# Contributions to the National Emergency around the COVID-19 Pandemic by BODE<sup>3</sup> Staff

Given BODE<sup>3</sup> expertise in disease modelling, epidemiology, and public health a number of staff have contributed to this response during 2020 and 2021:

- Professor Nick Wilson: many of the outputs listed below and technical advice to the Government (and being an Advisor to a Ministry of Health [MoH] Epidemiology Technical Advisory Group and meetings with: the COVID-19 Minister Chris Hipkins and Associate Health Minister Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall).
- Professor Tony Blakely (jointly with BODE<sup>3</sup> and Melbourne University): some of the outputs below and various modelling work and media commentary with relevance to NZ.
- Dr Anja Mizdrak: Secondment to work in the MoH for six weeks, preparing reports, contributing to scholarly blogs.
- Dr Jennifer Summers, Dr Leah Grout and Dr Nhung Nghiem: Article writing (see below), contributing to scholarly blogs, conference presentations and contributing to media commentary.
- Lani Teddy and Rachel Carter: Preparing scholarly blogs, administrative support for others doing COVID-19 work.
- Two candidates for Masters are also working on COVID-19 projects (in progress as per August 2021).

#### Peer-reviewed international journal publications

- Baker M, Wilson N, Anglemyer A. Successful Elimination of Covid-19 Transmission in New Zealand. *N Engl J Med* 2020;(7 August). doi:10.1056/NEJMc2025203. https://www.nejm.org/doi/10.1056/NEJMc2025203?url\_ver=Z39.88-2003&rfr\_id=ori:rid:crossref.org&rfr\_dat=cr\_pub%20%200pubmed [High impact: citations = 94; 495,000+ page views (August 2021)].
- Baker M, Wilson N, Blakely T. Elimination may be the optimal response strategy for covid-19 and other emerging pandemic diseases. *BMJ*. 2020;371:m4907. doi: 4910.1136/bmj.m4907. <a href="https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4907">https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m4907</a> [High impact: Altmetric score = 2265; 105,000+ full article accesses (August 2021)].
- Baker M, **Wilson N**. The covid-19 elimination debate needs correct data. *BMJ* 2020;371:m3883. doi: 10.1136/bmj.m3883 <a href="https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m3883.full">https://www.bmj.com/content/371/bmj.m3883.full</a> [**High impact: 6145** abstract accesses (by August 2021)].
- Baker MG, **Wilson N**. The COVID-19 elimination debate needs to use correct data. *BMJ* 2020;371:m3883. doi: 10.1136/bmj.m3883.
- Blakely T, Thompson J, Carvalho N, Bablani L, **Wilson N**, Stevenson M. The probability of the 6-week lockdown in Victoria (commencing 9 July 2020) achieving elimination of community transmission of SARS-CoV-2. *Med J Aust* 2020;213:349-351.e1 <a href="https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.5694/mja2.50786">https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.5694/mja2.50786</a> [High impact: citations = 11; Altmetric 45 (by August 2021)].

