



COVID-19 vaccine: Protecting Aotearoa

New Zealand Government

Unite
against
COVID-19



The COVID-19 vaccine is free, available to everyone 16 and over, and will help protect New Zealanders.

Maximising uptake of the vaccine will ensure we keep as many people as safe and protected as possible.

We are rolling out the vaccine in stages and those at greater risk will be vaccinated first. There will be enough vaccines for everyone.

New Zealand's vaccine plan is to:



Supply enough vaccine to protect Aotearoa and the Pacific



Protect Māori, Pacific peoples, and other groups at greater risk of COVID-19



Make it easy for people to get vaccinated



Put safety first with all COVID-19 vaccines



Ensure we are prepared for future outbreaks



Support New Zealand's contribution to global wellbeing



Vaccine safety

Ensuring that the COVID-19 vaccines are proven to be safe and effective is critical to the COVID-19 Immunisation Programme.

It's the largest immunisation programme we've ever undertaken in New Zealand.


COVID-19 vaccine development

Collaboration by international governments and the private sector around the world has enabled COVID-19 vaccines to be developed more quickly than usual. The establishment of large manufacturing plants has also enabled faster production of vaccines, on a greater scale than previously possible.

While progress has been swift, everyone's focus remains firmly on putting safety first.

Medsafe's role in vaccine safety

New Zealand's vaccine regulator, Medsafe, has adapted its processes to ensure its experts can carry out timely and in-depth assessments of the large volumes of scientific data required for approval of the COVID-19 vaccines.



Medsafe will continue to share information and guidance on our requirements for approving COVID-19 vaccines with international vaccine manufacturers. Large ongoing clinical trials across the world will also ensure Medsafe can continue to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the vaccines right through their initial roll out and ongoing use.

Ongoing monitoring of the vaccines

The safety of COVID-19 vaccines will continue to be monitored through ongoing clinical trials, post-market safety studies, registries, and through reporting by healthcare professionals and people who have received the vaccine.

In New Zealand, the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) collects reports about suspected adverse reactions to medicines, including vaccines. Anyone can submit a report, and to make this process easier, a new reporting form for COVID-19 has been developed.

Known adverse reactions to COVID-19 vaccines can be found in the data sheet or Consumer Medicine Information published on the Medsafe website.

Vaccine access

We're committed to putting in place the right systems and services, so it's easy and convenient for everyone aged 16 and over to get a COVID-19 vaccine.

The Ministry of Health and organisations across the health and disability system are working together to make it easy for New Zealanders to be vaccinated and ensure people are well informed and supported when accessing a vaccine.

For border and MIQ workers, the vaccine is offered at or near their place of employment. Workers and people being cared for in long-term residential facilities will get the vaccine at or near their facility.

For other groups, a variety of different vaccination options will be offered to ensure it's as easy as possible to get vaccinated. These will include pop-up centres, GPs, Māori and Pacific providers, mobile clinics and community clinics.

All providers will have vaccinators who are trained to give the COVID-19 vaccine and work with the administrative systems. We are training an additional 2000–3000 vaccinators and other members of the vaccination team to staff these facilities.

We are currently not offering the Pfizer vaccine to those under 16 years of age until further data is available.

Equity

Ensuring equal access to free COVID-19 vaccines is a priority for New Zealand.

The Government is committed to upholding and honouring Te Tiriti o Waitangi, including obligations towards Māori that flow from the Treaty partnership. Partnership, tino rangatiratanga, options, equity and active protection are all a strong focus.

All health providers are responsible for the immunisation of the Māori and Pacific people in their communities, but we know that Māori and Pacific providers hold trusted relationships with the whānau they serve. Therefore, these providers will play a crucial role in helping to maximise uptake and achieve equitable coverage for Māori and Pacific people.

The COVID-19 Immunisation Programme will partner with Māori and Pacific providers so they can deliver tailored and targeted approaches to their communities as part of the wider COVID-19 vaccination programme rollout. The Government has committed dedicated funding and resources for Māori and Pacific providers and communities to prepare for this.

Vaccine supply

We are focused on ensuring New Zealand and Pacific countries have access to a safe and effective COVID-19 vaccine to implement an immunisation programme at the earliest possible time.

We are part of a global partnership with the COVAX Facility and are also working directly with vaccine suppliers to enter advance purchase agreements. Our current portfolio consists of four vaccine suppliers: Pfizer/BioNTech, Janssen Pharmaceutica, Novavax and AstraZeneca.

