

Everyone in New Zealand aged 5 or over can get a free vaccine.



Vaccines dramatically lower death and hospitalisation rates.



Pfizer vaccine is the best protection against COVID-19 including omicron.



A booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine enhances protection.



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Waikato Ethnic Family Services Trust

# Vaccines in New Zealand

Get your COVID-19  
vaccination



Unite  
against  
COVID-19



Waikato Ethnic Family Services Trust

Everyone in New Zealand aged 5 or over can get a free COVID-19 vaccine. It does not matter what your visa or citizenship status is. COVID-19 vaccines work by teaching your body how to fight the virus. They are already the most well-studied vaccines ever made.

### **Pfizer:**

The main COVID-19 vaccine we are using in New Zealand is made by Pfizer-BioNTech. It is also known by its brand name, Comirnaty. It is an mRNA-based (messenger ribonucleic acid) vaccine. Pfizer is the preferred COVID-19 vaccine for use in New Zealand.

### **AstraZeneca:**

If you are aged 18 years or over and either cannot get the Pfizer vaccine or want a different option, you can get the AstraZeneca vaccine. The AstraZeneca vaccine needs 2 doses. You will need to wait at least 4 weeks before getting your second dose.

### **Other vaccines:**

New Zealand has agreed to buy 2 other COVID-19 vaccines:

- **Janssen**
- **Novavax.**

These are not currently available in New Zealand.

### **If you are pregnant:**

If you're pregnant, you can get a COVID-19 Pfizer vaccine (Comirnaty) at any stage of your pregnancy. It also protects your pēpi as there is evidence that babies can get antibodies through the placenta that help protect them from COVID-19.

It is recommended that pregnant people aged 18 and older receive a booster dose of the Pfizer vaccine to help protect them and their baby against the effects of COVID-19. The booster vaccine can be given at any stage of pregnancy at least 4 months after the primary course (for most people, this is two doses).

Pregnant people should discuss the timing of their booster with their midwife, obstetrician or general practitioner.

### **Vaccines for children aged 5 to 11:**

Parents and caregivers can now protect their tamariki aged 5 to 11 against COVID-19 with two child doses of the Pfizer vaccine. It's recommended these are at least 8 weeks apart.

The paediatric (child) formulation of the Pfizer vaccine is a lower dose and smaller volume compared to the adult formulation. Tamariki aged 5 to 11 are not eligible for AstraZeneca or booster vaccinations.

If a child has their second vaccination after they have turned 12, they should still

complete their vaccination course with the child dose of the Pfizer vaccine.

### **If you have a health condition:**

If you have an underlying health condition, it is safe for you to get the COVID-19 vaccination. Participants in the clinical trials for the COVID-19 vaccines had a range of different ethnicities, ages, sexes and underlying health conditions.

If you have any concerns, talk to your doctor.

### **Boosters:**

If you completed your primary COVID-19 vaccination course at least four months ago, and you're aged 18 or over, you are eligible for a booster. Boosters use the same Pfizer vaccine that was used for the first two doses in New Zealand's vaccination rollout.

The Pfizer vaccine is the preferred vaccine being used in New Zealand for booster doses, even if you had a different COVID-19 vaccine for earlier doses.

You can get a booster dose the same way you got your previous COVID-19 vaccinations – including walk-in sites and drive-throughs. Check Healthpoint for available walk-in sites.