

## **Privacy Notice**

Information about your COVID-19 immunisations will be recorded in the Ministry of Health's COVID Immunisation Register (CIR). The CIR is used to help control COVID-19 by providing information about immunisation coverage across the population, and to keep a record of the immunisations you have received. Information about your immunisations will be kept up to date, even if you change your doctor to go to a health service in another part of the country.

### **What information is recorded on the CIR?**

The following details will be recorded:

- Your name, date of birth, sex, ethnicity and health number (National Health Index or NHI)
- Your address and contact details
- Details about the vaccinations you receive
- Any reactions you have to the vaccine
- Confirmation if you are in a priority category for vaccination

The CIR will also be able to record if you choose not to immunise for a COVID-19 vaccine or if there are medical reasons not to do so.

### **Do I have to provide my information?**

Yes. By law all health services are required to keep complete and accurate records. To have the vaccine, the Ministry of Health needs to collect your information and record it on the CIR. This is because it is the clinical record of your immunisation treatment. This means there is no ability to opt out.

### **Can I access the information you have collected about me on the CIR or correct my information?**

Yes. You can access or correct your information by sending an email to [information@health.govt.nz](mailto:information@health.govt.nz) or [COVIDPrivacy@health.govt.nz](mailto:COVIDPrivacy@health.govt.nz) and asking for access to your information. You can let us know if you think any information needs to be corrected – particularly if your contact details need to be updated.

We are working on a plan for you to have secure access to information about yourself and will make further information available about this in future.

### **Who can access the information on the CIR?**

Only those people with a role in managing this vaccine programme and related administration can see, add or change the information held on the CIR. Access to the CIR is limited to those with logon access rights, and all access is recorded and can be audited. These people may include those involved in administering the vaccine, and health professionals who work with you such as your family doctor, nurse, midwife. Everyone who accesses the CIR is trained to keep the information safe.

### **What happens to my information after it's collected?**

The information collected as part of the vaccination process may be used for:

- managing your health
- keeping you and others safe
- planning and funding health services

- carrying out authorised research
- training health care professionals
- preparing and publishing statistics
- improving government services.

Some information, such as information about reactions to the vaccine, will be shared with other organisations who provide health services. Information may also be used for statistical analysis, and research purposes in line with usual Ministry of Health processes and when permitted by the Privacy Act and Health Information Privacy Code.

If we need to use CIR information for other purposes, we will have this reviewed by the Chief Privacy Officer at the Ministry of Health and discuss it with the Office of the Privacy Commissioner before proceeding to make sure your privacy interests are fully considered.

### **How long will my information be kept for?**

The information will be held in compliance with Ministry of Health standards. It will be kept for a minimum period of 10 years from the date of your last interaction with the CIR, and longer as clinically determined to be appropriate (in case future medical care providers wish to refer back to these records about you).

### **Who can I get in touch with if I have more questions?**

If you have questions about your privacy, please get in touch with [COVIDPrivacy@health.govt.nz](mailto:COVIDPrivacy@health.govt.nz).