

LATEST COVID-19 HEALTH KEY MESSAGES

Quarantine-free travel with Australia

Travel pause with Victoria extended

The Quarantine-free travel between New Zealand and the state of Victoria has been extended until 7.59pm Friday 4 June 2021.

Victoria continues to investigate the source of infection of a growing number of COVID-19 community cases in the greater Melbourne area. Due to an increasing number of exposure sites and a large and growing number of contacts, the pause has been extended one week.

Today the state of Victoria announced that it would be going into a 7-day lockdown as of midnight tonight.

We are advising that people keep checking Victoria Health's latest information on locations of interest in Melbourne **as the number of exposure sites is expanding**. Please also follow the MoH advice if you have visited these sites: [Quarantine-free travel: Contact tracing locations of interest](#).

Read more on the [Unite Against COVID-19](#) website.

Section 70 issued

A Section 70 order has been issued by the Director General of Health directing those that have visited greater Melbourne since 20 May to comply with health requirements. This includes isolating at their place of residence or accommodation until they receive a negative COVID-19 test result.

The Section 70 is available [here](#).

More than 5,000 travellers who returned from Victoria between 20-25 May will be contacted by the Ministry of Health to provide them with the latest health advice.

Clarification of testing and isolation advice for those who have recently travelled from Melbourne

MEDINZ 28/05/2021 3:03 PM


Due to the current Covid-19 outbreak in Melbourne, travel between the state of Victoria and New Zealand is currently paused since 25 May 2021.

Ministry of Health advice for those people who have been in Melbourne, Victoria since 11 May 2021 is below. It is expected there will be an increased demand for testing in the next few days as these people present for testing:

- Please use the SURV code **SURV-QFTZ**.
- Reminder that these people should **not** be charged for testing.
- Please pay specific attention to ensuring mobile phone details are recorded correctly so timely results notifications are received.

Ministry of Health advice:

- Visit the **Victorian Government locations of interest page** to confirm the locations, dates and times of possible exposure.

- 
- People who have been at any of the locations of interest in Melbourne during the relevant timeframes must not travel to NZ for 14 days after being at the location of interest.
 1. Please follow the isolation and testing advice on the VIC government site.
 2. While in Melbourne, please keep checking the VIC government site as locations of interest may change.
 - If you are now in New Zealand and have been at one of these locations of interest at the times indicated, you must:
 1. Self-isolate at home or in the accommodation you are staying in. [See self isolation guidance.](#)
 2. Contact Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) for further advice.
 - **If you are now in New Zealand and have been in the wider metropolitan area of Melbourne on or after 20 May:**
 1. **Get a test and self-isolate at home or in the accommodation you are staying in until you get a negative result.**
 2. **Contact Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) for further advice.**
 - If you have been anywhere in Melbourne, please watch for symptoms and get tested/seek advice if any occur.

For more information visit the [MoH website](#)

To send feedback, please email Sarah.hartnall@waitematadhb.govt.nz

NZ COVID Tracer Release 7

The newest version of the NZ COVID Tracer app is being rolled out this week and is available to download from the Google Play and Apple App Store. This is the seventh major release since the app was launched one year ago, in May 2020.

Version 5.0.0 includes a number of new features that make the app more useful and user-friendly, including:


- A new tab for more information, with refreshed links to the information people most often seek about COVID-19
- A new diary view, splitting your diary by day, to make it easy to see which days you have diary entries, and where you may have gaps and keep your diary complete
- Clear data labelling, so you can see what information is stored on your phone, and what you can share with contact tracers
- Colour indicators for Bluetooth tracing, so you can tell when it's active and when it's not.
- It is also now possible to share anonymous Bluetooth tracing keys between New Zealand and the Cook Islands, so that people travelling within the bubble who use the app can be notified if they have been near someone who later tests positive for COVID-19.

There are now 2.8 million registered app users and 1.3 million devices have Bluetooth activated.

Wastewater testing

Wastewater testing continues to be a part of New Zealand's testing and surveillance strategy in the fight against COVID-19. Recently, weak positive results were detected in Wellington, Christchurch, Rotorua and Queenstown. Results from further testing in Christchurch, which were outstanding, have now also returned negative.





The Ministry's assessment is that these weak positive results were likely from recent positive cases in managed isolation or due to recently recovered cases who are not infectious but continue to shed the virus after returning home or while travelling. There is no risk of infection from COVID-19 in wastewater.

