

# IMMUNISATION FAST FACTS



27 OCT 2021

Tēnā koutou

We hope you are all going well and dreaming of vaccinations in your sleep! A big thank you to the Primary Care teams in the three PHO network who continue to get on with the business of keeping their communities healthy.

We have a new member in the Immunisation team! Meet Aaron Piano, Vaccinator and Cold Chain Competency Assessor. Aaron is an experienced Practice Nurse, with an expertise in immunisation and cold chain management. He will be your first port of call if you experience a cold chain breach or need advice. Please call 09 3794022 (Mon-Fri 8:30am-5pm) or 0212215798 if urgent.



## Concomitant administration of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine

The MOH has updated its guidance on the concomitant administration of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, meaning it can now be given before, after or at the same time as most other immunisations on the National Immunisation Schedule. More details on this below.

### National immunisation coverage

At 8 months of age, %

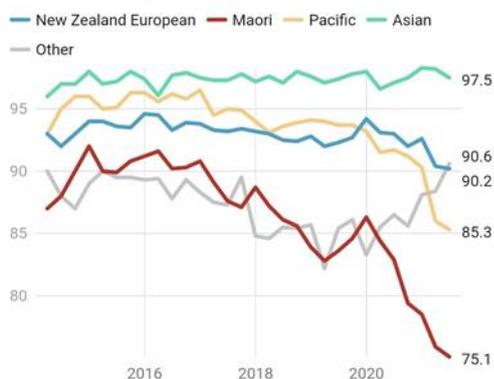


Chart: Herald Network graphic • Source: Ministry of Health • Created with Datawrapper

Now that we're headed towards higher COVID-19 vaccination rates our thoughts turn to the reopening of our borders, hopefully in the not-too-distant future. A consequence of Lockdowns is the drop in routine coverage of immunisations, particularly for 8-month Māori pepe, where coverage has dropped to 75.1% nationally.

It is a timely reminder to ensure that everyone from pēpi, hapu mama and kaumātua are up to date with routine vaccinations, and that they are offered and delivered on time, in order for everyone to be as protected as possible when Auckland opens up again.

We encourage you to discuss the importance of timely immunisations with your families/whānau and be innovative in the way they are encouraged and supported to visit the practice for vaccinations. Below is a link on the IMAC website with further information and see *Timely Delivery of Childhood Vaccinations*, below.

<https://www.immune.org.nz/sites/default/files/resources/Written%20Resources/Final%20Vaccinating%20in%20General%20Practice%20under%20alert%20level%203%20and%204%2020210909.pdf>

The MOH has updated its advice on the timing of routine vaccines in relation to the COVID-19 vaccine. The influenza, MMR, HPV, diphtheria/ tetanus/ pertussis combination vaccine (Boostrix), and majority

of other routine vaccines can now be administered before, after, or at the same time as the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, without concern for the spacing of the vaccinations. The only exception to this advice is for the **Zostavax (shingles) vaccine** where a 7-day interval, before or after administering the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine, is advised. The reason for this change in advice is to encourage the uptake of other vaccines on the National Immunisation Schedule.

The minimum gap between dose 1 and dose 2 of the COVID-19 vaccinations is **three weeks**. The updated guidance can be found here: [Immunisation | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

## Vaccinator Assessment

To support the rollout of the COVID-19 vaccination programme, the MOH is now allowing health care professionals who have completed IMAC's vaccinator foundation course to apply to become a provisional vaccinator.

This means people who have undergone full vaccinator training, who can't book a timely clinical assessment through an Immunisation Coordinator, can undertake a peer assessment and apply for authorisation as a 'provisional vaccinator' to vaccinate within a limited scope. Most vaccinators will be able to book a clinical assessment, so it is important to contact your local immunisation coordinator in the first instance.

Provisional vaccinators can only administer MMR and influenza vaccines, plus the COVID-19 vaccine if they provide their IMAC COVID-19 vaccine education course certificate.

