

COVID-19 VACCINE: FAQs

VACCINATION PROCESS FOR ALL BORDER & MIQ WORKERS

TŪ AKE NEI!
COVID-19

How will the initial round of vaccinations for border and MIQ workers happen?

You will see DHBs setting up vaccination sites at or near managed isolation facilities. DHBs will work with your employer to ensure that a time is available for you to be vaccinated. All managed isolation facilities will be brought into the vaccination programme over time beginning with the Auckland region.

Vaccinations will be made available onsite where, or near where you work. You will be contacted to schedule a vaccination time. We encourage you to discuss this with your employer to ensure this fits in with your work commitments.

Once your appointment has been scheduled, all you need to do is turn up. At each location, the space will be carefully considered and chosen for its suitability.

Appointments will be arranged for all staff at a facility during a set time period (for example, a given day or over a number of days). Appointments will be staggered, simply to help manage in the event that any worker experiences any side effects that impacts their ability to immediately return to work.

If you are not contacted to organise an appointment, please let your employer know so they can resolve this with the vaccinators quickly.

Will managed isolation facilities have a separate space for vaccinations?

Vaccination sites may not be at the managed isolation facility. Where they are on site, DHBs are working with site managers to ensure access. You may see tents or rooms being set up for this purpose.

Will it happen in work time or will we need to come in out-of-work time? If the second, will we be paid for coming in especially for the vaccination?

We encourage you to talk with your employer so you can plan your appointment schedule together, with the aim that your appointment can be accommodated at a time in your normal/ planned working day.

Will employers be told when staff are immunised?

Your privacy and consent are extremely important throughout this process. Your vaccination can only go ahead with your consent. No information can be shared without your permission.

All workers will be asked for their permission to let their employer know they have been vaccinated.

This can only happen with your permission and is only for the purpose of helping employers and PCBUs meet the health and safety needs of their staff and their workplace.

Are our regular service contractors and suppliers eligible for the vaccination as well as “workers” given they are required to do the same health check and weekly swab as hotel staff?

All workers covered by the Required Testing Order (2020) are eligible to receive the vaccine in first phase of the roll-out, along with the people they live with. Those who are not currently covered by the Order will be in a later phase.

Will the people we live with be vaccinated in the managed isolation facility or somewhere else?

The personal contacts you nominate will be vaccinated at a dedicated vaccination centre, or pop-up location, near where they live in the community. The specific details of this will be shared with them after their contact details are provided by you.

Do personal contacts of border workers who receive the vaccine need to declare to their employers that they have received a vaccination?

No.

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What about flatmates, shared custody situations and other live-in help situations - are they eligible?

All workers covered by the Required Testing Order (2020) are eligible to receive the vaccine in the first phase of the roll-out, along with the people they live with.

All workers who are eligible for the initial vaccinations will be asked to identify those people they live with who should be offered the vaccine.

These are the people that our border and MIQ workers most closely share their lives with, and who are exposed to a higher risk level of COVID-19 as a result. This includes any person who usually lives in a household or similar setting with a border/MIQ worker – whether they are related to that person or not.

It also covers people who may live part-time in the household, and partners not permanently resident in the household. It can also include papakāinga settings where relevant.

What if I need to take time off for myself or family members due to sickness after being vaccinated?

For more information regarding potential side effects, please refer to the 'After your immunisation' factsheet. If you find for some reason you do need to take leave for yourself or a family member, please discuss this with your employer.

Is the vaccination going to be mandatory for border or MIQ workers?

If you work in a role subject to a Required Testing Order, you are strongly encouraged to get vaccinated to help ensure the health and safety of your workmates and your household contacts, international travellers and our communities. However, vaccination will not be compulsory.

How can I confirm I have been vaccinated – and how will my medical records be updated?

Work is well underway to develop a new Covid Immunisation Register (CIR). Once the CIR is fully implemented, any health worker will be able to record Covid vaccinations anywhere, any time. The CIR will be able to prove vaccination for COVID-19 and confirm vaccination history.

Over time, the goal is to enable members of the public to digitally access their own Covid vaccination records. In the meantime, people who are vaccinated will receive a hardcopy receipt as confirmation of their vaccination and their GP will be notified.

Is the vaccine free?

Yes. The vaccine will be free for everyone.