Quarantine-free travel with the Cook Islands

Two-way quarantine-free travel with the Cook Islands began on 17 May 2021. Quarantine-free travel applies to all travellers in New Zealand and the Cook Islands who meet the eligibility requirements to travel.

Criteria for travel: Travellers have to have been in either the Cook Islands or New Zealand for at least 14 days before travel. This means anyone wanting to travel between Australia and the Cook Islands would need to spend at least 14 days in New Zealand in the middle. No one should travel if they are unwell, if they are waiting on a COVID-19 test result, or if they have been in contact with anyone suspected to have COVID-19. Travellers will have to complete a **travel declaration** before they travel, provide a health declaration at check-in and there will be random health checks at airports. Normal immigration rules for entry into each country will continue to apply. Travellers will need to check what that means for their individual situation.

Flights will be operating as 'green', with measures in place through the traveller journey to keep travellers separate from 'red' flights in and out of New Zealand, where passengers need to enter MIQ. Quarantine free travel is a positive step but there are some differences from pre-COVID travel that traveller need to be aware of before booking. For more detailed information, visit New Zealand's **Unite Against COVID-19 website** and the Cook Islands website **www.covid19.gov.ck**

Travel to Samoa – updated requirements

Samoa Health authorities have introduced new requirements for anyone travelling to Samoa, effective from 1 July 2021. All travellers, including air crew, are required to be fully vaccinated with AstraZeneca, Pfizer or Janssen and provide a legitimate vaccine certificate before entry into Samoa.

Travellers will also require evidence of a negative PCR test from an accredited laboratory 72 hours before travel. Updated requirements now also include evidence of medical clearance within 120 hours of departure and a blood serology test for COVID-19 within 5 days of departure. Depending on vaccine type and country of origin, travellers should expect a period of quarantine on arrival.

COVID-19 Vaccine


Everyone in New Zealand, no matter citizenship or visa status, will be offered the vaccine. There will be enough vaccine for the entire population to be vaccinated and no one will miss out. The vaccine is free.

Health and safety of COVID-19 vaccine

Medsafe only grants consent for a vaccine to be used in New Zealand once it is satisfied it's safe and effective enough to use.

- It is recommended that the following gaps between vaccines be observed:
 - **At least a two-week gap** between the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and influenza vaccine



- 
- **A four-week gap** between the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and the Measles Mumps Rubella vaccine, when MMR is given first. The gap can be reduced to **two weeks** when giving MMR after the second dose of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine.

Having a gap between the different types of vaccinations makes it easier to judge which vaccine may be responsible for any side effects. Note that there are no clinical safety concerns should the gap between vaccines be less than the recommendations above. Do not delay vaccination if such a gap is not possible.

Clarifying underlying health conditions for accessing the COVID-19 vaccine

The Ministry has provided clarity on underlying health conditions. This means more people in Group 2 in the Counties Manukau DHB area, and more people in Group 2 (b) and Group 3 can now get earlier access to the vaccine.

People who meet one or more of the following criteria can now receive their COVID-19 vaccine as part of Group 2 (if in the Counties Manukau DHB area) and Group 2 (b) and Group 3:

- **they have a health condition that means they are eligible for a publicly-funded influenza vaccine** including pregnant people
- they have been diagnosed with severe mental illness (which includes schizophrenia, major depressive disorder, bipolar disorder or schizoaffective disorder, and adults currently accessing secondary and tertiary mental health and addiction services)
- they have poorly controlled or severe hypertension/high blood pressure (generally defined as requiring two or more medications for control or, not currently under adequate control)
- they are severely obese (**defined** as a BMI ≥ 40).

Details about the expanded underlying health conditions can be found [here](#).

Identifying patients in Group 3 with underlying health conditions

There is an expectation by the MoH that PHOs and General Practices will identify people in Group 3 with underlying health conditions and disabled people aged between 16 -65 years, with chronic conditions, chronic mental health conditions, as well as women who are pregnant and will communicate with them via a text, email or letter to inform them that they are next in line to receive their COVID-19 vaccination and to wait for the invitation from the COVID-19 booking system.

PHOs in Auckland believe this will add a significant burden to general practices by way of increased telephone calls and queries to the practice team from patients seeking further information or clarification as well as causing undue anxiety and expectations from patients. Additionally, identification of patients in this cohort is a complex process.

