

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 15 March 2022

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GM – National Contracts, Quality & Workforce

National Immunisation Programme

Changes to Temporary Medical Exemption 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

vaccinations (Primary Course or Booster) due to having a recent or current COVID infection The PBCU completes the Application Spreadsheet for their workers who have positive COVID Are they a infections. A Medical Practitioner/Nurse mandated Practitioner signs off the Application Spreadsheet vorker/s declaring they have sighted positive PCR test or Rapid Antigen test results for each worker and submits to Ministry of Health They meet with a Medical Practitioner or Nurse Practitioner who assesses the individual based on the 1A criteria for medical exemption If the Medical Practitioner or Nurse Practitioner doesn't believe the individual meets the criteria for 1A Decision then they will not prepare an application The Medical Practitioner or Nurse Practitioner (Applicant) completes the Ministry of Health The individual decides their next application form if they believe the individual meets The process the criteria for a 1A exemption and submits it to the steps Ministry of Health The application is reviewed and a End recommendation is made to the Director National Immunisation Programme (NIP) The Director NIP declines the 1A health exemption request and the Director NIP makes ◆ Declinedapplicant and individual / worker/s decision are notified he Director NIP confirms the health exemption for up to 12 weeks COVID Immunisation Register is updated, COVID Vaccine Certificate access granted, and applicant and individual/s emailed the outcome Is the individual an affected person working under End the Vaccine Order? The employer works with the exempted worker/s to put The employer decides their appropriate Health & Safety next steps for the non nitigations in place to minimise risk exempted worker/s to the worker and people the worker interacts with while doing their role

An individual or mandated worker/s have not completed their required

End



Process to apply for a

1A Temporary Medical Exemption

The application form for individuals



Category exemption criteria (please tick those that apply)	□ 1A □ 1B □ 1C	□ 2A	□ 3A □ 3B □ 3C	□ 4A
The duration of the clinical relati	onship with	the consumer is	years n	nonths
I [] nurs	e practition	er/medical practition	ner [select] certify	that I:
Have reviewed the consumer's me	edical histor	y and assessed the p		
Have clinical evidence supporting	the person	meets the specified		/ No tion
exemption criteria.			Yes	/ No
For a 1A application, have sighted	a positive P	CR or a verified Rap	id Antigen Test re	sult.
			Yes	/ No
The attached supporting clinical e	vidence is:			

The spreadsheet for group applications







1A Temporary Med	dical Exemption	n Application	(under Vaccinat	ions 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?	recorded on	The supporting clinical evidence is:
Consumer Full Name	Consumer Phone	Work site location	Consumer Email		Consumer Date of Birth	Has the consumer been informed that this application has been	positive COVID-19 PCR or RAT (must be recorded on MyCovidRecord) test	
Consumer Full Name	Consumer Phone	Work site location	Consumer Email		Consumer Date of Birth	Has the consumer been informed that this application has been	positive COVID-19 PCR or RAT (must be recorded on MyCovidRecord) test	
Consumer Full Name	Consumer Phone	Work site location	Consumer Email		Consumer Date of Birth	Has the consumer been informed that this application has been	positive COVID-19 PCR or RAT (must be recorded on MyCovidRecord) test	
Consumer Full Name	Consumer Phone	Work site location	Consumer Email		Consumer Date of Birth	Has the consumer been informed that this application has been	positive COVID-19 PCR or RAT (must be recorded on MyCovidRecord) test	



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.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-groupapplication-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-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-decidewhat-work-requires-a-vaccinated-employee/



Ngā mihi nui.We appreciate your mahi.