

Waikato District Health Board

## COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

23 March 2021

**“Amohia ake te ora o te iwi, ka puta ki te wheiao”  
“To protect the wellbeing of our people is paramount”**

Kiingi Tuheitia Pootatau Te Wherowhero Te Tuawhitu

*COVID-19 vaccines will play a critical role in protecting New Zealanders' health and wellbeing. Over time, this will be a big step back to normality. They're free and everyone in New Zealand is eligible.*

Welcome to the latest pānui for the Waikato DHB COVID-19 vaccination programme. We will be providing regular updates for our staff, partners and community. Please share within your organisation.

### **Second round of vaccinations underway**

As of Wednesday, 17 March, more than 24,700 individuals nationwide had received their first dose of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine. The second round of COVID-19 vaccine doses for border and MIQ workers started this week, with the first group of workers who were vaccinated three weeks ago returning for their second doses.

Ikimoke Tamaki-Takarei, Waikato DHB's tikanga director and manager of cultural intervention for the region's managed isolation facilities, received his second dose of the Pfizer vaccine on Friday.

He visited the COVID-19 Vaccination Centre in Hamilton and was looked after by public health nurse Dawn Tamati who had also administered his first dose on 25 February.

Tamaki-Takarei says he felt confident he's done his part in keeping his whānau and our community safe from COVID-19.

He also strongly encouraged people to take up the offer of the vaccination when it is their turn.

You can watch his journey through the vaccination process below:



Over 3,000 people in the Waikato have now received their first dose. This includes most of our Managed Isolation Facility (MIF) workers and many of their household contacts. We have also started to vaccinate the frontline healthcare workforce working in settings where possible cases will seek healthcare and there is no ability to screen (Group 2).

## **What to expect at the Hamilton COVID-19 Vaccination Centre**

When people come for their vaccination they will be looked after by our friendly kai manaaki who will guide them through their visit from start to finish.

Ikimoke Tamaki-Takarei and registered nurse Siobhan Uruamo took a moment to talk about what the public can expect when it is their turn to get their vaccine.

You can watch it here:



## People celebrating their vaccination with selfies

A selfie stand set up in the COVID-19 Vaccination Centre waiting room is proving popular.

The stand comes with signs for people to hold, including 'It's for my whānau', 'I did it for my koro' and 'Team of 5 million'.

Here are just some of great ones we've received:

Top left: Timi Maipi. Bottom left: Ikimoke Tamaki-Takarei. Right: Siobhan Uruamu

## Vaccine timeline

Four main groups have been defined nationally:

### Group 1 (February - March 2021)

Border and Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) workers, and their household contacts

### Group 2 (February - May 2021)

Frontline healthcare workforces who are most likely to contract and/or spread COVID-19 through their interaction with patients

Any person who usually lives in a 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

Any person aged 65+ or has a relevant underlying health condition or disability living in the Counties Manukau DHB area

### Group 3 (May 2021 onward)

People in New Zealand aged 65+, people with relevant underlying health conditions, and disabled people

Adults in custodial settings

### Group 4 (second half of 2021)

The remainder of the population over 16-years-old

## Number of people vaccinated in the Waikato

22 March

**3,075**

**4%** of people vaccinated  
identified as Pacific

**15%** of people vaccinated  
identified as Māori

## **Partnering for vaccine delivery in our Waikato localities**

*We will be going out to the whole of Waikato to deliver the vaccine*

### **Keeping iwi updated**

We had our second weekly catch-up with the iwi CEOs of Hauraki, Maniapoto, Raukawa, Waikato and Ngāti Hāua (ki Taumarunui) providing updates on the vaccine programme roll-out. This is an important part of keeping our iwi partners well informed, seeking their input, and answering any questions.

Discussions focused on the logistics of a coordinated, effective and efficient vaccine delivery for rural communities, and where various groups aligned with the roll-out schedule.

Clarity was sought regarding frontline services, including which group the likes of Māori wardens, Women's Refuge and food bank staff fit into. Those workers will fit into Group 3 and the Ministry has indicated vaccinations for that group will begin in May.

