

COVID-19 vaccine: Become a COVID-19 Vaccinator

About the COVID-19 Vaccinator role

Train to become a COVID-19 Vaccinator, which is a new health workforce role working in a COVID-19 vaccination team.

You would administer the COVID-19 vaccine under the supervision and direction of an experienced, qualified health professional in an approved vaccination site.

Why is the COVID-19 Vaccinator role important?

We're delivering the largest vaccine and immunisation programme in the history of Aotearoa New Zealand. We need to expand our vaccination workforce to roll out the COVID-19 vaccine to help New Zealand reach community immunity.

It's important we have the right people in the right places at the right time to work in our vaccination sites and reflect the communities that we serve. This includes having more Māori and Pacific people trained to vaccinate.

Who can become a COVID-19 Vaccinator?

You may be a healthcare assistant, kaiāwhina, kaiarahi, kaimanaaki or pharmacy technician. Or, you could be a healthcare professional trained in New Zealand, or overseas, but are not registered in New Zealand and don't currently hold a practising certificate.

You will take part in thorough training and must pass theory and practical assessments to become a COVID-19 Vaccinator.

What training is required for the role?

COVID-19 Vaccinators will undergo thorough training, developed by the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) and CareerForce and approved by the Ministry of Health.

Training is free and is available now.

The training includes:

- Two to three hours online training, followed by a graded theory assessment
- Face-to-face practical training
- Observation and assessment in the workplace under the guidance of a supervisor
- Site-specific orientation and induction.

Your employer will also ensure you complete CPR training, as well as core learning about Te Tiriti o Waitangi and tikanga/kawa Māori, the Health Information Privacy Code and how to work with disabled people.

A day in the life of the COVID-19 Vaccinator

As a COVID-19 Vaccinator, you will be part of a COVID-19 vaccination Team and will do some or all of the following:

- Greeting people arriving at the vaccination centre for vaccination
- Providing culturally appropriate support to consumers and uphold the principles of Te Tiriti o Waitangi
- Answering basic questions about the COVID-19 vaccine

- Confirming they are happy to proceed with the vaccine (formal consent will be discussed with a registered health professional)
- Giving the vaccine to triaged people with a low risk of adverse reaction to the vaccine
- Completing required documentation
- Providing support and information for consumers following the vaccine.

There will always be a qualified, experienced clinical supervisor available on site.

If you have completed any other Immunisation Support Worker Modules, you might also help with those activities.

What will COVID-19 Vaccinators be paid?

If you are hired by a District Health Board (DHB) or Contracted Health Provider specifically to undertake a dedicated COVID-19 Vaccinator role, we expect you to be covered by one of the existing Multiple Employer Collective Agreements (MECAs) or equivalent Individual Employment Agreement (IEA).

Remuneration will be in line with rates applicable to similar roles within those DHB agreements.

If you train to be a COVID-19 Vaccinator as part of an existing role you perform, you or your union will negotiate any changes to your terms, conditions and remuneration with your employer.

Keen to get involved?

If you're interested in becoming a COVID-19 Vaccinator but don't have an employment contract now, go online to www.health.govt.nz/HandsUp and fill in a form to register your interest.

The registration form asks about your health sector experience, availability and the languages you speak. It can be completed in English, Te Reo Māori, Samoan or Tongan.

If you're already employed by an organisation who has a DHB commissioned contract to deliver the COVID-19 vaccine, talk to your employer. They will put suitable candidates forward to IMAC to undertake the COVID-19 vaccination training.

What happens next?

Your registration of interest will be sent to your local DHB. They'll match the roles to people based on skills, availability and the needs of their communities.

Thank you for your patience as the DHBs work through the process to ensure we have the right people in the right places.

Supporting other vaccination programmes

Unless specifically authorised to administer other vaccines, COVID-19 Vaccinators will only be able to administer the COVID-19 vaccine. This authorisation is until 1 June 2023.

There are also other modules the COVID-19 Vaccinator could complete as part of the immunisation support worker role including:

- Introduction to immunisation
- Conversations about vaccinations
- National Immunisation Programme cold chain management
- Post vaccination observation under the support of a healthcare professional.

This training is online with webinar support and final workplace workbook signoff.