

YOUR FAQs ABOUT THE COVID-19 VACCINES

How does the vaccine work?

The vaccine works by teaching the body's immune system to recognise pathogens (disease-causing organisms) without causing illness to the body's immune system. It then remembers this pathogen and when/if the infection occurs at a later date, the body will remember this and fight the infection faster.

How safe is the vaccine?

The vaccine has been approved by Medsafe who are responsible for regulating all medicines and medical devices in NZ. Medsafe will only approve a vaccine for use in NZ once they are confident it complies with international standards and local requirements for quality, safety and effectiveness.

How successful is the vaccine?

Following the clinical trials, early data showed that the vaccine is able to reduce asymptomatic infection and therefore reduce spread. There is confidence that the vaccine has an excellent safety profile and is highly effective against the disease.

Is the vaccine live?

No. There is no virus being injected into your body; you cannot get COVID-19 from the vaccine

Does the vaccine cover the new UK and South Africa strains of COVID-19?

Yes. There is evidence that shows the Pfizer vaccine gives some protection against both strains.

I'm a hapū Māmā, is the vaccine safe for my pepi?

Based on how the vaccine works, it's unlikely to pose a specific risk to hapū māmā or their pēpē however trials are still underway.

If you are hapū or breastfeeding and would like the vaccine, please discuss this with your GP.

Who is getting vaccinated first?

The people most at risk of harm if they get the virus and those who live and work in places where they are most likely to pick up COVID-19 such as border workers, frontline health staff. You will be advised when it is your turn to have your vaccination. If you are unsure call your health provider.

Will everyone have to get the vaccine or can you choose whether to have it?

Having a COVID-19 vaccine is voluntary, which means you can choose whether or not to have it. However, getting vaccinated is one of the best ways you can protect yourself, your whānau and the community from getting COVID-19.

Where will vaccinations happen?

There will be a range of places and different options to make getting a vaccine as easy as possible. These will include: Māori and Pasifika providers, GPs, pop-up centres, medical and hauora centres, community clinics, larger-scale events

To learn more about these FAQs or about the covid vaccine, click on the QR code to be redirected to The NZ Immunisation Advisory Centre

