

Waikato District Health Board

COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

7 April 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.

Latest national vaccination numbers

- As of 1 April, more than 73,000 doses of the Pfizer vaccination have been administered nationwide

- More than 15,000 people have received a second dose
- There are around 90 vaccination clinics operating nationally

New Zealand now has around 450,450 COVID-19 vaccines.

New Zealand's vaccination roll-out plan

Number of people vaccinated in the Waikato

6 April

4,627

4% of fully vaccinated, and
3% of partially vaccinated people
identified as Pacific

11% of fully vaccinated, and
13% of partially vaccinated people
identified as Māori

3,276

have received their first dose

1,351

have received their second dose

Vaccination centres in the Waikato

There are currently two vaccination centres in the Waikato - Te Rapa and Waikato Hospital - with several more scheduled to open in the next few weeks. These will be a mixture of fixed, temporary and mobile vaccinations centres.

The first local health provider to administer COVID-19 vaccinations will be Te Korowai Hauora O Hauraki which is working with Waikato DHB to set up a vaccination centre at Thames Hospital for Group 2 frontline healthcare workers. The centre is expected to open Monday 12 April followed by another centre in the Maniapoto rohe that will be set up in Taumarunui from Wednesday 14 April.

A lot of work goes on behind the scenes to set up vaccination centres, from recruiting vaccinators, kai manaaki who meet, greet and guide people through the vaccination process, admin people to assist with data entry, people to manage the strict controls that come with the delivery and administering of the vaccine, logistics for setting up the centres with tables, chairs, dividers, consumables, forms and banners, information service people to setup the computers and networking at each centre. All staff have to complete specific training to be well prepared for working at the vaccination centres.

We are continuing to meet with other providers in our rohe to talk through the best vaccination centre model for each area.

Group 2 vaccinations are underway

Vaccinations have now started for people in Group 2.

If you are a high-risk frontline healthcare worker, you should receive an invitation to be vaccinated by mid-April. For more information speak to your employer who will be able to update you on progress.

For the remainder of those in Group 2, DHBs and health providers are confirming how vaccine appointments will work for you. You don't need to do anything yet.

Second vaccination process

It is recommended that the second dose of the COVID-19 vaccination be taken as close as possible after the 21 days wait period following the first vaccination.

Current process

Individuals eligible for their second vaccination will be contacted by the COVID-19 Vaccination Contact Centre either by phone or a text message a few days before their second vaccination is due. They will be provided with an 0800 number and asked to make an appointment for their second vaccination.

A new electronic booking system is due to be in place from April 19. Once up and running, we can ask people to book in their second appointment while receiving their first vaccination. When we roll out to more people, we will be able to offer more clinic times and locations.

With the new system people will be still contacted by phone, text or email and they will be invited to register online through the link they are sent. There will still be the phone option for those who don't want to or are unable to register electronically.

Aged Residential Care

The Ministry of Health has worked closely with the New Zealand Aged Care Association (NZACA) who have developed a paper outlining the desired national approach to the COVID-19 vaccine rollout to their aged residential care (ARC) facilities.

At a local level we have held a number of meetings with ARC providers to work through the possible service delivery model options that best meet the facility and residents' needs. We are finalising these options in across locations and will be confirming implementation dates shortly.

A new tool allows you to find out when you can expect to get your free COVID-19 vaccine.

Find out when you can expect to get your free COVID-19 vaccine by visiting the [new online tool](#) on the Unite Against COVID-19 website.

The tool asks people a series of questions about their health, location, occupation and life situation. The results tell them which of the four main vaccination groups they are in, and when they can expect to get their COVID-19 vaccine.

Progress on an electronic booking system for Waikato

We are now in the process of implementing the ServiceNow Vaccine Administration Management solution (VAM), which will allow people to book their own vaccination appointments at their preferred time. We are expecting this to be up and running by 19 April. This system is already in use by the Auckland region DHBs, and we will be sharing it with Southern DHB and Taranaki DHB.

VAM will be used for managing vaccination appointments until the Ministry of Health solution is ready. People will be notified by email or text about when and how they can access the system to book their appointments. The solution is very intuitive and will guide you through what you need to do.

