



Mental Health and Addiction NGO and Community Sector

COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

Update #2

This information is accurate as at 2.30pm Monday 29 March 2021.

This information has been developed from information known at this time. It is intended to provide members of Platform Trust with resources and preliminary guidance to enable MHA NGO and community providers to have correct and factual information about the vaccine and rollout programme.

This information will be reviewed and may change given the nature of the COVID-19 vaccination programme and decisions made by the Government and Ministry of Health.

Vaccination Roll Out Information

- It is essential that MHA NGO and community providers provide correct and factual information about the vaccine and rollout programme to their staff. Employers will use different ways to provide this information. Courtesy of Emerge Aotearoa Appendix 1 gives you an example of the approach they adopted. I acknowledge Emerge Aotearoa for sharing this letter and agreeing we can distribute this to you. You are welcome to adapt this letter to fit your circumstances.
- These are the resources available for initial communication with staff ideally about two (2) weeks prior to vaccination.
 1. Getting your COVID-19 vaccine: what to expect <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/Vaccine-resources/COVID-19-Getting-your-COVID-19-vaccine-What-to-expect.pdf>. This factsheet provides a simple 'walk through' of the before and after vaccination process.
 2. After your immunisation <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/Vaccine-resources/COVID-19-vaccine-after-your-immunisation-v2.pdf>. This factsheet provides clear information and a summary of potential side effects and safety measures.
 3. Protecting Aotearoa <https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/Vaccine-resources/covid-19-protecting-aotearoa.pdf>. This factsheet provides a thorough summary of Aotearoa's overall COVID-19 vaccine plan and how it will be rolled out. It has useful messages about vaccine safety, access, equity, supply and the rollout plan.
- We are working with the Ministry of Health and unions to ensure people have all the information they need and are well prepared before they are invited to get their vaccination. This will include a detailed FAQ or Q&A on general employment-related questions that may arise in respect of COVID-19 vaccinations. We will make this available to you soon, as it is currently under development.

We urge you to distribute relevant information from these links to your staff. This way your staff have access to correct and factual information about the vaccine, the roll out programme along with answers to questions they may have.

END

APPENDIX 1: Sample letter

Kia ora e te whānau

We hope you are all well and enjoying the freedoms that level 1 affords us as a country.

COVID-19 vaccine

By now, many of you will be hearing about the COVID-19 vaccine that has started its roll out across New Zealand and may be wondering what this means for us as an organisation.

As a Covid Response Committee and organisation, our response to COVID-19 has always been guided by advice and information from the Ministry of Health. We therefore support the national vaccination roll out of the COVID-19 strategy.

Although vaccination is not mandatory the message from the government and the Ministry of Health is clear: *“We are asking everyone in New Zealand to get vaccinated. Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect your whānau, their lives and their livelihoods”* (taken from the *Unite against Covid MoH website*).

As a responsible employer we would like to support kaimahi in accessing information you need to be able to make an informed decision. With so much misinformation out there at the present time, please make some time to read through the information so you can be prepared.

Reliable sources for information

The most reliable evidence-based source of information is available on the Governments COVID-19 website and also accessible through the Ministry of Health (MoH) website.

Links to vaccine information on the Government and World Health Organisation websites can be found here:

- covid19.govt.nz
- [Ministry of Health](https://www.health.govt.nz)
- [World Health Organisation](https://www.who.int)
- [FAQs](#)

Covid v's flu vaccines

We understand that there may be some confusion between the COVID-19 vaccine and the standard flu vaccine we are currently offering kaimahi. It is important to note that these are two completely different and separate vaccines.

Supporting others

There may be situations when you are asked about the COVID-19 vaccine by people we support. In these situations, you should refer people to the information available through Ministry of Health websites rather than sharing personal thoughts.

Continued safety practices

Vaccination does not replace the need to continue with important Covid-19 protocols. Even if you do receive the vaccine it is important that you continue to practice the following Public Health guidelines including:

- Regular handwashing with soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- Use QR scanning and turn on Bluetooth tracing on the QR scanner app
- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues
- Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean
- Stay home if you feel unwell and get tested if you develop any of the common COVID-19 symptoms listed

Masks and PPE remain available if you require it.

Where to go for questions about the vaccine

The Ministry of Health have developed an excellent [FAQ sheet](#) about the vaccine. This would be a good place to start. If you need to speak with someone about the vaccine, we recommend you contact either your Family GP or Healthline. They are best placed to answer any questions or concerns you have about the vaccine.

Ngā mihi nui

The COVID-19 Response Team