

COVID-19 vaccine: Information for the people who live with border and MIQ staff

The COVID-19 vaccine is now available to all frontline border and Managed Isolation and Quarantine (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 the environment they work in.

If you live with someone who works at our border or in an MIQ facility, you will be given the opportunity to receive the vaccine for free. This includes anyone in your household or papakāinga whether you're related or not, or whether you live with them part time.

We encourage you to take up this opportunity.

Here is some information about what you can expect.

Why should I be vaccinated?

To protect yourself from COVID-19 and help reduce the risk of passing it on to your family and community.

Is the vaccine safe?

A vaccine is not used in New Zealand until it has been thoroughly checked and approved by Medsafe.

Medsafe have approved the vaccine as safe and effective for use in our community.

How much does the COVID-19 vaccine cost?

There is no cost for the COVID-19 vaccine. It is free to everyone in New Zealand.

Do I have to get vaccinated?

The vaccine is an added protection for you and your family against COVID-19 and we encourage you to get the vaccine when it is offered to you.

Who else in my house/papakāinga needs to be vaccinated?

The vaccine is currently available to everyone that is living in your home or in your shared communal living arrangement who is 16 years and over.

If you or a family member often stays with another family, you should discuss vaccination options together. You can also contact Healthline on **0800 28 29 26** for advice about this.

When will I be able to get vaccinated?

Our frontline border and MIQ workers will get the vaccination first. Then we will reach out to offer you the opportunity to also be vaccinated.

You should discuss your options with your household so that together you feel confident to make decisions that suit your needs.

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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 doses of the vaccine, three weeks apart.

You will be contacted by a health provider to confirm a time for your second dose.

It is important that you receive both doses of the vaccine to ensure you have the best protection.

What are the side effects of the vaccine?

Some of 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, don't last long, won't stop you from having a second dose and are very unlikely to stop you going about your everyday life.

How will I get my vaccination?

The border or MIQ worker that you live with will nominate you and provide your contact details when they make their vaccine appointment.

You'll then be contacted by your health provider to confirm an appointment for your vaccination.

If I am not a New Zealand citizen, can I still get the free vaccination?

Everyone in New Zealand is eligible for free COVID-19 vaccination, regardless of your visa or citizenship status.

What if I don't receive an appointment?

Once your contact details have been passed on, you should be contacted to confirm a vaccination appointment.

If you don't hear anything within 1 week, you can contact Healthline to confirm your details are in the system.

Phone **0800 28 29 26**

It may be that the team are still working through the list and haven't got to you yet, but this will help confirm your details are in the system correctly.

Why do you need my contact details and what will you do with the information?

We need your contact details so that your District Health Board (DHB) can invite you to receive your first vaccination, ensure you are recalled for your second vaccination, and update your health records. No information will be shared with Immigration New Zealand, debt collection agencies, or Inland Revenue.

Where can I get more information?

Getting the right information matters. Always go to trusted sources of information. Be aware of incorrect information on social media and other places.

You can get accurate and trusted information at: covid19.govt.nz/vaccines and health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine or talk with your family doctor.

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