

# Information about the COVID-19 vaccine

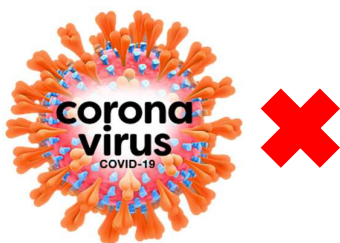


**February 2021**

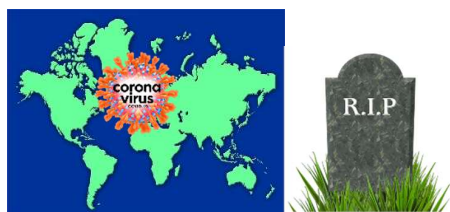
# What is COVID-19?



**COVID-19** is a virus that can make people very sick.



Here in New Zealand we have all worked hard to stop the spread of COVID-19.



COVID-19 is still a very big problem in many countries around the world where sadly many people have died.



There are now vaccines that will help protect us against COVID-19.



This is Easy Read information is about the COVID-19 vaccines.

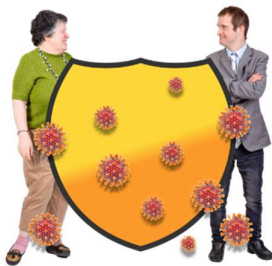
## What is the COVID-19 vaccine?



A **vaccine** helps your body to make **antibodies**.

**Antibodies** help your body to fight off sickness.

A vaccine is an injection that is given in your arm.



The **COVID-19 vaccines** will help protect you and other people from getting very sick with COVID-19.



The New Zealand Government has brought enough COVID-19 vaccines for everyone living in:

- New Zealand
- some of the Pacific Islands.



The Government has brought 4 different kinds of COVID-19 vaccines.

This is so there are enough COVID-19 vaccines for everyone who wants one.



Some of the COVID-19 vaccines have injections which are given 2 times on different days.



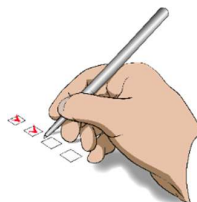
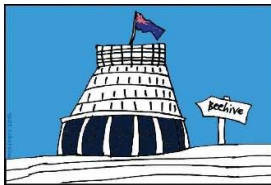
The COVID-19 vaccine is **free**.

This means it will not cost you any money to get the COVID-19 vaccine.

# Are the COVID-19 vaccines safe?



The COVID-19 vaccines have been checked by **Medsafe**.



## Medsafe:

- is **not** part of the government
- is **not** part of the companies that make the vaccines
- checks everything very carefully to make sure the vaccine is safe to give to people.



Medsafe have said the COVID-19 vaccines are safe to use.



The COVID-19 vaccines do not give you COVID-19.



The COVID-19 vaccines have been tested on lots of people all over the world.

## Who can get the COVID-19 vaccine?



Medsafe have said the COVID-19 vaccine is for people **16 years of age and older.**



The COVID-19 vaccine for children under the age of 16 years old may become available at a later time.



This is because there has not been a lot of testing of the COVID-19 vaccine on children.



If you are **pregnant** you should **talk to your doctor** about the COVID-19 vaccine.





If you are **breastfeeding** your baby  
Medsafe have said it is still **safe** to:

- get the COVID-19 vaccine
- keep breastfeeding your baby.



Medsafe have said that you should  
talk to your doctor before getting the  
COVID-19 vaccine if you are taking  
any of these medicines:

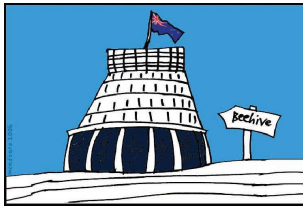


- Keytruda
- Opdivo
- Yervoy
- Tecentriq.

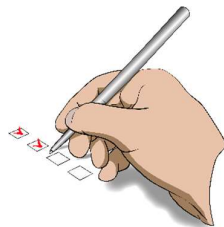
# Do you have to have the COVID-19 vaccine?



