

COVID-19 vaccine: Information for whānau of border and MIQ staff

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available to all frontline international border and MIQ workers that are currently undergoing regular COVID-19 testing as part of their job. This is because they are the most exposed to COVID-19, due to their mahi and the environment they work in.

If you live with someone who works at our international border or in an MIQ facility, you will be given the opportunity to receive the vaccine soon – even if you are not their whānau (such as a flatmate, housemate or boarder).

We encourage you to take this opportunity as soon as it is offered to you.

Here is some helpful information about the COVID-19 vaccine.

Do I have to get vaccinated?

The vaccine is an added protection against COVID-19. We encourage you to get the vaccine when the opportunity is offered to you.

The COVID-19 vaccine is not compulsory.

My kaumātua live in my whare with me and my whānau. Do they need to be vaccinated?

The vaccine is available to everyone in your whare who is 16 years old and over, including any kaumātua who live in your whare with you.

Do my tamariki and rangatahi need to be vaccinated?

The vaccine is not available for tamariki or rangatahi under the age of 16 years old.

That is not because there is any risk to tamariki or rangatahi from the vaccine; it is just because people under the age of 16 haven't been included in the safety trials so far. Those under the age of 16 years have the lowest risk from COVID-19 so we are focusing on the adult population.

When will my whānau and I be able to get vaccinated?

Our frontline border and MIQ staff will get vaccination first. Once we are certain that our vaccination programme is well underway, we will reach out to whānau and others they live with to offer them the opportunity to be vaccinated as well. You should discuss your options with the border or MIQ staff member and your whānau so that together you feel confident to make decisions that suit your needs.

Border and MIQ workers will be invited to provide the contact details of the people they live with.

You do not need to do anything until your local DHB has contacted you.

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What are the benefits of the vaccination?

The main benefit of the vaccine is that it will protect you from COVID-19 and reduce the risk of passing it on to your whānau and community.

How much does the COVID-19 vaccine cost?

It is fully funded and free to everyone and anyone. There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine.

How do I receive the COVID-19 vaccine?

The COVID-19 vaccine is given as an injection in your arm.

To receive the full vaccination and to make sure that it works effectively, you will need to receive two injections, three weeks apart.

Three weeks after your first injection, your local DHB will contact you for your second injection.

It is important that you receive both injections to ensure you have the best protection.

Will I need to take some time off mahi to get the vaccine?

Once you have been given the vaccine, you will need to remain at the facility for 30 minutes before you can return to mahi.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

The most common side effects of the COVID-19 vaccine are:

- Pain at the injection site
- Headaches
- Feeling a bit tired or fatigued.

These reactions are common, are usually mild and don't last long, and won't stop you from having a second dose or going about your mahi.

What if I or a member of my whānau stay with another whānau on a regular basis. Does that other whānau also need to be vaccinated?

We recognise that our whānau share the care of kaumātua and other whānau members and it's important we are flexible and responsive to shared living arrangements. If you or a whānau member regularly stays with another whānau, you should discuss vaccination options together.

Who can I speak to for more information?

For more information, you can contact Healthline on 0800 358 5453. You can always also talk to your usual doctor or nurse as well.