

## **COVID-19**

**Advancing Towards an Equitable and Healthy World**

**W3203 Social Determinants of Health**

# **Will healthier housing emerge from the crisis?**

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## Key messages for post-pandemic recovery

- Housing is key determinant of health & wellbeing
- Both private & public benefits
- Broad co-benefits of housing
- Can advance broad wellbeing outcomes
  - Social
  - Economic
  - Environmental
  - Cultural

# Home environment

- In developed countries we spend around **75%** of our time inside
- Young children, older people & disabled people spend around **90%** of time inside
- 2018 WHO Housing and Health Guidelines
- Indoor environment critical for maintaining health:
  - *Not hot*
  - *Not cold*
  - *Not damp & mouldy*
  - *Not polluted*
  - *Not crowded*




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Article

## Setting Housing Standards to Improve Global Health

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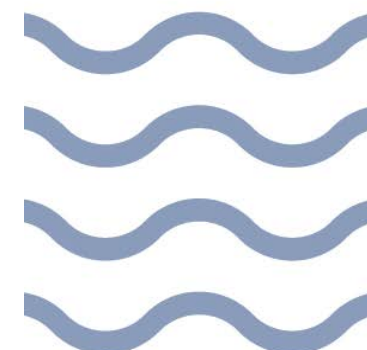
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WHO  
HOUSING  
AND HEALTH  
GUIDELINES







## Role of government critical

- NZ followed elimination strategy – *“Go hard, go early”*
- Population 5 million - 25 COVID-19 deaths
- Public trusts govt restricting individual liberties for greater good – *no* evictions, >> transitional housing
- Strong social capital increased collective capabilities and resilience
- Recovery based on wellbeing outcomes
  - increased public housing + training, employment, & essential infrastructure
  - funded by wellbeing bonds

# COVID-19 recovery challenges

- Economic recession
- Increasing unemployment
- Increased repatriation
- Shortage of affordable housing
- Increasing waiting list for public housing (20,000+)
- Rising homelessness again
- Escalating effects from climate change storm surges, flooding & sea level rise





# Public housing with quality community space



Refurbished Central Park Flats, Brooklyn Road, Wellington





Environmental  
outcomes: easy  
access to public and  
blue green space





Cultural wellbeing

Government have active partnerships with Māori iwi/tribes & community providers to support Māori advancement





Need to support transition to low-carbon economy through energy-efficient housing, use of public transport & renewable energy





# Summary

- Pandemic can be contained with quarantine & concerted contact tracing
  - Govt power needs to be exercised in partnership with councils & Māori
  - Govt leadership vital for carbon mitigation
  - Social inclusion critical to build trust & investment in public good
  - Increased public & affordable housing & civil infrastructure key to post-COVID-19 transformation
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