

Welcome, we will start the session shortly

- In the meantime, please note the following housekeeping points:
 - Your 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 the site for up-to-date information

Changes to the temporary medical exemption application process

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National Immunisation Programme

Changes to Temporary Medical Exemption process (1A)

- Some changes to the temporary medical exemption process have been introduced. This is for people who either have or have recently recovered from a COVID-19 illness, and as a result may be unable to receive a COVID-19 vaccination or booster vaccination due to their COVID-19 illness.
- This change is covered by category 1A of the temporary medical exemption criteria. Temporary medical exemptions accepted under category 1A will last for 12 weeks from the date the application is considered.

What is changing?

For individuals applying for a TME under 1A:

- We can accept Rapid Antigen Tests (RAT) as proof of a positive COVID-19 illness in addition to PCR test results.
- We do not need to see a copy of this result, if the Medical or Nurse Practitioner is satisfied they can confirm this on the application form and will not need to send a copy of the positive result.
- The affected person does not need to sign the exemption application form in person so as to allow for appointments to take place over the phone or online.
- Note: the processing time for this type of temporary medical exemptions is 5 working days

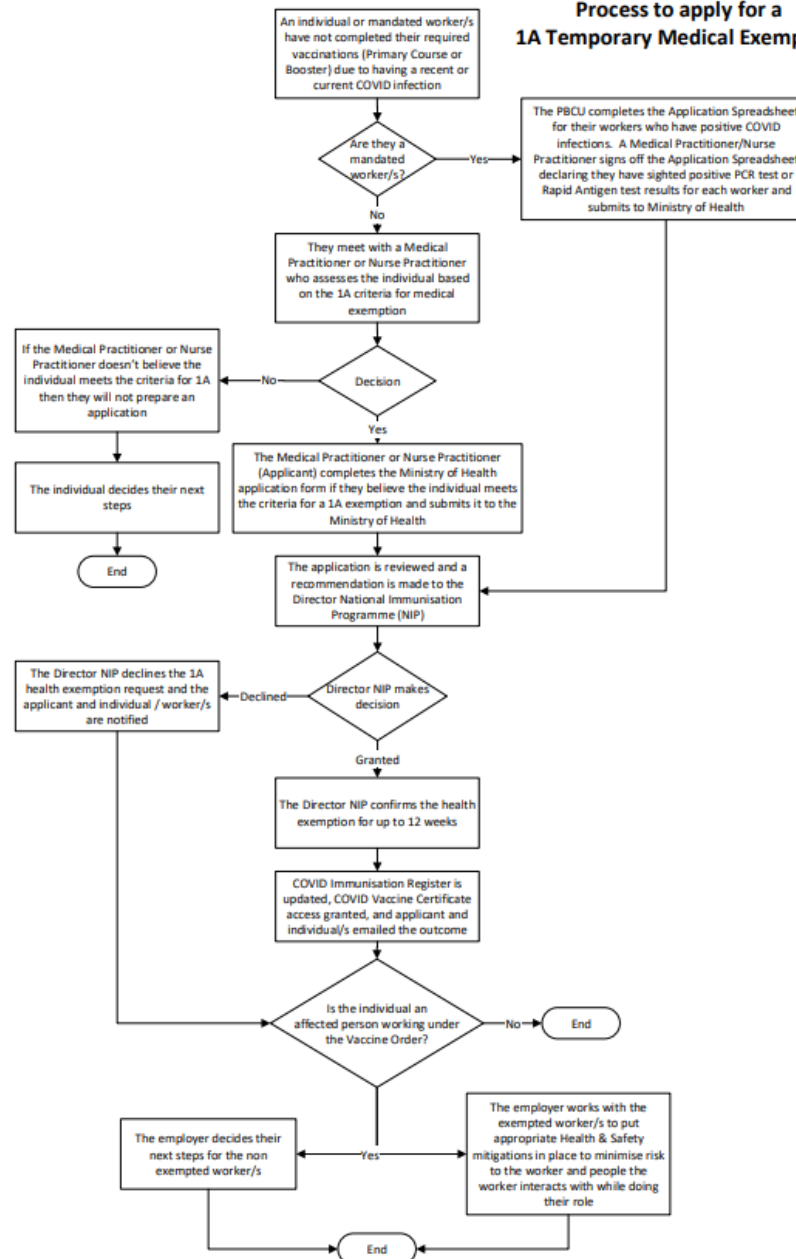
What is changing?