- Blakely T, Thompson J, Bablani L, Andersen P, Ait Ouakrim D, Carvalho N, Abraham P, Boujaoude A-M, Katar A, Akpan E, **Wilson N**, Stevenson M. Association of Simulated COVID-19 Policy Responses for Social Restrictions and Lockdowns With Health-Adjusted Life-Years and Costs in Victoria, Australia. *JAMA Health Forum* 2021;2(7):e211749. doi:10.1001/jamahealthforum.2021.1749 [**High impact: 5850 views, Altmetric score: 160 (by August 2021)**]
- Boyd M, Baker MG, **Wilson N**. Border closure for island nations? Analysis of pandemic and bioweapon related threats suggests some scenarios warrant drastic action. *Aust N Z J Public Health* 2020;44:89-91. doi: 10.1111/1753-6405.12991
- Boyd M, **Wilson N**. Failures with COVID-19 at the international level must not be repeated in an era facing global catastrophic biological risks. *Aust N Z J Public Health* 2021;(22 February). doi: 10.1111/1753-6405.13082
- Boyd MJ, Wilson N, Nelson C. Validation analysis of Global Health Security Index (GHSI) scores 2019. *BMJ Global Health* 2020;5:e003276. https://gh.bmj.com/content/5/10/e003276 [High impact: 6 citations; 20,996 full article accesses (by August 2021)]
- Grout L, Ait Ouakrim D, Summers JA, Kvalsvig A, Baker MG, Blakely T, Wilson N. Estimating the failure risk of quarantine systems for preventing COVID-19 outbreaks in Australia and New Zealand. Med J Aust 2021; <a href="https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2021/estimating-failure-risk-quarantine-systems-preventing-covid-19-outbreaks-australia-and">https://www.mja.com.au/journal/2021/estimating-failure-risk-quarantine-systems-preventing-covid-19-outbreaks-australia-and</a> [Preprint, 9 July 2021]. [High impact: Altmetric score: 523 when on medRxiv (by August 2021)]
- Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**, Davies C, Timu-Parata C, Signal V, Baker MG. Expansion of a national Covid-19 alert level system to improve population health and uphold the values of Indigenous peoples. *Lancet Reg Health West Pac* 2021;12:100206.
- Kvalsvig A, **Summers J**, Gray L, Telfar-Barnard L, Baker M. COVID-19 outbreaks in Aotearoa New Zealand: urgent action is required to address systematic causes and consequences of border failures. *N Z Med J* 2020;133(1527):8-14.
- Nghiem N, Wilson N. Potential impact of COVID-19 related unemployment on increased cardiovascular disease in a high-income country: Modeling health loss, cost and equity. *PLoS ONE* 2021;16(5): e0246053. <a href="https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246053">https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0246053</a> [High impact: Altmetric score: 523 when on medRxiv (by August 2021)]
- Summers J, Cheng H-Y, Lin H-H, Telfar Barnard L, Kvalsvig A, Wilson N, Baker MG. Potential lessons from the Taiwan and New Zealand health responses to the COVID-19 pandemic. *Lancet Reg Health West Pac* 2020;(E-publication 21 October). <a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(20)30044-4/fulltext#supplementaryMaterial">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanwpc/article/PIIS2666-6065(20)30044-4/fulltext#supplementaryMaterial</a> [High impact on PlumX Metrics: 43 citations, 169 captures, 76 mentions, 3387 social media (by August 2021)]
- **Wilson N**, Kvalsvig A, Telfar Barnard L, Baker MG. Case-fatality estimates for COVID-19 calculated by using a lag time for fatality. *Emerg Infect Dis*. 2020;(13 March). https://doi.org/10.3201/eid2606.200320
- **Wilson N**, Baker MG, Blakely T, Eichner M. Estimating the impact of control measures to prevent outbreaks of COVID-19 associated with air travel into a

- COVID-19-free country. *Sci Rep.* 2021;11(1):10766. doi: 10.1038/s41598-021-89807-y. https://www.nature.com/articles/s41598-021-89807-y
- Wilson N, Mansoor OD, Boyd M, Kvalsvig A, Baker MG. We should not dismiss the possibility of eradicating Covid-19: Comparisons with smallpox and polio. *BMJ Global Health* 2021;6:e006810. doi:10.1136/bmjgh-2021-006810. [High impact: Altmetric score = 917 (by August 2021)].

