



Mental Health and Addiction NGO and Community Sector

COVID-19 Vaccination Rollout

Update #5

This information is accurate as at 11am Friday 13 August 2021.

This information has been developed from information known at this time. It is intended to provide members of Platform Trust with 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

Yesterday the Government announced its intention for as many New Zealanders as possible to be vaccinated and to safely conduct self-isolation trials for vaccinated New Zealanders. This is to prepare for a phased resumption of quarantine-free travel.

This is a friendly reminder for your organisation to continue to support the rollout of COVID-19 vaccinations. Also, for your organisation to always be prepared for changes to COVID-19 Alert levels in the event there is a COVID-19 positive case in the community.

Vaccination Rollout

To support the vaccine rollout, you need to make sure people you support and your staff:

- have information about the COVID-19 vaccine. Click here for information <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/how-to-get-a-covid-19-vaccination/>.
- know how to access vaccinations.
- are given the opportunity to be vaccinated.

NB: Please note in yesterday's government's announcement: Group 4 age bands will be open to receive COVID-19 vaccine sooner as more vaccination sites open (including general practices and pharmacies).

Upcoming age band openings:

- 50+, from 13 August
- 40+, from 18 August
- 30+, from 25 August
- 16+, from 1 September

Change in COVID-19 Alert Levels – Preparedness

Yesterday's announcement suggests that if there is a positive COVID-19 case in the community of the Delta variant, specific areas may enter into a snap Alert Level 4 lockdown. As a sector, we need to be prepared for this eventuality.

Please ensure you have a COVID-19 response plan that includes:

- staff who will be working from home have the technology and capacity to do so (no matter the COVID-19 Alert level).
- frontline staff have adequate access to appropriate PPE.
- staff know what is required of them while supporting people in the community (under the different alert levels) and are reassured they will continue to have support.

Testing

Even though we are currently at COVID-19 Alert level 1, prompt testing is vital for catching the virus early. If your staff or the people you support are experiencing cold or flu like symptoms including muscle ache and fatigue, they should stay at home and call Healthline (0800 358 5453) for advice on testing.

COVID-19 Tracer App

Please remind your staff and the people you support to use their COVID-19 Tracer app to scan QR codes. Fast contact tracing is essential to find people who have been exposed to COVID-19 virus and stopping it from spreading.

You can support contact tracing in the NZ COVID Tracer app by:

- enabling Bluetooth tracing
- having up-to-date contact information
- adding your NHI number into the app

Continued safety practices to protect yourself and others

Vaccination does not replace the need to continue with important Covid-19 protocols. Even if you are vaccinated, 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
- Wear a mask when using public transport and domestic flights

You can access more detailed information about this on Unite Against COVID-19 <https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/protect-yourself-and-others-from-covid-19/>

We ask you to distribute this information to your teams responsible for co-ordinating COVID-19 vaccine rollout to people who are supported by your organisation and if you require any further support please get in touch with us.

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