



# Cabinet

## Minute of Decision

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### Pfizer Vaccine: Recommendations for Decision to Use

**Portfolios**                      **COVID-19 Response / Health / Associate Health (Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall)**

On 9 February 2021, Cabinet:

- 1        **noted** that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine has been granted provisional consent by Medsafe and is now available for use as part of New Zealand's COVID-19 Immunisation Programme;
- 2        **noted** that the Ministry of Health has formed a COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) to provide science and technical advice on the use of COVID-19 vaccines;
- 3        **noted** that the CV TAG has provided advice to the Director General of Health on the use of the Pfizer vaccine;
- 4        **noted** that the Pfizer vaccine is suitable for use in New Zealand for those 16 years of age and over, with some additional recommendations from the CV TAG:
  - 4.1        ensuring adequate information provision, particularly around expected common side effects;
  - 4.2        requiring a 30-minute observation period after the vaccine has been administered;
  - 4.3        patients receiving specific therapies (listed in Appendix One to the submission under CAB-21-SUB-0012) should not receive the vaccine;
  - 4.4        that pregnant women are advised to discuss the risks and benefits of receiving the Pfizer vaccine with a health professional;
  - 4.5        that it is suitable for use in lactating women;
- 5        **noted** that there are no exclusions, or limitations in the advice of the CV TAG that would materially impact on the implementation of the Sequencing Framework and Immunisation Programme at this time;
- 6        **agreed** that the government proceed with using the Pfizer vaccine as per the COVID-19 Vaccine Sequencing Framework;
- 7        **noted** that responsible Ministers will seek further decisions on the use of the Pfizer vaccine and other vaccines in New Zealand's portfolio as they become available;

- 8 **noted** that subsequent advice on the decision to use additional COVID-19 vaccines will consider the opportunity cost of using a particular vaccine in the context of the vaccine portfolio, and the significant risk of COVID-19 to New Zealand.

Michael Webster  
Secretary of the Cabinet

PROACTIVELY RELEASED