

## Consent forms

Consideration is currently being given by the Director General of Health, Dr Ashley Bloomfield, as to the use of consent forms for the COVID-19 vaccinations.

For those of our members who **have not yet** obtained EPOA consent from families we need to ask you to use the [Ministry of Health consent form](#). For those that have received the signed NZACA form back from EPOAs, this will suffice unless you hear further from us.

Please note this is an ongoing discussion between the NZACA and the highest levels of the Ministry of Health.

## ARC COVID-19 vaccine rollout

As of 7 April, over 90,000 Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine doses have been administered in New Zealand, with close to 20,000 people having received their second dose.

Included in these numbers are some ARC staff who received vaccine leftover from the border and MIQ workforce.

In terms of the planned rollout for ARC, we know that some DHBs are ahead of others. Nelson Marlborough started its rollout prior to Easter, delivering the first dose to staff and residents at three sites.

All DHBs are at varying stages of planning and we are expecting to receive further information in the next few weeks around the scheduled rollouts to staff and residents. We will keep members updated as we hear more.

## Quarantine-free travel with Australia

The Trans-Tasman bubble is due to start on 19 April, with visitors from Australia no longer required to enter MIQ.

While precautions are in place, this does represent an increased risk for New Zealand and the vulnerable population living in ARC. We expect a number of Australians will enter New Zealand with the primary intention of visiting a loved one in a rest home.

The NZACA is pushing even harder for residents to be vaccinated as soon as possible. We remind members to maintain vigilance and follow the [NZACA advice to rest homes at COVID-19 Alert Levels 1 and 2](#).

This includes the following guidance for visits:

- Contact tracing is essential. Facilities must display their QR poster and all personnel and visitors be encouraged to use it. The visitor register must also be completed by all visitors on site.
- Visits by agreement with the provider.
- The time, frequency and length of visits may be restricted.
- Maintain physical distancing where possible.
- Visitors to wear masks while onsite and follow IPC practices.

## NZACA in the news

Chief Executive Simon Wallace spoke to RNZ's Lisa Own about the COVID-19 rollout.

8 April 2021 | [RNZ Checkpoint - Rest homes still waiting for Covid-19 vaccination start date](#)

## MOH vaccine data

Data and statistics from the vaccine rollout are now being updated weekly on the Ministry's [COVID-19: Vaccine data](#) page. This includes breakdowns of vaccinations by day, DHB, ethnicity, age, and sex.

Also available is reporting on adverse events following immunisation with COVID-19 vaccines by Medsafe. [Safety Report #1 - 6 March 2021](#), shows 147 reports of adverse events following immunisation (AEFIs), 144 of which were classed as non-serious.

The three serious cases were all allergic reactions and all managed appropriately.

## Top 10 most frequently reported AEFIs, up to and including 6 March 2021

Reaction	Number
Dizziness	27
Headache	21
Nausea	18
Syncope <sup>a</sup>	18
Arm pain	5
Erythema <sup>b</sup>	4
Fever	4
Injection site pain	4
Paraesthesia distal <sup>c</sup>	4
Sweating increased	4

Notes:

- a. Syncope: fainting
- b. Erythema: redness
- c. Paraesthesia distal: tingling or numbness in the hands, arms, legs or feet.

Note that for the above, the reporter suspects that the vaccine may have caused the event. This does not necessarily mean that the vaccine did cause the event.

### Clinical and general resources

- The Goodfellow Unit delivers continuing professional development for primary healthcare professionals and has just published this excellent webinar with Dr Nikki Turner, Director of the Immunisation Advisory Centre, in which she discusses the COVID-19 vaccine and New Zealand's vaccination strategy <https://www.goodfellowunit.org/events/covid-19-vaccines>
- The Immunisation Handbook 2020 provides clinical guidelines for health professionals on the safest and most effective use of vaccines in their practice. A chapter on the COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#).
- The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) offers answers to key questions on vaccinator training and vaccine delivery [here](#).
- The app Āwhina lets you access information from the Ministry of Health and other trusted sources on your mobile device and sends out notifications on key COVID-19 vaccine announcements. You can download Āwhina [here](#).
- The MOH [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources](#) page is full of useful information, frequently asked questions and also fact sheets in multiple languages.
- Government cyber security agency CERT NZ has published guidance on how to protect your organisation when communicating about the vaccine on [CERT NZ's website](#).
- [Unite Against COVID-19](#) contains a multitude of resources on the COVID-19 vaccine.

## MOH Vaccine information

### COVID-19 vaccine updates for the health sector

#### VISIT PAGE

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-updates-health-sector>

### Getting a vaccine

- Who can get a vaccine*
- When you'll get a vaccine*
- What vaccines are available*
- How vaccines work*
- Impact of the vaccine on our borders*

#### VISIT PAGE

[\[https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-getting-vaccine\]](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-getting-vaccine)

### Vaccine safety and approval

- Making sure the vaccines are safe*
- Provisional approval of vaccines*
- How the vaccines were created so fast*
- Side effects from the vaccines*
- Effectiveness of the vaccines*
- Streamlining the approval process*
- If the vaccines contain new organisms*

#### VISIT PAGE

[\[https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-safety-and-approval\]](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-safety-and-approval)

### COVID-19: Vaccine resources

Visit this page to download useful resources and information sheets on COVID-19 vaccine and the roll-out programme. These are available in multiple languages.

#### VISIT PAGE

[\[https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-resources\]](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-resources)

### Vaccines

An extensive list of vaccine resources.

#### VISIT PAGE

[\[https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines\]](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines)

Any queries relating to the COVID-19 vaccine can be directed to

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