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- Baker MG, Kvalsvig A, Verrall AJ, Telfar-Barnard L, **Wilson N**. New Zealand's elimination strategy for the COVID-19 pandemic and what is required to make it work. *N Z Med J* 2020;133(1512):10-14. (Open Access: <a href="https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/new-zealands-elimination-strategy-for-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-what-is-required-to-make-it-work">https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/new-zealands-elimination-strategy-for-the-covid-19-pandemic-and-what-is-required-to-make-it-work</a>)
- Boyd M, Baker M, Nelson C, **Wilson N**. The 2019 Global Health Security Index (GHSI) and its implications for New Zealand and Pacific regional health security. *N Z Med J* 2020;133(1516):83-92. Open Access: <a href="https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/the-2019-global-health-security-index-ghsi-and-its-implications-for-new-zealand-and-pacific-regional-health-security">https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/the-2019-global-health-security-index-ghsi-and-its-implications-for-new-zealand-and-pacific-regional-health-security</a>
- Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**, Chan L, Febery S, Roberts S, Betty B, Baker MG. Mass masking: an alternative to a second lockdown in Aotearoa. *N Z Med J* 2020;133(1517):8-13. <a href="https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/mass-masking-an-alternative-to-a-second-lockdown-in-aotearoa">https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/mass-masking-an-alternative-to-a-second-lockdown-in-aotearoa</a>
- **Nghiem N**, **Mizdrak A**, **Wilson N**. Increased unemployment from the COVID-19 pandemic, what might be the adverse impacts on cardiovascular disease in Aotearoa/New Zealand and how might this be prevented? *N Z Med J* 2020;133(1526):89-98. <a href="https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/increased-unemployment-from-the-covid-19-pandemic-what-might-be-the-adverse-impacts-on-cardiovascular-disease-in-aotearoa-new-zealand-and-how-might-this-be-prevented">https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/increased-unemployment-from-the-covid-19-pandemic-what-might-be-the-adverse-impacts-on-cardiovascular-disease-in-aotearoa-new-zealand-and-how-might-this-be-prevented</a>
- **Wilson N**, Blakely T, Baker M, Eichner M. Estimating the risk of outbreaks of COVID-19 associated with shore leave by merchant ship crews: Simulation studies for New Zealand. *N Z Med J* 2021;134(1529):26-38. (Open Access: <a href="https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/estimating-the-risk-of-outbreaks-of-covid-19-associated-with-shore-leave-by-merchant-ship-crews-simulation-studies-for-new-zealand">https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/estimating-the-risk-of-outbreaks-of-covid-19-associated-with-shore-leave-by-merchant-ship-crews-simulation-studies-for-new-zealand</a>
- Wilson N, Boyd M, Kvalsvig A, Chambers T, Baker M. Public health aspects of the Covid-19 response and opportunities for the post-pandemic era. *Policy Quarterly* 2020;16(3):20-24. https://ojs.victoria.ac.nz/pq/article/view/6550/5715
- Wilson N, Rice G, Thomson G, Baker MG. Remembering past pandemics to ensure we plan for the future: Updated New Zealand survey of influenza pandemic memorials. N Z Med J 2021;134(1528):111-114.

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- **Wilson N**, Schwehm M, Verrall AJ, Parry M, Baker MG, Eichner M. Detecting the re-emergent COVID-19 pandemic after elimination: modelling study of

- combined primary care and hospital surveillance. *N Z Med J*. 2020;133(1524):28-39. Full free access: <a href="https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/detecting-the-re-emergent-covid-19-pandemic-after-elimination-modelling-study-of-combined-primary-care-and-hospital-surveillance">https://www.nzma.org.nz/journal-articles/detecting-the-re-emergent-covid-19-pandemic-after-elimination-modelling-study-of-combined-primary-care-and-hospital-surveillance</a>
- **Wilson N**, Thomson G. Deficient handwashing amenities in public toilets in the time of the COVID-19 pandemic: a multi-regional survey. *N Z Med J* 2021;134;(1538):18-27.
- Wilson N, Summers JA, Grout L, Baker MG. Bumper issue of COVID-19 pandemic studies of relevance to Aotearoa New Zealand [Editorial]. *N Z Med J* 2021;134;(1538):9-17.