Once your appointments are booked, you will receive confirmation via email or text, as well as a reminder prior to your appointment.

Your actual vaccination will continue to be recorded in the Ministry of Health's national COVID-19 Immunisation Register.

Support comes in ‘paw’ ways than one

Molly the pet therapy dog was close by for support when her dad Barry Ridgway, a Canine Friends volunteer, got his vaccination last week.

"When I went and had my first vaccination at Waikato Hospital, the whole process was smooth and seamless," he said.

"I brought Molly in with me and a lot of people were curious about what she was doing there and her job at the hospital.

I normally bring Molly in about once a week to different wards to visit patients and to chat with them. It can help take their mind off why they're in the hospital in the first place.

Patients and staff love having her around because she's a very calming presence.

She really helped in the observation area of the vaccination centre because a lot of people were asking to pet her and take photos.

Some people don't like injections so Molly was a bit of a welcome distraction for them!"

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.

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](#).

Real-world data shows vaccines working

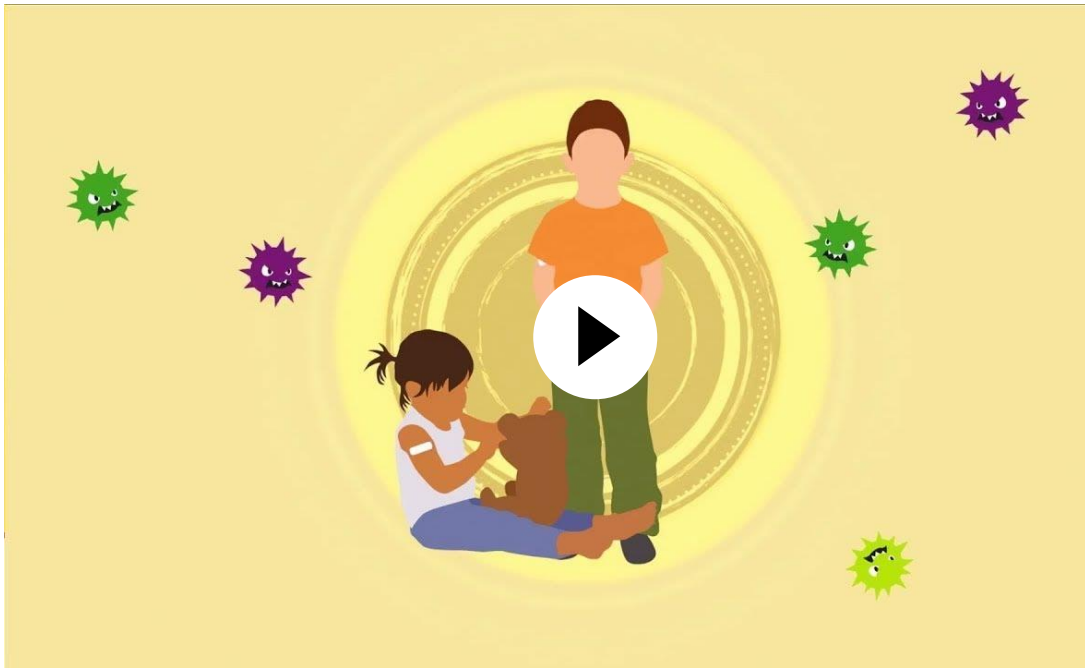
Latest bit of positive news to come out this week about how the vaccines are performing with real-world conditions and in real-world settings.

<https://arstechnica.com/science/2021/04/real-world-data-shows-vaccines-kicking-butt-including-against-scary-variant/>

Video to watch this week

How does immunisation work?

Ministry of Health has produced a helpful video explaining how immunisation works to protect people from getting sick.



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.](#)

Links

COVID-19 Website

For the latest updates on the COVID-19 vaccines

www.covid19.govt.nz

Ministry of Health

Latest news on vaccine information, including the details of the COVID-19 vaccine planning and delivery groups

www.health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine

Medsafe

Medsafe has a section on its website explaining our processes around assessing the quality, efficacy and safety of vaccines and treatments for COVID-19

www.medsafe.govt.nz

Waikato DHB Website

Updated information about the programme for rolling out vaccinations in the Waikato

www.waikatodhb.health.nz/covid19vaccination

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