



Cabinet

Minute of Decision

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Updated Approach to the Sequencing Framework for COVID-19 Vaccines

Portfolios **COVID-19 Response / Health**

On 8 March 2021, Cabinet:

- 1 **noted** that vaccinations are well underway for the Border and Managed Isolation and Quarantine workforces, and will begin for their household contacts from 8 March 2021, starting in South Auckland;
- 2 **agreed** that the MIQ workforce in Tier 1 (a) also include New Zealand Defence Force and New Zealand Police staff eligible for rotation to MIQ;
- 3 **noted** that Cabinet previously agreed that the next focus is Tier 2 (a), which includes frontline (non-border) health workers potentially exposed to COVID-19 while providing care [CAB-21-MIN-00400];
- 4 **noted** that individuals can be at increased risk of severe health outcomes from COVID-19 due to their age and/or or an underlying health condition or disability;
- 5 **noted** that the severe health outcome risk is increased for at-risk people living in high-risk settings or locations, such as residential care settings or Counties Manukau;
- 6 **agreed** that after rolling out to people included in Tier 2 (a), that the following groups are included in Tier 2 (b):
 - 6.1 frontline healthcare workers who may expose people at risk of severe health outcomes to COVID-19 (as outlined in Appendix One attached to the submission under CAB-21-SUB-0052, amended as necessary to reflect the decisions in this minute);
 - 6.2 certain groups living in settings or locations that are “high risk”, including:
 - 6.2.1 people aged 65 years and above and people with relevant health conditions (as specified in Appendix One) in the Counties Manukau District Health Board (DHB) district;
 - 6.2.2 people in long-term residential care where a high proportion of residents are at-risk of severe health outcomes if they contract COVID-19 (as specified in Appendix One);

- 6.2.3 an allocation of 40,000 courses to Māori and Pacific providers to distribute to older people living in whānau environment in hard to reach places, and their household; and
- 6.2.4 people in a custodial setting in high risk areas;
- 7 **authorised** the Minister for COVID-19 Response take decisions on the vaccine rollout plan for people in custodial settings;
- 8 **agreed** that Tier 3 be focused on the following groups:
- 8.1 Tier 3 (a) - people aged 75 years and above;
- 8.2 Tier 3 (b) - people aged 65 to 74 years;
- 8.3 Tier 3 (c) - disabled people, those with relevant underlying health conditions (as specified in Appendix One), and individuals in custodial settings;
- 9 **noted** the indicative COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Plan, attached to the submission under CAB-21-SUB-0052, which will be updated following Cabinet decisions on sequencing;
- 10 **agreed** that DHBs and other providers be directed to adopt a whānau-centred approach during Tier 2 (b) and Tier 3;
- 11 **noted** that the Ministry of Health will partner with Māori and Pacific providers to deliver vaccinations in their communities, who will be provided with ongoing vaccine allocations from Tier 2 (b) onwards;
- 12 **noted** that the Ministry will work with Māori and Pacific providers to support them to meet vaccination demand beyond their enrolled populations, including through targeted investments to build provider infrastructure and workforce capability;
- 13 **agreed** that providers, while using the Sequencing Framework to guide their delivery focus, will have flexibility to adjust their approach as required to maximise uptake and minimise wastage;
- 14 **noted** that officials will work with the COVID-19 Vaccine Ministers' offices on updated communications.

Martin Bell
for Secretary of the Cabinet