
- to **review** the experiences people had of the COVID-19 pandemic in Aotearoa New Zealand.



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:

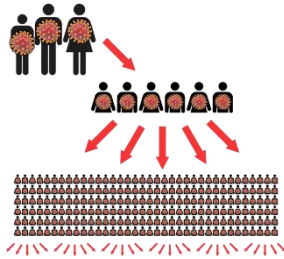


- publicly available information like research papers
- **evidence** from people who made important decisions like former Prime Minister Jacinda Ardern
- information from people who were affected by the response Aotearoa New Zealand had to the pandemic.

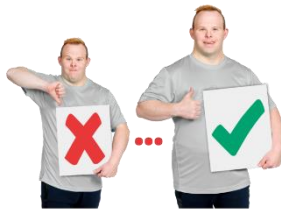
**Evidence** is facts about something that happened.



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.

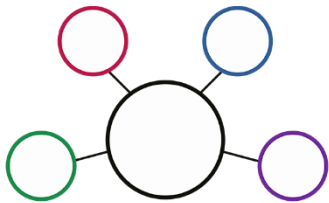


We have already spent 2 years reviewing how Aotearoa New Zealand responded to the COVID-19 pandemic.

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:

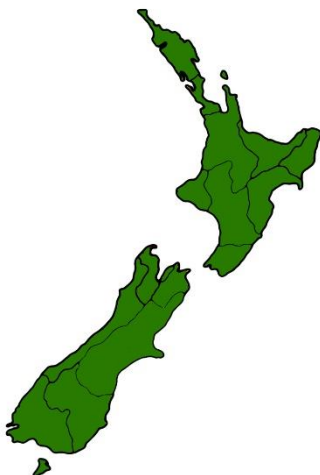


- 2021
- 2022.



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:
  - national lockdown 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.



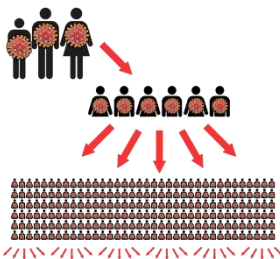
**Contact tracing** means listing:

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

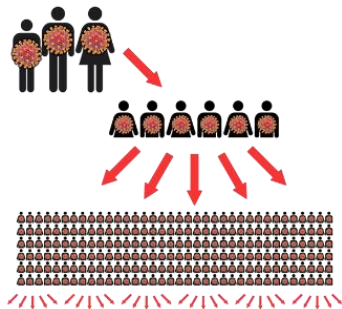


**Lockdowns** were when the Government asked everyone to stay at home so they would not:

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



## The Inquiry will:



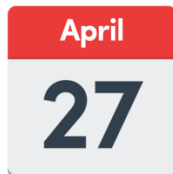
- review the key decisions made by the Government in these areas / topics
- give recommendations on how Aotearoa New Zealand could:
  - make better decisions if a pandemic happens again in the future
  - be better prepared if a pandemic happens again.

## How you can tell us about your experience

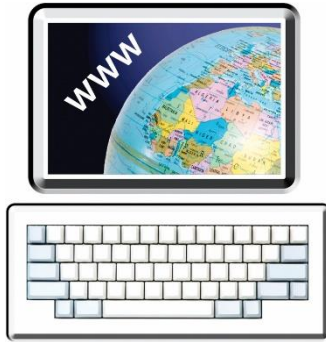


You can tell us about your experience in 2 ways:

- 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**

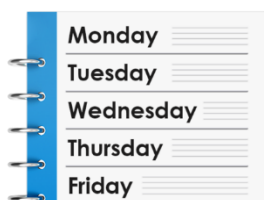
- **email on:**



**[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.



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