

## SPECIAL EDITION: COVID-19 VACCINATION UPDATE

### COVID-19 vaccine: Your questions answered

#### When can I get a vaccine?

There will be enough vaccines for everyone in Aotearoa aged 16 years and over to be vaccinated by the end of 2021.

We're offering vaccines first to people who are most at risk of getting and spreading COVID-19, and those most at risk of getting very sick from the virus.

#### Can I get the vaccine if I have underlying health conditions?

At this stage, people with some underlying health conditions will be offered the vaccine as part of Group 3 (starting May 2021).

Find the full list of health conditions at: [health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine-rollout](https://health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine-rollout)

#### How do I apply for an early vaccine on compassionate grounds?

You can apply for early access to the vaccine at: [health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine-early-access](https://health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine-early-access)

#### Can I get a vaccine if I'm pregnant?

You should discuss your individual situation (particularly if you have other medical conditions) and the benefits and risks of receiving the COVID-19 vaccine while pregnant with your midwife or doctor.

If you are pregnant and choose to have the vaccine, you can get early access. This is because people who are pregnant can become very sick if they get COVID-19.

#### Can I get a vaccine if I'm breastfeeding?

As with all vaccines on the New Zealand Immunisation Schedule, there are no safety concerns about giving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine to women who are breastfeeding. By being vaccinated, mothers can also provide some protection against COVID-19 for their babies via their breastmilk.

#### Can I get a vaccine if I'm trying for a baby?

There is no biologically plausible reason why this vaccine could have any effect on our genes or fertility. The mRNA from the vaccine does not enter the nucleus of any cells, which is where DNA is situated. In addition, no components of the vaccine or the spike protein produced reach the ovaries or the testes. Find out more at: [covid.immune.org.nz](https://covid.immune.org.nz)

**How long do I need to wait between my different vaccinations? Eg. Flu and MMR?** You'll need to wait at least 2 weeks between the COVID-19 vaccine and influenza (flu) vaccine, and 4 weeks between the COVID-19 vaccine and the Measles Mumps Rubella (MMR) vaccine.

#### Which vaccine can I get in NZ?

In New Zealand, we're using the Pfizer vaccine as it's the only one to receive Medsafe approval to date. We have secured enough for 5 million doses to cover everyone aged 16 and over who wants to get vaccinated against COVID-19.



#### Getting the right information matters

Be aware of incorrect information on social media and other places. You can get accurate and trusted information at:

[covid19.govt.nz/vaccine](https://covid19.govt.nz/vaccine)

[health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine](https://health.govt.nz/covid-vaccine)

[scdhb.health.nz/info-for-you/covid-19vaccine](https://scdhb.health.nz/info-for-you/covid-19vaccine)

## OVER 65?

We are preparing to vaccinate Group 3.

Over the next three months you will receive an appointment letter by mail.



## When will I get the COVID-19 Vaccination?

**AIM:** The aim is to vaccinate the South Canterbury population over 16 years by the end of the year. This is roughly 48,500 people.

#### Group 1 – now onwards

Border and managed isolation and quarantine (MIQ) workers

#### Group 2 – now onwards

High-risk frontline workers and people living in high-risk places

#### Group 3 – booking from May-September

People who are at risk of getting very sick from COVID-19

#### Group 4 – booking from July-December

Everyone

**HOT TIP:** Check out the "When can you get a vaccine" tool on the Unite Against COVID-19 website to find out in more detail which group you may be in.



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[www.scdhb.health.nz](https://www.scdhb.health.nz)