



Whāia te ara tika | Follow the right path

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## COVID-19 Update #6: Alert Level 3 remains next term

Tuesday | Rātū 12 October 2021

Kia ora, Mālō ē lelei, Talofa lava, Kia Orāna, Kamusta, Salam

You will have heard the Prime Minister's announcement yesterday afternoon. The Government has kept with their cautious approach when responding to COVID-19, and as a result, we stay at **Alert Level 3** for a bit longer.

As you know, at Alert Level 3, legally you must stay within your household bubble unless for essential personal movement, including going to work and School.

### School remains closed

- We remain closed next Monday 18 October but can supervise only a small number of students whose parents/whānau must go to work, with no alternative care arrangements and there is no one to care for them at home.
- Our courts, fields and playgrounds remain closed.

### Distance learning starts again Monday 18 October

- Your child will continue on with their Distance Learning (DL) programmes, as they did last term. Again, learning can be accessed via the Class Sites (on our School website) and your child's teacher will continue to be in contact with you to support your child's learning.
- For only the small number of students who we know need to attend because their parents/whānau must go to work, their online learning will be supervised at School. There is no alternative programme. Only if you are in this situation, please let your child's teacher know by this Friday 15 October 9 am.
- It will not be School as usual. There will be a maximum Bubble size of 10 students who may not be with their usual teacher or in their usual classroom. There is no mixing with others during class or break times. Device, charger, lunch and water bottle must be brought to School. Masks/face coverings are strongly encouraged but not mandatory.
- Please help with keeping everyone safe by keeping your child at home if they:
  - are sick or feeling unwell
  - are awaiting the results of a COVID-19 test or been asked to have a test
  - have been to a location of interest or have been self-isolating
- Please seek advice about getting tested (ring Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or your GP).

### School Staff

- All staff onsite will have been tested for COVID-19 before they get back to work.
- We are moving towards having 100% of our staff vaccinated – so we're all playing our part in keeping our tamariki, whānau and community safe.

### School Vaccination register

- We are now legally required to hold a COVID-19 vaccination register for all staff and eligible students (12 years and over).



- A register enables the local Health authorities to make informed decisions if we were to have a case of COVID-19 in our School.
- We will need to know if your child has had their first or second vaccine dose or is exempted from being vaccinated. This information will be held by us in accordance with the Privacy Act and will only be shared with public health authorities.
- We are getting our data collection system ready and so will get in touch with you again soon.

### **Safety at Alert Level 3**

- All our usual safety precautions and procedures remain in place including all the recommendations from the public health experts.

Parents and whānau, we're super proud of how our community has responded to this outbreak, but the mahi isn't yet done. Please continue to follow all the alert level requirements, including staying at home and getting tested for COVID-19 if you're feeling unwell.

For you and the health of your whānau, we encourage you to please get vaccinated. I have been fully vaccinated for some time now, including my husband (a Principal) and my two sons. I have included some information on the next pages about vaccinations to support decision making.

These are the very best things we can do to help keep our tamariki, rangatahi, whānau and community as safe as possible and get everyone back to School. Please contact us if you have any concerns or questions.

*Kia kaha, kia māia, kia manawanui koutou, aroha nui e te whānau 🌻*

Fa'afetai tele lava, stay safe,

**Dr Johnston**

**Principal | Tumuaki**

EdD, MEd, BEd, DipTchg

EMCC Senior Practitioner



# Vaccination information for New Zealand

## THE NUMBERS

More than 5.7 million doses of the Pfizer vaccine have now been given in New Zealand and as at 7 October 2021:

- 53% are fully vaccinated (2 doses) = 2.2 million New Zealanders
- 81% have had their first dose = 3.4 million New Zealanders
- 86% of Aucklanders have had their first dose
- 61% of Aucklanders have had their second dose

As at 3 October 2021, 86% of Pacific Peoples and 90% of Māori aged 65 and over had received their first dose (compared with 93% of non-Māori and Non-Pacific) and our average daily numbers for Māori getting their first dose have increased by 68% in the last fortnight.

While the signs are really pleasing, clearly the job isn't done. Everyone who has had a first dose, needs to get their second.

For those who just haven't got around to it – don't wait for a case to be in your community before you take action. If you are part of the 20% of the people who have not yet had a vaccination, it is going to be super easy to get vaccinated on Super Saturday. Vaccine clinics will be open all over the country, all day and into the evening.

