

(Royal Commission of
Inquiry COVID-19
Lessons Learned, 2024b)
[Appendix 8]



NZ ROYAL COMMISSION
COVID-19 LESSONS LEARNED

TE TIRA ĀRAI URUTĀ

Whītiki Aotearoa:

Lessons from COVID-19 to prepare Aotearoa New Zealand for a future pandemic

Main Report

PHASE
ONE

NOVEMBER 2024

In the second section, we present these **six thematic lessons for the future**. These describe the **high-level elements** we think are necessary to ensure Aotearoa New Zealand is better prepared for the next pandemic ahead of time, and **ready to respond** in ways that take care of all aspects of people's lives. These lessons, in brief, are:

Lesson 1: Manage pandemics to look after all aspects of people's lives.
In practice, this means:

- 1.1 Put people at the centre of any future pandemic response.
- 1.2 Consider what it means to 'look after all aspects of people's lives' from multiple angles.

Lesson 2: Make good decisions. In practice, this means:

- 2.1 Maintain a focus on looking after all aspects of people's lives in pandemic preparedness and response.
- 2.2 Follow robust decision-making processes (to the extent possible during a pandemic).
- 2.3 Use appropriate tools when developing and considering policy response options.
- 2.4 Be responsive to concerns, clear about intentions and transparent about trade-offs.

Lesson 3: Build resilience in the health system. In practice, this means:

- 3.1 Build *public health* capacity to increase the range of options available to decision-makers in a pandemic.
- 3.2 Enhance the *health system's capacity* to respond to a pandemic without compromising access to health services.

Lesson 4: Build resilience in economic and social systems. In practice, this means:

- 4.1 Foster strong economic foundations.
- 4.2 Use economic and social support measures to keep 'normal' life going as much as possible.
- 4.3 Ensure continuous supply of key goods and services.

Lesson 5: Work together. In practice, this means:

- 5.1 Work in partnership with Māori.
- 5.2 Work in partnership with communities.
- 5.3 Work closely with the business sector.

Lesson 6: Build the foundations. In practice, this means:

- 6.1 Anticipate and manage the risks posed by a future pandemic (alongside other risks).
- 6.2 Have key components of an effective national response in place and ready to be activated

These lessons for the future lay the groundwork for our final recommendations, which follow in the next chapter.