



# COVID -19 Immunisation Programme

## Vaccine Rollout across Northland

NEWSLETTER - ISSUE #1

15 March 2021

### Kia Ora Tatou

Through Ngā Tai Ora - Public Health Northland DHB is managing the COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout across Northland.

The first phase of the programme focuses on protecting our borders. The Northland Border worker and household contacts campaign started on 1 March. Group One (Border Workers and their Household Contacts) is nearing completion.

Group	Description
<b>Group 2a</b> Frontline healthcare workers (non-border) who could be exposed to COVID-19 while providing care <b>Expected start end of March 2021</b>	For example, staff involved in vaccinating or testing for COVID-19 including primary care and iwi providers, emergency departments, ambulance services, and after-hours services, community midwives, Well Child/ Tamariki Ora etc.
<b>Group 2b</b> Frontline healthcare workers who may expose vulnerable people to COVID-19. <b>Expected start mid-April</b>	For example, non-acute inpatient services, community mental health and addictions, homecare support, aged residential care, community diagnostics). There are approximately 9,000 people across the two Group 2 categories in Northland.
<b>Group 2b</b> Older Māori and Pacific People <b>Expected start mid-April</b>	Older people living in a whānau environment and those they live with, as they face a similar risk to those in aged residential care. This group will be supported by Māori and Pacific providers, and an initial allocation of 40,000 courses nationally will be provided to Māori and Pacific providers to distribute.
<b>Group 3a People aged 75+</b> <b>Group 3b People aged 65+</b> <b>Start date to be confirmed</b>	People aged 75 years and older not in Group 2 People aged 65 years and older not in Group 2
<b>Group 3c</b> People with underlying health conditions or disabilities <b>Start date to be confirmed</b>	*Relevant health conditions include coronary heart disease, hypertension, stroke, diabetes, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease/ chronic respiratory conditions, kidney disease and cancer. This also includes people who are pregnant.
<b>Group 4</b> <b>Start date to be confirmed</b>	The remainder of the population, approx. 2 million people.

### Northland COVID-19 Vaccine Rollout Operational Objectives

1. To deliver a high-quality seamless programme for COVID-19 vaccination that is inclusive of our provider partners
2. To carry out the vaccination programme following the Ministry of Health guidance and requirements, including undertaking a sequenced three-grouped approach to vaccination, based on clinical and public health priorities set by the Ministry of Health.

NB: Information provided in this newsletter is current as at 15 March, 2021.  
[communications@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:communications@northlanddhb.org.nz)



**To align with the Ministry of Health objectives:**

- Equity will be at the forefront of decision making and resource allocation
- We will maximise community uptake of the vaccination
- We will enable, through training and support, primary care, Māori and other providers to deliver vaccinations long term.

**Group 2a**

We are now preparing to rollout the vaccine programme for Group 2a from late March, which is for our frontline healthcare workforce. This includes primary care and iwi providers, emergency departments, ambulance services, after-hours services, community midwives, Well Child/Tamariki Ora etc.

**Identifying this workforce**

Northland DHB will request a dataset or extract of current employees from providers. This information will only be used to identify the potential number of people in Group 2 who might register for a COVID-19 immunisation. This information can be shared with us via a password-protected spreadsheet sent to this email:

[enquiriespublichealth@northlanddhb.org.nz](mailto:enquiriespublichealth@northlanddhb.org.nz)

**Inviting this workforce for a vaccine**

This workforce will then be asked to share their personal information to receive an invitation to schedule their COVID-19 immunisation appointment. To do this, Ngā Tai Ora - Public Health Northland has created a registration e-form/QR Code for employees to register their interest. We are currently only registering details for the frontline healthcare workforce potentially exposed to COVID-19. Other worker registration will be coming soon.

**There are three options for the frontline healthcare workforce to register for a COVID-19 immunisation:**

- Scan the QR Code and complete the e-form that appears on the screen. This can be done on a smartphone or tablet
- Complete the online e-form through the link that will be provided. Some workplaces might establish a kiosk in the workplace that staff can access to complete the online e-form through the link
- Employers can request manual forms for those staff who cannot access any of the other options.

**Authorised Vaccinators**

Under Group 1, the vaccine is being delivered by Northland DHB authorised nurse vaccinators who have undergone the Ministry of Health specific COVID-19 vaccination training (online training by the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC)).

Before vaccinating the border workers and their households, the vaccinators themselves had the opportunity to receive the vaccination (from each other).

There will be opportunities for primary care, Māori and other providers to observe vaccine clinic processes prior to partnering in vaccine delivery.

It is envisaged that in Groups 2 and 3, vaccinations will be done in the community under a shared model delivered by appropriately trained local providers alongside Northland DHB vaccinators.

**Pfizer and BioNTech Vaccine**

- 2 dose vaccine – 3 weeks apart
- 20-minute observation period after vaccine
- Currently for people 16 years & older.

**Cold Chain Management**

Distribution of vaccines from the Ministry of Health approved central storage facilities is managed in a very controlled way through the cold chain network nationwide.

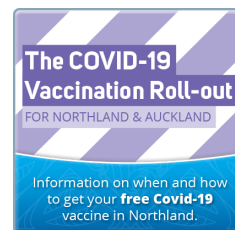
- The vaccine is defrosted in Auckland then transported to Northland
- Vial vaccine has a life of five (5) days from defrost day, in a vaccine fridge
- When reconstituted, a vial (that holds 5 – 6 doses) has a six (6) hours life under refrigeration or 2 hours' life at room temperature
- Our goal is to have no vaccine wastage.

**Reporting COVID-19 and Vaccine Misinformation**

If you become aware of any campaigns or information targeting New Zealanders and asking for personal information or payment for receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, please report this misinformation to [covid@ops.cert.govt.nz](mailto:covid@ops.cert.govt.nz) (Subject: COVID-19 scam) or call 0800 237 869.

**Where do you go for accurate information on COVID-19 Vaccination?**

We all need to work together to beat COVID-19. Help us stop the spread of false or misleading information by only sharing content from official sources.



**The Immunisation  
Advisory Centre**



MANATŪ HAURŌA

**Unite  
against  
COVID-19**



Ngā Tātai Ihorangi

*Kia tupu ora ai ngā uri whakatupu  
That the generations yet to come  
will grow and flourish*

**NORTHLAND DISTRICT  
HEALTH BOARD**

Te Poari Hauora Ā Rohe O Te Tai Tokerau