[Walk-in and drive-through vaccination centres](#)

If you still aren't sure it is safe for you or your whānau, the below information might assist you with your decision. You might want to also seek advice from a medical professional such as your local Doctor.

## RESPONDING TO DELTA - SHORTER GAP BETWEEN VACCINE DOSES

In response to the ongoing Delta outbreak, the Ministry of Health is advising New Zealanders to consider a shorter gap between Pfizer vaccine doses than the current standard of six weeks.

Reducing the gap between doses to three weeks or more means more people can be fully vaccinated sooner, increasing our community immunity. The two doses of the Pfizer vaccine must be given at least three weeks apart, as a minimum gap.

## SUPER SATURDAY COMING - 16 OCTOBER

It has never been more urgent to get New Zealand vaccinated. Summer is just 8 weeks away and we need everyone to book their first vaccine appointment now so they can get 2 doses and enjoy everything a classic Kiwi summer has to offer.

[Super Saturday 16 October - further information](#)

[Super Saturday 16 October - resource \[pdf\]](#)

## VACCINE BOOKINGS

If you already have vaccinations booked around six weeks apart, either keep your second appointment as it is or change it to a sooner time at [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://bookmyvaccine.nz) or by calling the COVID Vaccine Healthline on 0800 28 29 26.

If you booked directly with a health provider, such as your doctor or pharmacy, contact them if you need to check or change a booking.

Remember to cancel any appointments you no longer need, for example if you choose to go to a walk-in vaccination centre.

The important thing is that you get two doses of the vaccine to be fully vaccinated.

## GETTING YOUR VACCINATION RECORD

From the end of November 2021, proof of your COVID-19 vaccination will be available through a scannable QR code (like the one used for the COVID tracer app) that can be emailed to you and stored on your smartphone or downloaded to a computer and printed.

The first phase of the project launches this week, when the My Covid Record website goes live and will allow you to view your vaccination record.

In early November, you'll be able to view your most recent COVID-19 test results.

Later in November, you'll be able to request your digital COVID-19 vaccination certificates for use in New Zealand and overseas through My Covid Record.

As well as the technology, the project involves working to support people who don't have access to digital tools, don't have access to ID, those who aren't vaccinated for medical reasons, and those vaccinated overseas. This will include looking at alternative ways to make the resource available, such as phone requests.

My Covid Record will help ensure we reduce the risk of the virus spreading, including at large gatherings and events, over the summer and into next year. Work is underway to determine when proof of vaccination might be required for entry to events and venues in New Zealand.

Until the end of November, if you need official proof of COVID-19 vaccination (for example, for international travel), you can [request your vaccination records from the Ministry of Health](#). For test results, use the results you receive directly from your District Health Board.

## CALL CENTRE SUPPORT FOR DISABLED PEOPLE

A 30-strong team is now on hand, as part of the COVID Vaccination Healthline, to support disabled people to get their COVID-19 vaccines.

Disabled people and their carers can get tailored advice and support for booking their vaccination appointments, including help with transport to and from the vaccination site and arranging the necessary support or accommodations during the appointment.

The team members are either disabled people themselves or allies to the disability community across Aotearoa New Zealand. Since its establishment last week, the team has helped more than 440 people get transport to or from their vaccine appointments.

The team can support people with a range of disabilities including:

- Blind, Deafblind and low vision
- Deaf and hard of hearing
- Physical impairments
- Intellectual impairments
- Neuro diverse
- Long term health conditions

To contact the team, call the free COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 (8am–8pm Monday to Friday) and push '2'.

Translation services are available in over 40 languages and there's the option to use NZ Relay Services.

## TIMING AROUND ROUTINE VACCINES AND COVID-19 VACCINES

The Ministry of Health has updated its advice on the timing of routine vaccines in relation to the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

The majority of routine vaccinations can now be administered before, after, or at the same time as COVID-19 vaccinations. The only exception is for the Zostavax shingles vaccine (due at 65 years), where a 7-day interval before or after receiving the COVID-19 vaccine is advised.

This change will help ensure that routine immunisation programmes (such as MMR and HPV) can continue without disruption as we progress our COVID-19 vaccine roll out.