Through advance purchase agreements with these four suppliers, 20 million courses have now been secured. This includes 5 million courses of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine, which is currently being rolled out across New Zealand.

During 2021, we will be supplied with enough vaccines for everyone in New Zealand and the Pacific to be protected against COVID-19. Currently, this means everyone in New Zealand who is 16 and over will have the opportunity to be vaccinated.



Our COVID-19 vaccine rollout plan

**We have a plan to provide a free
vaccine to protect Aotearoa.**

Protect our border and MIQ workers



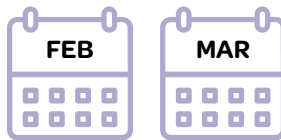
WHO 50,000¹

- Border and MIQ employers and employees and the people they live with.
- This group includes cleaners, nurses who undertake health checks in MIQ, security staff, customs and border officials, hotel workers, defence and police staff who are eligible to be rotated into MIQ, airline staff, port authorities and vaccinators.

WHY

- Border and MIQ workers are most at risk of contracting COVID-19.
- We need to protect them and the people they live with.
- Vaccinating these people first also potentially reduces the risk of transmission in the community.

WHEN



WHERE

- Workers get the vaccine at or near places of employment.
- The people they live with are invited to get their vaccine at a range of places.

Protect our high-risk frontline workers and people living in high risk places



WHO

480,000¹

- High-risk frontline healthcare workforces who are most likely to contract and/or spread COVID-19 through their interaction with patients.³
- Any person who usually lives in long-term residential care where residents are at risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19.
- All people working in long-term residential environments where people are at risk of getting very sick or dying from COVID-19.
- Older Māori and Pacific people cared for by whānau (and the people they live with and their carers).
- Any person who is aged 65+ or has a relevant underlying health condition⁴ or disability living in the Counties Manukau DHB area.

WHY

- Frontline healthcare and disability workers are at greater risk of getting COVID-19 or spreading it to people most at risk.
- People in long-term residential care, and older Māori and Pacific people living with their whānau in the community, have a higher risk of catching or spreading COVID-19 and getting very sick or dying.
- International evidence has shown that COVID-19 can spread quickly through long-term residential care facilities. We need to protect the people living and working in them.

Protect our high-risk frontline workers and people living in high risk places



- There are many border operations and MIQ facilities based in the Counties Manukau DHB district. We need to protect the people living there who are at the greatest risk of getting very sick or dying from COVID-19.

WHEN



WHERE

- Workers get the vaccine at or near places of employment.
- Workers and residents in long-term residential environments get the vaccine at or near their facility.
- Māori and Pacific providers offer the vaccine to older people who live with their whānau, and their households and carers, at locations in their communities.
- Different options, including community clinics and pop-up centres available in the Counties Manukau DHB district.

Protect the people who are at risk of getting very sick from COVID-19



WHO

1,700,000¹

- People in New Zealand aged 65+, people with relevant underlying health conditions, and disabled people.
- Adults in custodial settings.

WHY

- We know that age and certain underlying health conditions and disabilities mean that it is much more likely that people will get very sick if they catch COVID-19.
- International evidence has shown that COVID-19 can spread quickly among people in custody.

WHEN



WHERE

We will offer different options to make getting the vaccine as easy as possible, including through Māori and Pacific providers, GPs, pop-up centres, pharmacies, medical and hauora centres and community clinics.

Protect everyone



WHO **2,000,000¹**

- Our general population aged 16 and over.

Note the 16+ requirement relates to the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine as per Medsafe approval so far.

WHY

We want to empower everyone in Aotearoa with the opportunity to protect themselves, their whānau and our communities by getting vaccinated against COVID-19.

WHEN



WHERE

We will offer different options to make getting the vaccine as easy as possible, including through Māori and Pacific providers, GPs, pop-up centres, pharmacies, medical and hauora centres and community clinics.

¹ Estimates are approximate and may be revised.

² Start dates are indicative only and depend on vaccine delivery schedules, and ongoing operational modelling.

³ Frontline healthcare workers include those who are interacting directly with patients, potential COVID-19 cases and/or potential COVID-19 samples.

⁴ This includes coronary heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/chronic respiratory conditions, kidney disease and cancer. While it is not a health condition, pregnant people are also included.

Want to know more? Find everything you need to know about your free vaccine at covid19.govt.nz/vaccines

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