

Welcome, we will start the session shortly

- In the meantime, please note the following housekeeping points:
 - Please note that mics are automatically muted
 - This session is recorded
 - You are welcome to ask questions via the chat function. If we do not manage to answer any questions in the session, we will follow up with you afterwards
 - We update our guidance on the Ministry of Health website regularly so please check this for up-to-date information

Boosters and changes to the Mandatory Vaccination Order

12 January 2022

Facilitated by Rachel Prebble, MOH Clinical Psychologist

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Vaccinations order

- The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 (the Order) came into force on 1 May 2021 and requires that specified work at the border only be performed by workers who have been vaccinated against COVID-19
- On 25 October 2021, the COVID-19 Public Health (Vaccinations) Amendment Order (No 3) 2021 came into force, extending mandatory vaccination to all healthcare workers undertaking high risk work in the health and disability care sector, as well as all workers in affected education services who may have contact with children or students, and all workers who will enter a Correction's prison, either as staff or to provide prison services.
- On 20 December 2021 Cabinet agreed to reduce the approved booster dose interval of the Pfizer vaccine (for those aged 18 years and older) from six months to four months. The reduction in the booster dose interval was approved due to the emergence of the highly infectious Omicron variant and the importance of ensuring a high proportion of people have their COVID-19 vaccine booster dose ahead of winter 2022.

Vaccinations order ...cont'd

- Cabinet agreed to maintain a high level of protection, Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ), Managed Isolation Facility (MIF), border and healthcare workers be required to receive a Pfizer booster dose after six months of completing their primary course. As these groups of workers are likely to be already eligible for the booster dose, we recommend maintaining the six-month interval
- Further amendments are required to address the practical issues identified in the lead up to the dates specified for mandatory booster vaccinations. It is necessary to clarify the policy intent to ensure that amendments to the Order align and are lawful, are practical and robust, and so employers and affected workers understand their vaccination obligations

Changes to the Mandatory Vaccination Order

- There will be changes to the Mandatory Vaccination Order to include boosters
- We expect the mandatory Vaccination Order to come into force at 11.59pm on Sunday 16 January (TBC)
- The Order will detail the time frame for all who are covered under the Vaccination Order
- We expect Border (including MIQ), and Health and Disability to be first and the following week to other sectors covered by the order.
- We are awaiting confirmation but believe that people can have their booster from 4 months, however this will be mandated to 6 months.
- We will be updating the eligibility criteria to take into consideration boosters for Significant Service Disruption (SSDs) and Temporary Medical Exemption (TMEs)
- We are still waiting to get the final confirmation of the changes but this is what we expect.
- A follow up Webinar will be held on Monday 17 January to outline the confirmed changes.

Probable dates for mandated boosters (TBC)

Sector	Date
Border and MIQ workers	<p><u>Public Sector Border Workers:</u> 1st dose 26 August 2021 2nd dose 30 September 2021 *Booster 31 January 2022</p> <p><u>Private Sector Border Workers:</u> 1st dose 30 September 2021 2nd dose 4 November 2021 *Booster 31 January 2022</p>
Health & disability workers	1 st dose 15 Nov 2021 2 nd dose 1 Jan 2022 *Booster by 31 Jan 2022 (TBC)
Police	1 st dose 17 Jan 2022 2 nd dose 1 March 2022 *Booster 1 March 2022 (TBC)
Defence	1 st dose 17 Jan 2022 2 nd dose 1 March 2022 *Booster 1 March 2022 (TBC)
FENZ	1 st dose 29 Nov 21 2 nd dose 14 Jan 2022 *Booster 1 March 2022 (TBC)
Corrections	1 st dose 6 Nov 21 2 nd dose 8 Dec 21 *Booster 1 March 2022 (TBC)
Education	1 st dose 15 Nov 21 2 nd dose 1 Jan 2022 *Booster 1 March 2022 (TBC)

* if eligible, or six months from the date of completion of their primary vaccination course

