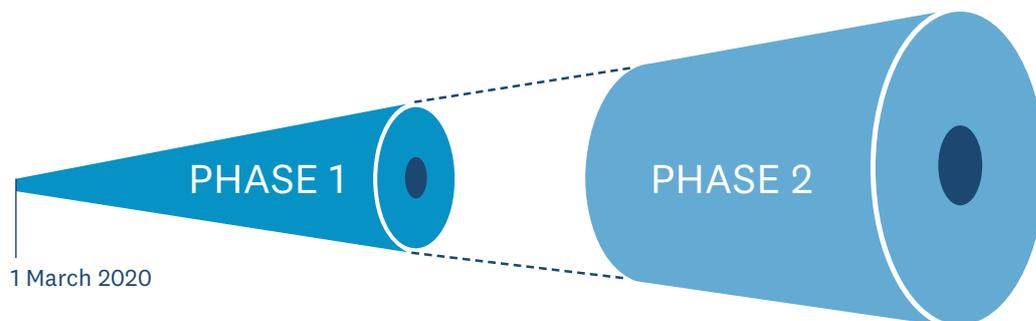


Worksheet 2020/01: COVID-19 Exploring certainties and uncertainties



This worksheet is designed for you to write down how you think the COVID-19 pandemic might impact New Zealand. In times of increasing uncertainty, ambiguity and complexity, it is important to flesh out what we do and do not know. Futurists use the 'cone of plausibility' (above) to denote time. For the purposes of this exercise the cone is divided into two phases. Phase 2 begins when we move to a post-COVID-19 world.

This exercise can be used to develop scenarios. Please feel free to read our initial thoughts (see the handwritten font below) and/or have a go at writing down your own ideas (a blank worksheet is available on our website). We are keen to hear your thoughts as we hope to develop a set of scenarios for each of the phases (eight scenarios in all). Most importantly, this exercise will help identify the building blocks for designing and investing in a 'new' New Zealand.

Question 1: When might New Zealand move from phase 1 to phase 2 and what do you think might be the catalyst?

We have suggested that phase 1 will last six months and phase 2 will last 18 months. What denotes a change from phase 1 to phase 2 could be the rollout of effective medicine or a vaccine.

Question 2: What certainties and uncertainties exist within each phase?

Phase 1

UNCERTAIN

Will this crisis increase or reduce public trust in government? How will this impact our attitudes towards democracy, and what consequences might this have for the New Zealand election?

Will the level of poverty and the degree of inequality increase or decrease?

Will our mental health suffer or become more robust?

Will climate change be put on the backburner or will the government explore public policy initiatives that provide a win-win against both the pandemic and climate change?

Will the economic stimulus work?

Will new business models emerge (and existing business models disappear)?

CERTAIN

A move away from globalisation towards nationalism.

A move away from 'just-in-time' supply chains to buffering and 'New Zealand manufacturing'.

An increased investment in and redesign of the existing healthcare system (e.g. removing or aligning health boards).

A greater investment in the international response system to pandemics (e.g. the World Health Organisation).

A greater use of technology to enable remote work from home and provide healthcare services.

Some businesses expand (e.g. online delivery and the hygiene industry) while others shrink.

Phase 2

UNCERTAIN

Will our national goal be to return to 'business as usual' or will we use this time to create a 'new' New Zealand?

Will the election proceed or will it be postponed? What could a digital election look like?

Will air travel be viable again and will tourism continue to be a major employer and wealth creator for New Zealand and/or will new industries emerge?

Will global tensions increase or decrease? Will there a desire for a more stable geo-political order following such a global crisis?

Will pharmaceuticals and other medical products be distributed in a world with stricter borders?

Will consumerism increase or decrease? What impact might this have on people's consumer habits going forward? (e.g. the Great Depression had a major impact on the outlook of the generations who experienced it).

CERTAIN

Businesses, banks, investors and insurers become more cautious.

Climate change will become critically urgent as it continues to disrupt the economy and society.

People will work from home more and/or work fewer hours (e.g. 4-day weeks).

Cooperation between governments, businesses and cities will continue to evolve.

Supply-chain risks will be better understood and initiatives will be put in place to manage those risks. For example, more storage for surges, alternative manufacturing options (including 3D printed goods) and working with suppliers closer to home (e.g. Australia).

The healthcare system will learn to adapt to be better prepared to respond to global crises.

Question 3: What challenges and opportunities exist for you, your whānau, your business and for New Zealand?