Group applications for a TME under 1A:

- A new group application form has been created for group applications by PCBUs (employers).
- The group application must be signed off by a Medical or Nurse Practitioner
- The PCBU must confirm with the workers, that the application is being made, and must receive their consent before proceeding. No individual worker will need to sign the application form.
- The practitioners who sign off on the Group application will need to verify a positive PCR or Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) results and be satisfied that these belong to each individual covered by the application.
- Individuals do not need to sign the exemption application form in person.
- Note: the processing time for these medical exemptions is 5 working days

The process

Process to apply for a 1A Temporary Medical Exemption



The application form for individuals

Category exemption criteria (please tick those that apply)	<input type="checkbox"/> 1A <input type="checkbox"/> 1B <input type="checkbox"/> 1C	<input type="checkbox"/> 2A	<input type="checkbox"/> 3A <input type="checkbox"/> 3B <input type="checkbox"/> 3C	<input type="checkbox"/> 4A
The duration of the clinical relationship with the consumer is _____ years _____ months				
I [_____] nurse practitioner/medical practitioner [select] certify that I: Have reviewed the consumer's medical history and assessed the person's state of health. <div style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</div> Have clinical evidence supporting the person meets the specified COVID-19 vaccination exemption criteria. <div style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</div> For a 1A application, have sighted a positive PCR or a verified Rapid Antigen Test result. <div style="text-align: right;">Yes / No</div>				
The attached supporting clinical evidence is:				



The spreadsheet for group applications

1A Temporary Medical Exemption Application (under Vaccinations Order)

Name			Signature:					
Title - Nurse/Medical			Registration Number:					
Date			HPI Number:					
Consumer Full Name	Consumer Phone	Work site location	Consumer Email	Consumer NHI Number	Consumer Date of Birth	Has the consumer been informed that this application has been submitted on their behalf?	Have you sighted a positive COVID-19 PCR or RAT (must be recorded on MyCovidRecord) test result?	The supporting clinical evidence is:

Common questions

What is acceptable proof of a positive COVID-19 illness?

Practitioners will need to verify a positive PCR or Rapid Antigen Test (RAT) and be satisfied that this belongs to the person applying. This may take the form of sighting a screen shot of a *My COVID Record* that displays the PCR or uploaded RAT result, a hard copy of a laboratory report, or a text notification of the positive test result.

I have a worker who is recovered from COVID-19 but will not be boosted for a few more weeks, can they return to work in their previous role ?

Once a temporary medical exemption has been granted, it is the responsibility of the person who has the exemption to inform their employer. For the period of the 12-week exemption the Employer will need to undertake a risk management plan for each affected worker and have this plan in place to reduce the possible transmission of COVID-19. This plan must protect the affected worker, colleagues, and all people where services are provided. Information on how to undertake these risk management plans can be found at <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus-covid/how-to-decide-what-work-requires-a-vaccinated-employee/> OR <https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/vaccination-assessment-tool/>.

Your questions

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

Useful links

Information on temporary medical exemptions

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations/covid-19-exemptions-mandatory-vaccination#temp-exempt>
- https://www.health.govt.nz/system/files/documents/pages/temporary-medical-exemption_1a-group-application-form.xlsx

Information on mandatory vaccinations under the Vaccinations Order

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations/covid-19-exemptions-mandatory-vaccination#temp-exempt>

Risk assessment guidance

- <https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/vaccination-assessment-tool/>
- <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus-covid/how-to-decide-what-work-requires-a-vaccinated-employee/>

Ngā mihi nui.
We appreciate your mahi.