The more people who get the COVID-19 vaccine the safer it will be for everyone.



The Government is **not** making it **mandatory** to have the COVID-19 vaccine.



**Mandatory** means you have to do something.



**Not mandatory** means you decide if you want to do something.



It will be **your** decision if you want to have the COVID-19 vaccine.



If you are not sure or worried about the COVID-19 vaccine you can talk to someone about it.



Some people you could talk to are:

- family
- support worker
- doctor.



# The COVID-19 vaccine program



The Government has bought enough COVID-19 vaccines for everyone who wants one.

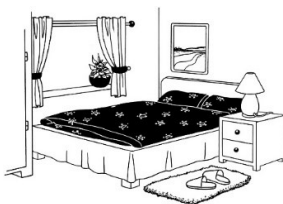


The Government is working on a plan for:

- how the vaccine will be given
- who will get the vaccine first
- when the vaccine program will start.



1



The **first group** of people who will get the COVID-19 vaccine are people who are working:

- at the **border** such as at airports and ports.
- in the **Managed Quarantine and Isolation** places.

### **Managed Quarantine and Isolation**

are places where people who arrive back in New Zealand from overseas must stay in place for 14 days.

This is to make sure they do not have COVID-19.

Managed Isolation and Quarantine is also called **MIQ**.

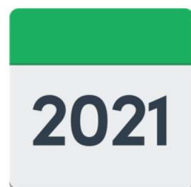


Lots of people work at the border and in MIQ like:

- cleaners
- security workers
- airline staff
- customs workers
- hotel workers
- nurses doing the COVID-19 testing.



People living with any of these workers will also be in the first group of people to get the COVID-19 vaccine.



The COVID-19 vaccines for this first group will start to be given from the 20 February 2021.

2

The **second group** of people to get the COVID-19 vaccine is people most at risk of getting very sick if they get COVID-19.



The group is:

- Māori
- Pacific peoples
- older people (over 65 years old)
- disabled people.

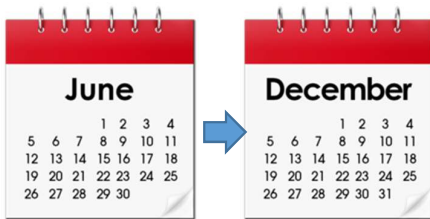
People working in **health services** will also be in the second group of people who can get the COVID-19 vaccine.



The COVID-19 vaccines for this first group should start to be given from April 2021.

3

The **third group** to get the COVID-19 vaccines will be anyone who wants to get the COVID-19 vaccine.



The COVID-19 vaccines for the third group should be ready from about June to December 2021.





## What happens next?



The Government is still putting together some more information about:



- when you will get your COVID-19 vaccine if you want it
- what happens when you get your COVID-19 vaccine.



The information will also be put into Easy Read.



You can find more Easy Read information about COVID-19 on the Government COVID-19 website:

[www.covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/accessable-information/easy-read/](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/accessable-information/easy-read/)



You can also find Easy Read information about COVID-19 on the People First New Zealand website:

[www.peoplefirst.org.nz/easy-read-information-about-covid-19/](http://www.peoplefirst.org.nz/easy-read-information-about-covid-19/)



While we wait for the COVID-19 vaccine program to start we still need to follow the **4 Golden Rules**.

The 4 Golden Rules are:



1. Wash your hands

2. Scan the QR codes

3. Turn Bluetooth on



4. Stay home if unwell.



There is an Easy Read factsheet about the **Golden Rules** on the COVID-19 website:

[www.covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/accessible-information/easy-read/](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/accessible-information/easy-read/)



This information has been translated into Easy Read by the Make It Easy service of People First New Zealand Inc. Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



The ideas in this document are not the ideas of People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi.



Make It Easy uses images from:



- [Changepeople.org](http://Changepeople.org)

- [Photosymbols.com](http://Photosymbols.com)



- Sam Corliss.



All images used in this Easy Read document are subject to copyright rules and cannot be used without permission.