

# Maori health and Equity: The Maori Health Authority and lessons from COVID-19

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**Summary:** There are persistent inequities for Māori in healthcare access, healthcare quality, and overall health outcomes compared with non-Māori New Zealanders. Māori are less likely to access high quality healthcare, suffer a higher prevalence of long-term conditions, and have higher COVID-19 case rates, hospitalisations, mortality, and inequitable COVID-19 vaccination coverage.

This presentation will highlight lessons learnt and innovations sparked by the pandemic that can contribute to health equity through partnerships with communities, digital and outreach services, and Māori leadership. It will also highlight the health system reforms taking place within Aotearoa. At the centre of the changes is the establishment of two new organisations – Te Whatu Ora/Health New Zealand which will see our 20 District Health Boards become one organisation, and the Te Aka Whai Ora/Māori Health Authority which will provide new leadership for hauora Māori (Māori health).