



DEPARTMENT OF THE PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

TE TARI O TE PIRIMIA ME TE KOMITI MATUA

<https://www.dpmc.govt.nz/our-programmes/special>

(DPMC, 2024a)
[2 Dec 2020]
[1 Aug 2022]
[31 Oct 2022]
[16 Nov 2022]
[29 Mar 2023]

COVID-19 Group

About

From December 2020 to 29 March 2023 the COVID-19 Group was responsible for providing input on the response to COVID-19 from an all of government point of view.

History and role

In December 2020 the COVID-19 Group was established as a business unit of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet (DPMC), continuing the work of the National Crisis Management Centre following the centre's

The Group acted as a central COVID-19 response function responsible for oversight, integration of the response system as a whole. The Group was responsible for assurance to Ministers and the public on the continuous improvement in New Zealand's response.

It delivered the following functions:

- Policy and strategy – leadership and coordination of the overarching strategy for response and integration of advice on readiness and response activities across agencies.
- System response, readiness, and planning – coordination and convening delivery agencies and activities (including resurgence planning).
- Insights and reporting – drawing on research and evaluation (domestic and international) of the system.
- Risk and assurance – assurance that the right work is happening across government, in the appropriate place.
- Communications and engagement – leadership and coordination of public communication (including the COVID-19 campaign), and coordination of stakeholder engagement (including business and

In accordance with the decision made by Cabinet in December 2020, the Group's strategic pri

Resilient and adaptive system that the COVID-19 response is a dynamic and continuous process

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As our response to COVID-19 evolved in 2022 we moved to a greater emphasis on responsibility to manage COVID-19. In addition, the health system reforms meant that many of the COVID-19 Ministry of Health had moved to new entities by 1 July 2022.

In June 2022 the Chief Executive COVID-19 All-of-Government Response led an analysis of existing governance structures with a view to transitioning the then centralised all-of-government response to a more orthodox governance and operating model over the course of 2022/23.

Over the course of 2022/23 the Group's functions transferred to Te Whatu Ora (Health New Zealand - Ministry of Health), who are responsible for the ongoing coordination of the COVID-19 response.

The functions of System Response, Readiness and Planning along with Insights and Reporting (including analysis) transitioned to the Public Health Agency of Manatū Hauora on 31 October 2022.

On 16 November 2022, the COVID-19 Communications and Public Engagement work transitioned to Health and Te Whatu Ora - Health New Zealand, including responsibility for the Unite Against COVID channels, which are now run by Te Whatu Ora.

The COVID-19 Group's Policy and Strategy coordination function transitioned to Manatū Hauora, concluding DPMCs formal role in the COVID-19 response.

Timeline of Aotearoa New Zealand's significant and key All-of-Government activities

A timeline covering the period from January 2020 to October 2022 that captures significant events (AoG) and public sector activities that contributed to Aotearoa New Zealand's response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Proactive release: Timeline of Aotearoa New Zealand's significant and key All-of-Government activities (/sites/default/files/2023-10/pr-timeline-activities.pdf)

(PDF 264.87 KB)

Printing tips:

The timeline is best printed on A3 paper. For the printing properties, we suggest printing in portrait orientation and 2 sided printing turned off. In the page sizing and handling settings, we advise a scale of 90% and an overlap of 0.00 inches.

Latest publications

COVID-19 Briefings - November 2022 (/publications/covid-19-briefings-novem

Information release 1 Nov 2023

Proactive release: Timeline of Aotearoa New Zealand's significant events and activities (/publications/proactive-release-timeline-aotearoa-new-zealands-significant-events-and-activities) **government-activities)**

Information release 10 Oct 2023

Behaviour and Sentiment July 2022 Update (/publications/behaviour-and-sentiment-july-2022-update)

Information release 15 Mar 2023

Proactive Release: October 2022 Review of Remaining COVID-19 Measures (/publications/proactive-release-october-2022-review-remaining-covid-19-measures)

Information release 7 Mar 2023

Proactive Release: COVID-19 Measures for Summer (/publications/proactive-release-covid-19-measures-for-summer)

Information release 3 Mar 2023

Proactive Release: COVID-19: Strategy for Post Winter (/publications/proactive-release-covid-19-strategy-for-post-winter)

Information release 3 Mar 2023

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