People who have completed the IMAC vaccinator foundation course and who would like to apply to become a provisional vaccinator should:

- Discuss this with their employer, noting the limited scope of the provisional vaccinator role;
- Complete the [peer assessment](#) required of provisional vaccinators;
- Submit their [provisional vaccinator application form](#) and all required documentation to [vaccinatorauthorisations@health.govt.nz](mailto:vaccinatorauthorisations@health.govt.nz).

Authorisation as a provisional vaccinator is valid for two years from the date of authorisation. You will need to complete a clinical assessment and apply for full authorisation prior to the expiry date.

## Māori Influenza and Measles Vaccination Programme (MIMVP)

Thank you for your work and commitment in vaccinating Māori whānau. There is a focus on increasing MMR (measles, mumps and rubella) vaccinations in preparation for the borders re-opening in 2022. The concomitant vaccine administration for COVID-19 and MMR will support the delivery of multiple vaccination programmes concurrently.

## Reminder about the 2020 childhood immunisation schedule change

MMR vaccines are now given at ages 12 months and 15 months rather than at 15 months and 4 years. All tamariki should now be on the 2020 schedule in the PMS.

Some tamariki will have the old schedule in their Well Child Tamariki Ora book. There are stickers available with the updated schedule. Alternatively, [National Immunisation Schedule](#) from MOH

website, can be downloaded, printed and pasted into the books. It is also advised to check with parents and caregivers, particularly of children up to age 5 years, that they are aware of the update.

## Timely delivery of childhood immunisations

Below are ideas that can be used to improve immunisation coverage and timeliness. These include but not limited to:

- **Identify** an immunisation champion who has dedicated time each week to undertake immunisation work. This can also be a Healthcare Worker or Kaiāwhina;
- **Notify** your Immunisation Co-ordinator, Shanaz Kahn, 021 246 6510, [shanaz@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:shanaz@aucklandpho.co.nz) when there is a new practice nurse on the team to arrange support, advice and training;
- **Use** a pre-call/re-call system to facilitate the identification of children for whom vaccination is due or overdue;
- **Use** the *Let's talk about Immunisation* flip chart to stimulate discussion with the parent/caregiver or whānau. Information presented should cover positive messages about the benefits of immunisation and how immunisation works;
- **Present** immunisation information to parents/caregivers or whānau in a factual way over several appointments, if required;
- **Discuss** the next immunisation milestone, once the vaccination is given, and an appointment booked for this event giving the parent/caregiver or whānau a reminder card;
- **Use** education strategies such as COVID 19/Super Saturdays/Vaxathons to promote positive immunisation messages re childhood Immunisation schedule;
- **Display** immunisation posters and have immunisation brochures readily available;
- **Implement** processes to regularly assess the immunisation status of children, for example if a vaccination is declined or delayed for a child by the parent/caregiver or whānau set a reminder in the child's record to periodically revisit this decision;
- **Record** the reasons for any delay, decline or 'opt off' the register so that strategies to address the needs of local population can be developed;
- **Ensure** that records of immunisations of newly enrolled patients are transferred from the previous practice, and assess the child's immunisation status to identify what vaccines are required;
- **Ensure** timely referral to the Outreach Immunisation Service (OIS);
- **Use** available Mōhio data reports to monitor progress towards immunisation health targets and performance measures.