### Preprints (not yet published in peer-reviewed journals)

- Blakely T, Bablani L, Carvalho N, Andersen P, Abraham P, Katar A, Boujaoude M-A, Akpan E, **Wilson N**. Integrated Quantification of the Health and Economic Impacts of Differing Strategies to Control the COVID-19 Pandemic (5/8/2020). Available at SSRN: <a href="https://ssrn.com/abstract=3605136">https://ssrn.com/abstract=3605136</a> or <a href="http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3605136">http://dx.doi.org/10.2139/ssrn.3605136</a>
- Telfar-Barnard T, Baker MG, Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**. COVID-19 control measure effects suggest excess winter mortality is more sensitive to infection control than warmer temperatures. *medRxiv* 2020; doi: https://doi.org/10.1101/2020.12.19.20248531
- Thompson J, McClure R, Blakely T, **Wilson N**, Baker M, Herick de Sa T, Nice K, Wijnands JS, Aschwanden G, Cruz-Gambardella C, Stevenson M. The estimated likelihood of eliminating the SARS-CoV-2 pandemic in Australia and New Zealand under current public health policy settings: An agent-based-SEIR modelling approach. SSRN pre-print 2020 (7 May). https://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract\_id=3588074
- **Wilson N**, Parry M, Verrall AJ, Baker MG, Schwehm M, Eichner M. When can elimination of SARS-CoV-2 infection be assumed? Simulation modelling in a case study island nation. *medRxiv* 2020;(20 May). <a href="https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.16.20104240v1">https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.05.16.20104240v1</a>
- **Wilson N**, Telfar Barnard L, Kvalsvig A, Verrall A, Baker MG, Schwehm M. Modelling the potential health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on a hypothetical European country. *medRxiv* 2020;(23 March). https://medrxiv.org/cgi/content/short/2020.03.20.20039776v1
- Wilson N, Grout L, Summers JA, Nghiem N, Baker MG. Use of the Elimination Strategy in Response to the COVID-19 Pandemic: Health and Economic Impacts for New Zealand Relative to Other OECD Countries. *medRxiv* 2021;(2 July). <a href="https://medrxiv.org/cgi/content/short/2021.06.25.21259556v1">https://medrxiv.org/cgi/content/short/2021.06.25.21259556v1</a>

#### Reports for the NZ Ministry of Health

Baker M, Kvalsvig A, Telfar Barnard L, Gray L, Verrall A, **Wilson N**. Potential preventive interventions for the "Stamp it out" and "Manage It" Phase of the Covid-19 pandemic in New Zealand: Commissioned Report for the New Zealand Ministry of Health. Wellington: University of Otago, 2020 (10 March).

https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/report\_for\_m oh - innovative\_covid-19\_control\_measures\_final.pdf

- Kvalsvig A, Telfar Barnard L, Gray L, **Wilson N**, Baker M. Supporting the COVID-19 pandemic response: Surveillance and outbreak analytics prepared for the Ministry of Health. Wellington: University of Otago, 2020 (20 March). <a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/report\_for\_moh\_covid-19\_surveillance\_outbreak\_analytics\_final.pdf">https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/publications/report\_for\_moh\_covid-19\_surveillance\_outbreak\_analytics\_final.pdf</a>
- Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**, Davies C, Timu-Parata C, Signal V, Baker M. The Alert Level system in Aotearoa New Zealand: Revising the response to adapt to current and future infectious disease prevention and control needs (Report prepared for the Ministry of Health). Wellington: University of Otago, 22 March 2021.
- Ministry of Health. "Aotearoa/New Zealand's COVID-19 elimination strategy: an overview". 2020. (Dr Anja **Mizdrak** as a named contributor). <a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/aotearoa-new zealands covid-19 elimination strategy- an overview17may.pdf">https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/aotearoa-new zealands covid-19 elimination strategy- an overview17may.pdf</a>
- Wilson N, Puloka V, Baker M. What New Zealand could potentially offer to selected Pacific Island jurisdictions to help prevent the spread of Covid-19:

  Commissioned Preliminary Report for the New Zealand Ministry of Health.

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- Wilson N. Potential worse case health impacts from the COVID-19 Pandemic for New Zealand if eradication fails: Report to the NZ Ministry of Health.