We, therefore, are in discussion with DHBs and MoH to establish a better and leaner method of identifying and communicating with this group of people.

Rollout sequencing: COVID-19 vaccination groups

There are four main groups. Timings will overlap, and start dates are indicative only and depend on vaccine delivery schedules, and our transmission scenarios. Find out when you can get a vaccine [here](#).





COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

Rollout numbers

As of 25 May, 562,149 doses of the Pfizer vaccine have been administered:

- 371,043 people have received their first dose of the vaccine.
- This is an increase of more than 49,551 from the week prior.
- 191,106 have received the second dose and are now fully vaccinated.
- Vaccinations have been administered across 306 different sites, utilising over 2,250 vaccinators so far. More than 6,100 have now completed the vaccinator training that is required for them to administer vaccines.
- Over the last seven days there have been nearly 200 vaccination clinics operating. This number will fluctuate as smaller clinics close and facilities that can accommodate larger groups of people open.
- Across the country 36,387 Māori have received the first vaccination, of which 17,052 have also received the second vaccination. 20,828 Pacific peoples have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. Of those, 9,735 Pacific peoples have received their second dose.
- Of the estimated 50,000 family and household contacts of the border and MIQ staff in our main centres, 24,654 have received the first dose and 19,030 are fully vaccinated.
- Vaccinating group 2 individuals is continuing with 271,157 first doses given and 145,051 individuals fully vaccinated.
- 139,267 people aged 60 and over have received their first dose of the COVID-19 vaccine, of which 47,061 have also received their second dose.
- Vaccinating Group 3 has commenced and to date 48,915 first doses have been given and 5,916 individuals are fully vaccinated.

Primary Care COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

MEDINZ 18/05/2021 11:25 AM

Before, during and after the COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Primary Care Webinar in April, a range of questions were asked about the COVID-19 vaccination rollout. These have been themed and consolidated into an FAQ, which is available here:

[COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout – Primary Care Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQs\) – April/May 2021](#)

Located on [COVID-19 Vaccination Information](#) > Local guidance > Health professionals resources


Primary Care COVID-19 vaccination rollout – updated list


MEDINZ 24/05/2021 3:41 PM

More GP clinics now live

There are now 18 GP clinics either providing COVID-19 vaccinations or about to start next week (please see the attached list).

Primary Healthcare Organisations (PHOs) have been engaging with clinics interested in delivering the COVID-19 vaccine and working with the Northern Regional Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) to implement this. The NRHCC is finalising a plan for remaining practices who want to participate. A rapid rollout is being phased in





weekly tranches, starting from next week. Thank you for your patience while we work through the implementation process.

The current focus of the programme (Group 2)

In line with the [MoH sequencing framework](#), participating practices are currently vaccinating:

- Older Maori and Pacific people throughout Auckland.
- Those over 65 in South Auckland, those with relevant underlying health conditions, a disability or who are pregnant (pregnant women are asked to speak to their health provider).

[People in Group 3](#) are getting vaccinated soon. People in this Group include everyone across the rest of Auckland who are over 65 and those aged 16 – 65 years that have relevant underlying health conditions, have a disability or who are pregnant (pregnant women are asked to speak to their health provider).

Webinar

To find out more, register now for the next COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Primary Care Webinar on 1 June at 7-7.45pm. This will include:

- An update on the COVID-19 vaccination programme.
- Insights from a GP clinic that is now providing COVID-19 vaccinations.
- Answers to frequently asked scientific COVID-19 questions, provided by the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC). Register here: [COVID-19 Vaccination Update for Primary Care Webinar - registration](#)

We want to hear from you with any questions you may have, so we can help answer them in this webinar. Please send questions to Asha Malhotra at AMalhotra@adhb.govt.nz by Thursday 27 May.

[Primary Care Covid-19 Vaccination Sites.pdf](#) [498.9 KB]

Please send feedback to Leanne.Kirton@waitematadhb.govt.nz

Pre-departure testing for COVID-19 and clearance letter requirements

MEDINZ 21/05/2021 2:16 PM

A reminder that some countries require people to have a clearance letter or certificate in addition to a negative test result before being allowed to board their flight. Note that it is the responsibility of the referrer to provide this documentation prior to departure. Testing Centres and Public Health Units do not provide pre-departure testing or clearance certificates.

Please send feedback to Sarah.hartnall@waitematadhb.govt.nz.