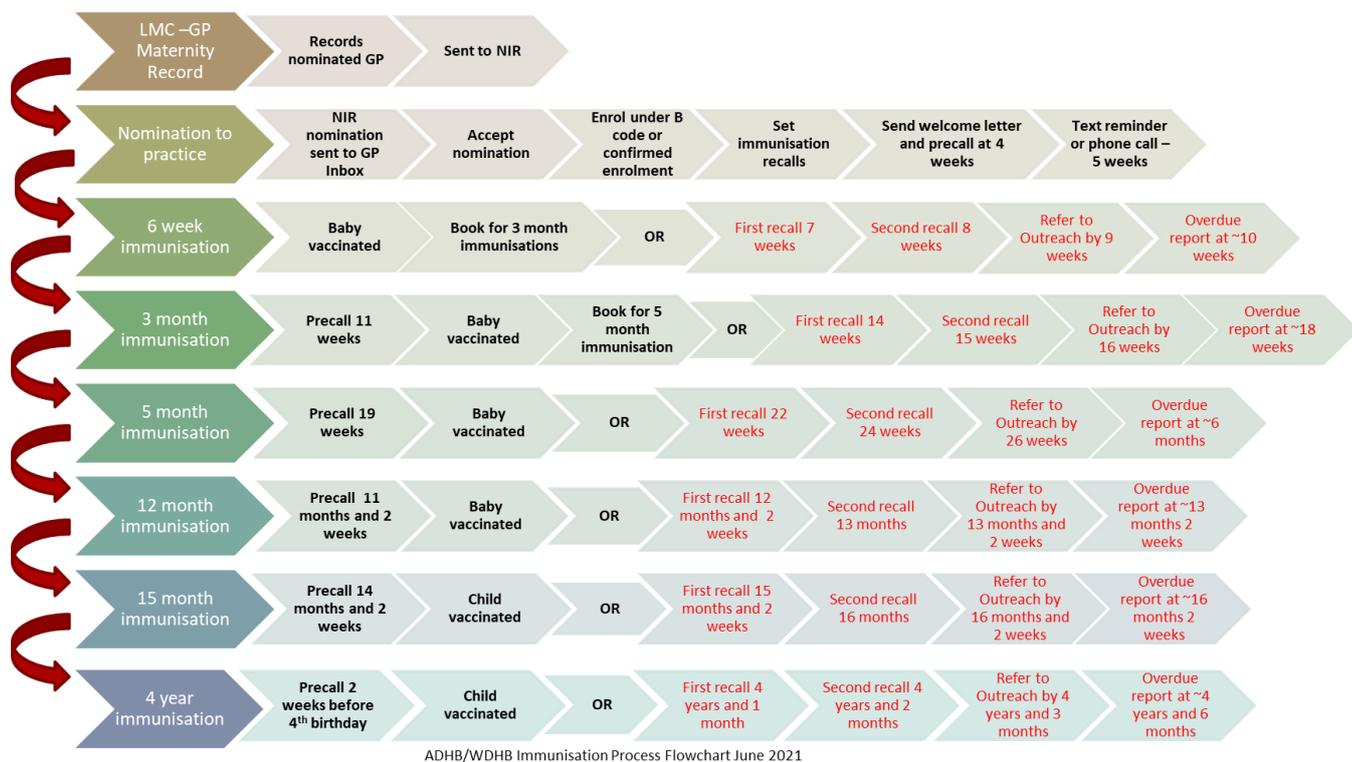
## Giving immunisation a good reception:

This video is great for Administration staff, Nurses, Health Care Workers and Kaiāwhina:

Click here for [Giving Immunisation a good reception video](#)

# Immunisation Process Flow Chart

Immunisation Process Flow Chart June 2021



These documents provide guidance for practices and outreach services to continue delivering childhood immunisations and other scheduled vaccines during lockdown.

-  [Vaccinating in Outreach under alert levels 3 and 4](#) **NEW**
-  [Vaccinating in general practice under alert levels 3 and 4](#) **NEW**
- The guidance was issued in Medinz:  
[https://aucklandregion.communityhealthpathways.org/files/resources/nrhcc\\_guidancefordescheduledimmunisationduringanalertlevel3and4covid19response.pdf](https://aucklandregion.communityhealthpathways.org/files/resources/nrhcc_guidancefordescheduledimmunisationduringanalertlevel3and4covid19response.pdf)

## Other recommended readings

- [Ministry of Health COVID-19 Vaccine information for disabled people](#) - this page includes information in alternate formats and a Disability COVID vaccination phoneline.
- [‘Are you double dosed?’ How to ask friends and family if they’re vaccinated, and how to handle it if they say no](#) - *The Conversation* article by Jessica Kaufman and Julie Leask.
- Ministry of Health [COVID-19: Vaccine operating and planning guidelines](#)

If you have any questions about any of the topics in these *Immunisation Fast Facts*, contact Shanaz Khan, Immunisation Services Coordinator for Auckland PHO – [shanaz@aucklandpho.co.nz](mailto:shanaz@aucklandpho.co.nz)