Boosters interval change

- The COVID-19 booster dose interval has been reduced from **six months to four months**
- The public has been informed that this came into effect from **5 January 2022**
- A **booster vaccination dose** is available to anyone \geq **18 years** of age, who finished their primary COVID-19 vaccination course \geq **4 months** ago
- People eligible for a third primary dose can currently access a booster dose 4 months after receiving their third primary dose
- Consumers can get their booster at a walk-in clinic, pharmacy or from their GP. Check out here for a list of vaccination sites <https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination/>
- Anyone who is eligible for a booster dose can book an appointment by calling the COVID Vaccination Healthline on [0800 28 29 26](tel:0800282926) (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week).
- From 17 January, online bookings for booster doses between 4 and 6 months can be made at [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://www.bookmyvaccine.nz).
- If it has been more than 6 months since consumers second dose, they can book online at [BookMyVaccine.nz](https://www.bookmyvaccine.nz) now.

Key messages

- While two doses is likely to hold a good degree of protection against severe disease from Delta and Omicron COVID-19 variants, a booster dose is likely to offer greater protection against transmission of COVID-19 and reduce the chance of more serious infections.
- On 21 December 2021, the Government announced the COVID-19 booster dose interval will be reduced from six months to four months.
- A prescription is not required for a Pfizer COVID-19 booster.
- **AstraZeneca** boosters still **require prescriptions**
- People should discuss optimal timing for an AstraZeneca booster dose with an authorised prescriber. Advice for clinicians is also available from IMAC. The administration of the AstraZeneca vaccine as a booster dose is off-label use and requires a prescription by an authorised prescriber, in accordance with Section 25 of The Medicines Act 1981.
- People can check when they are due for a booster by going to The Covid App (Dashboard -> More Info), My Covid Record, or mycovidrecord.health.nz or by referring to their COVID-19 Vaccine Record Card.
- **Our current [operating guidelines can be found on our website here](#)**

Key messages cont'd

- The priority for boosters is people at *high* risk of severe disease or exposure to COVID-19. This includes Māori and Pacific peoples, those aged 65 years and over, and those with pre-existing conditions that put them at higher risk of severe COVID-19. **Our border and health care and disability workers are also a priority. These people are likely to be eligible first as they were in the first group vaccinated.**
- A booster interval of 4 months enables most people to receive their booster before the winter season.
- The COVID Immunisation Register (CIR) has been updated. The Early Booster Vaccination Warning message will display if a booster dose is attempted to be recorded in the CIR, where it has not been at least four months since the consumer received their last dose of their primary course.
- Any booster administered earlier than four months or given to anyone under 18 years of age, will be considered a 'Never Event' by the Programme and an incident report will need to be submitted.

Border/MIQ workers

- We know that the most likely place for Omicron to enter New Zealand is at the border, so it is vitally important that border and MIQ workers are as well-protected as they can be, for themselves, their whānau, and the community.
- Border and MIQ workers are a priority for booster vaccine doses as they are at the front line of the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and because large numbers of border workers completed their primary vaccination course at least 6 months ago.
- If your workers are eligible for a booster (i.e. received their last dose 6 months ago) they will likely receive a text alert and they can get a booster dose by:
 - booking through [Book My Vaccine \(as of 17 Jan 2022\)](#) or calling [0800 28 29 26](#) - 8am to 8pm, 7 days a week).
 - going to a walk-in or drive-through vaccination clinic, pharmacy or GP

Pregnancy specific messages

- Pregnant people are at high risk for severe health outcomes from COVID-19 infection.
- International jurisdictions such as the UK and Australia are bringing the booster vaccine forward. They recommend pregnant people also have their boosters earlier in line with the rest of the population.
- The Ministry of Health recommends the Pfizer vaccine for pregnant people to 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 2 dose course (for most people the primary course is two doses).
- Pregnant people can have the booster even if they have had the primary course early in pregnancy.
- Pregnant people should discuss the timing of their booster, and any concern with their LMC, obstetrician or general practitioner.

Your questions

If you have any questions please email:
healthorders@health.govt.nz

Thank you