### **Workshopping with health providers**

Last week health providers from across the Waikato region came together to workshop the roll-out of the vaccine to their health workforce staff, share some

thoughts on the national roll-out later in the year and how it could best be delivered in their communities.

With Group 2 vaccinations starting in April, there is an urgency to hear from the providers in the community. It is important that it is a co-design process as communities know what works in their area. The DHB can provide options of a high or low level of involvement depending on what each community needs, however any delivery approach must align with the strict guidance to ensure safe delivery of the vaccine.

Group 2 vaccination centres will include:

All hospital sites - Waikato, Thames, Te Kuiti, Tokoroa and Taumarunui hospitals, some fixed community centres and some temporary vaccination centres.

More locally focussed workshops are planned for iwi and providers in each rohe in the next couple of weeks to continue our roll-out plan design.

## **Early vaccination for some Group 2 workers**

Working with the Pfizer vaccine and the variances in distribution timeframes from the cold storage facilities in Auckland has meant at times we have had to deliver more vaccinations than may have been expected on a particular day.

As a result we will continue to approach a range of providers within Group 2 to see if their staff could attend at short notice for a vaccination. It is quite a balancing act to meet vaccine delivery numbers to people arriving on the day and to ensure there is zero wastage.

We recognise this has been more accessible for staff working in and around Hamilton due to the short notice timeframes, but where possible we have tried to offer this opportunity to people in some of our more rural locations as well.

This option will become more limited as we expand to our wider primary and community care providers in many Waikato locations.

## **IMAC webinar schedule - COVID-19 vaccination**

The Immunisation Advisory Centre are holding webinars and drop-in Q&A sessions for health sector staff to grow their understanding of the vaccine and the processes supporting its implementation.

For more information and to register, visit <https://www.immune.org.nz/webinars>

## **Progress on an electronic booking system for Waikato**

We are very close to confirming an online booking solution which will have the capability to reach out to people and let them know they are able to book their COVID-19 vaccine appointments. We are adopting software that another DHB is successfully using. It allows people to self-book and reschedule their appointments via their phone or computer. For those without access to technology we will still have a process of making appointments by phone. More information will be available in the next update.

## **COVID-19 Comment Corner**

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Feedback from a DHB staff member who provided admin support to the vaccine centre at Te Rapa

*"The atmosphere there was great. It was first time I had ever experienced*

*all the values of the Waikato DHB put to work constantly all day, every day for the duration of my deployment at Te Rapa. It was a great team to work with while based out there.*

*Being there made me feel like I was actually doing something good for the people, staff and the whole of New Zealand, which was a great feeling."*

## **COVID-19 vaccine**

The fifth batch of 53,820 Pfizer/BioNTech doses arrived in New Zealand on 16 March, bringing the country's total number of COVID-19 vaccines to more than 318,800, enough to vaccinate more than 159,000 people with two doses.

The Government has secured an additional 8.5 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine which is enough for everyone in New Zealand aged over 16 to receive the full course of two doses. These are expected to arrive in the second half of 2021.

## **Making sure COVID-19 vaccines are safe and effective**

Before any vaccine is approved for use in New Zealand, it must meet international standards and local requirements for quality, safety and efficacy. Detailed information on the approval process is available on the Government's [COVID-19 pages](#).

## **Pfizer/BioNTech COVID-19 vaccine**

The Pfizer vaccine is currently the only vaccine approved for use in New Zealand.

This vaccine has been shown to be 95% effective against symptomatic COVID-19, seven days after a person's second dose.

It is approved for people 16 years or older. Those under the age of 16 are currently not included in the vaccination programme. Limited data is available for this age group because they were not part of clinical trials for the vaccine.

Two doses of the vaccine are needed, with at least 21 days between each dose. It's very important to get the second dose to provide the best protection against catching the virus.

The Ministry of Health has [provided resources](#) on how this vaccine works, its efficacy, possible side effects and more.

## **COVID-19 vaccination update newsletter**

If you or someone you know might be interested in subscribing to the COVID-19 vaccination update, [click here or share this link](#).