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#### **Presentations**

- Baker M, Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**. (2020, December). *The COVID-19 elimination strategy: Implications and opportunities for New Zealand [Invited]*. Presentation at the 6<sup>th</sup> One Health Aotearoa (OHA) Symposium, [Online].
- Baker M, MacIntyre R, **Wilson N**. <u>The emerging coronavirus epidemic protecting our communities and ourselves</u> Summer School Presentation 2020;(12 February).
- Baker M, **Wilson N**. The NZ response to Covid-19: Implications for managing future biosecurity threats. Presentation to Otago National Security School: NZ National Security in the Era of COVID-19, 10 February 2021.
- Boyd M, Wilson N. Cost-Effectiveness of Pandemic Preparedness: Global Health

- Security Agenda Investments and the Global Health Security Index. [Oral Presentation]. International Health Economics Association Conference 12-15 July 2021.
- Boyd M, Baker M, **Wilson N**. The economics of complete border closure for severe pandemic threats: A literature review of modelling studies. <u>European Health</u> Economics Association Virtual Conference 9 July 2020.
- **Nghiem N**, **Wilson N**. Impact of Covid-19 Related Unemployment on Increased Cardiovascular Disease in a High-Income Country: Modelling Health Loss, Health Cost Burden and Health Equity. [Oral Presentation]. International Health Economics Association Conference 12-15 July 2021.
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- **Wilson N**. NZ response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the coming vaccination roll-out and the future. Presentation to Kilbirnie U3A, 23 February 2021.
- **Wilson N**. The COVID-19 Elimination strategy: Why it was the best choice for New Zealand. Presentation to the University of the Third Age (U3A) Wellington City at the Embassy Theatre on 21 July 2020.

#### Major media pieces (eg, *The Guardian*, *The Conversation*)

- Baker M, Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**. 100 days without COVID-19: how New Zealand got rid of a virus that keeps spreading across the world. *The Conversation*. <a href="https://theconversation.com/100-days-without-covid-19-how-new-zealand-got-rid-of-a-virus-that-keeps-spreading-across-the-world-143672">https://theconversation.com/100-days-without-covid-19-how-new-zealand-got-rid-of-a-virus-that-keeps-spreading-across-the-world-143672</a>
- Baker M, Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**. 6 months after New Zealand's first COVID-19 case, it's time for a more strategic approach. *The Conversation* 2020;(26 August). <a href="https://theconversation.com/6-months-after-new-zealands-first-covid-19-case-its-time-for-a-more-strategic-approach-144936">https://theconversation.com/6-months-after-new-zealands-first-covid-19-case-its-time-for-a-more-strategic-approach-144936</a>
- Baker M, Kvalsvig A, **Wilson N**. A year on from the arrival of COVID-19 in NZ: 5 lessons for 2021 and beyond. *The Conversation*. 2021;(25 February). <a href="https://theconversation.com/a-year-on-from-the-arrival-of-covid-19-in-nz-5-lessons-for-2021-and-beyond-155367">https://theconversation.com/a-year-on-from-the-arrival-of-covid-19-in-nz-5-lessons-for-2021-and-beyond-155367</a>
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- Baker M, **Wilson N**. New Zealand hits zero active coronavirus cases. Here are 5 measures to keep it that way. *The Conversation* 2020;(8 June). <a href="https://theconversation.com/new-zealand-hits-zero-active-coronavirus-cases-here-are-5-measures-to-keep-it-that-way-139862">https://theconversation.com/new-zealand-hits-zero-active-coronavirus-cases-here-are-5-measures-to-keep-it-that-way-139862</a>

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- Scholarly blogs at *Public Health Expert* Blog on Covid-19 (authored by BODE<sup>3</sup> Team members; all at: https://blogs.otago.ac.nz/pubhealthexpert/;

## syndicated to SciBlogs; and often picked up by the media)

Involvement a BODE <sup>3</sup> Team member*	2020	2021 (to 28 August)
Lead authored	14	12
Co-authored	9	2

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