Ask your doctor or health provider to make sure you and your whānau – through all ages – are up to date with all vaccines, not just the COVID-19 vaccine.

You can view the recommended routine vaccinations on the [New Zealand Immunisation Schedule](#)

## TALKING TO VACCINE-HESITANT PEOPLE

It's normal to have questions about vaccines and to want to make the right decision for you and your loved ones.

If someone you know – a friend, family member or colleague perhaps – asks questions or expresses concern about vaccines, listen to them, acknowledge their feelings and offer correct information if you can.

Be ready to suggest reputable sources of information if they want to learn more.

Here are some ideas to help your conversation:

- Listen with empathy – and acknowledge how they're feeling.
- Ask open-ended questions – to help you understand their concerns.
- Share trusted information – visit reliable websites or chat to your doctor or nurse.
- Explore reasons for getting vaccinated – share your own reasons and what helped you overcome any concerns.

This information is from an article on the [World Health Organization](#) website, also available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Portuguese and Spanish.

## RELIABLE SOURCES OF VACCINE INFORMATION

We all need accurate and reliable information to help make a decision for ourselves, our whānau and our communities.

The Unite against COVID website has a new [COVID-19 vaccination: Your questions answered](#) page. Topics include how the vaccine was made so quickly, whether you can still get COVID-19 if you have the vaccine.

You can also find the most accurate and reliable information about the COVID-19 vaccine and the vaccine rollout in Aotearoa New Zealand from several trusted sources, including:

- [Unite against COVID-19](#) — Information for all New Zealanders on how to get a COVID-19 vaccination, our vaccination plan and information on vaccine safety and development.
- [Ministry of Health](#) — The Ministry of Health leads New Zealand's health and disability system and has overall responsibility for the management and development of that system.
- Te Puni Kōkiri [Karawhiua](#) campaign — To help whānau, hapū, iwi, and Māori communities make an informed choice about the COVID-19 vaccine. It's led by Te Puni Kōkiri (Ministry for

Māori Development), co-delivered by Te Hiringa Hauora (Health Promotion Agency) and supported by the Ministry of Health and Unite Against COVID-19 teams.

- [Ministry for Pacific Peoples](#) — As part of the Government’s response and Unite Against COVID-19 campaign, the Ministry for Pacific Peoples is running a complementary campaign about receiving the vaccine.
- [District Health Boards \(DHB\) websites](#) (listed on the Ministry of Health website)— Check which DHB is responsible for providing health and disability services for your region. You can find trusted information on your local DHB website, including information on COVID-19 vaccinations in your local area.
- [Immunisation Advisory Centre \(IMAC\)](#) — A nationwide organisation based at the School of Population Health at The University of Auckland. It provides independent, factual information based on international and New Zealand scientific research about vaccine-preventable diseases and the benefits and risks of immunisation.

You can also keep up to date with current information and frequently asked questions by following the social media channels of the organisations listed above, or by speaking with your doctor or other health provider.

Download the digital [Āwhina](#) app to access information from the Ministry of Health and other trusted sources on your mobile device (phone or tablet) and receive notifications on key COVID-19 vaccine announcements.

There’s information about identifying and reporting [misinformation and scams](#) on the Unite against COVID website.

In a recent article in The Herald, University of Auckland vaccinologist Associate Professor Helen Petousis-Harris looks at [10 vaccine myths circulating on social media](#)

## RESOURCES TO HELP PROMOTE THE VACCINE ROLLOUT

If you’re looking for material to share about the vaccine, including posters, social media tiles, fact sheets and videos, there are resources you can download on these web pages:

- [COVID-19 Vaccine resources](#) on the Unite against COVID-19 website.
- [COVID-19: Vaccine resources](#) on the Ministry of Health website.

You could also check with your District Health Board to see if they can supply printed material.

## JASMINE’S COVID-19 VACCINE EXPERIENCE

Here’s Jasmine, sharing her [experience of getting the COVID vaccine](#) in a video recently created and shared on Facebook by FirstPort New Zealand, with the support of the now closed COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation – [Disabled Peoples Communication Fund](#).

## MASS VACCINATION EVENTS

There have been a huge number of community vaccination events held over the weekend, with more to come for SuperSaturday.

Events will be advertised locally but if you're not sure what is happening in your area, check with your doctor, pharmacy or other healthcare provider, or your local [District Health Board](#).