**Latest COVID-19 health key messages**

8 October 2021

**Approved messages for use in your communications**

Consistent messaging helps us to coordinate our efforts to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic. This document provides approved key messages from the Ministry of Health.

**New Zealand Alert Level status**

Auckland and North-West Waikato are at Alert Level 3 until 11:59pm on Monday, 11 October 2021. This will be reviewed on 11 October. For information on Waikato testing centres, vaccination and the boundary map visit [Unite against COVID-19](https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/regional-advice/waikato/). The rest of New Zealand remains at Alert Level 2.

Alert level advice can be found on the [Unite Against Covid-19 website](https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/)

**Community cases update**There are **44** new cases of COVID-19 in the community today. Of these **41** cases are in Auckland, **3** cases are in Waikato. The total number of community cases is **1,450**.

Continue to check the [locations of interest](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/contact-tracing-covid-19/covid-19-contact-tracing-locations-interest) on the Ministry of Health’s website. There are [section 70 public health orders](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-epidemic-notice-and-orders#section70) in place that require people to follow health orders.

**Testing figures update**

Yesterday, **29,925** tests were processed across New Zealand. The total number of tests to date is **3,543,083**.

**COVID-19 vaccination figures update**

Yesterday, **82,303** vaccines were administered, with a record high of **10,145** doses administered to Māori. There were **19,705** are first doses and **62,598** are second doses administered. To date **2,220,329** people have been fully vaccinated.   
[View the latest data and statistics](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-data-and-statistics/covid-19-vaccine-data)

**Rapid antigen testing update**

Results of the rapid review by the Ministry of Health COVID-19 Testing Technical Advisory Group (TAG), commissioned on 20 September 2021 were released yesterday.

Key recommendations from the review include a future-focused COVID-19 testing strategy to assist planning; and the creation of a dedicated testing approach to facilitate innovation and the implementation of new tests and testing strategies in a timely fashion.

The Ministry has undertaken much work in considering the use of rapid antigen testing, and other technologies, as part of the public health response. We are pleased to see the recommendations of the rapid review confirm our approach with the development of some new initiatives underway by the Ministry.

The Ministry has purchased rapid antigen tests which are being used in pilot programmes as part of reviewing its use in the New Zealand context.  The purpose of the pilots is to consider how rapid antigen testing can best be used to identify new infections, support outbreak investigations through screening and monitor disease trends.

Rapid antigen testing is now underway at Middlemore Hospital, with Auckland City and North Shore Hospitals. Work is also underway to test use of rapid antigen testing at point-of-arrival with participants in the 'self-isolation pilot' for business travellers in Auckland and Christchurch, starting later this month.

View the announcement: [Government to pilot antigen testing with private sector](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/government-pilot-antigen-testing-private-sector)

**Updated guideline for the clinical management of COVID-19**The Ministry of Health has updated the ‘Interim Guidance - Clinical Management of COVID-19 in Hospitalised Adults with confirmed or probable COVID-19’.

Find the guidance on the [COVID-19: Advice for all health professionals](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals/covid-19-advice-all-health-professionals) page.

**Supply of personal protective equipment (PPE)**

The Ministry of Health continues to actively manage New Zealand’s supply of personal protective equipment (PPE) to ensure that the health and disability sector and has sufficient supply to respond to surges in COVID-19.

The Ministry supplies PPE to publicly funded health care workers and border workers that contribute to the COVID-19 response.  The information and advice on PPE is determined by the sector, region and proximity to the virus.  To order PPE you need to register via the PPE portal or Onelink.

PPE for non-publicly funded services should be sourced from commercial or retail suppliers in the first instance, although the Ministry may be able to help if PPE cannot be sourced.

Detailed information and guidance can be found at:

[COVID-19: Personal Protective Equipment Central Supply](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-central-supply)

[COVID-19: Personal protective equipment use in health and disability care settings](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-personal-protective-equipment-central-supply/personal-protective-equipment-use-health-and-disability-care-settings)

**Health key messages – 6 October 2021**

**Vaccination certificates and My Covid Record**The Ministry of Health’s My Covid Record website launches next week and will allow you to view your COVID-19 vaccination certificate. From the end of November everyone will be able to access a scannable QR code as proof of vaccination and COVID-19 test results (if applicable). You'll be able to print or save the QR codes on your smartphone in your Apple or Google Wallet.

This will help ensure we are reducing the risk of the virus spreading at large gatherings and events over the summer and into next year. Those who cannot access digital devices will have an assisted phone line support option.

There will be separate vaccine certificates for domestic use and when travelling internationally.

[COVID-19: Requesting proof of vaccination](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-requesting-proof-vaccination)

**Getting vaccinated for COVID-19**

New Zealanders are being urged to join a big push to get vaccinated. We have within reach another significant COVID-19 milestone. We can be one of the most highly vaccinated countries in the world. But to get there, we’re asking everyone to contribute to a final nationwide effort for vaccination.

This will culminate in a National Day of Action for Vaccination on Saturday 16 October, Super Saturday. On that day, we will have vaccine clinics open throughout Aotearoa all day and into the evening.

We all have a role to play in getting our vaccination rates up. Although 80 percent of the eligible population have had their first dose, a lot still needs to be done. People still need to get their second dose, and we’re encouraging people to get that second dose three weeks after the first.

Everyone who has already been vaccinated also have an important role in reaching those who have yet to be vaccinated. We need vaccinated people to talk to those how have yet to be vaccinated and to help them get reliable, honest information about COVID-19 and the vaccine.

View the announcement: [Big vaccination drive leading to a National Day of Action on October 16](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/big-vaccination-drive-leading-national-day-action-october-16)

**Supporting disabled people to get their COVID-19 vaccines**

A new team has been established to support disabled people to get their COVID-19 vaccines. This team can support people with a range of disabilities including:

* blind, deafblind and low vision
* deaf and hard of hearing
* physical impairments
* intellectual impairments
* neuro diverse
* long term health conditions

As part of the COVID Vaccination Healthline, the support can be accessed by calling 0800 28 29 26 for free 8am to 8pm Monday to Friday and pushing **2** to speak to one of the team. Disabled people, and their carers can receive tailored advice and support for booking their vaccination appointments, including assistance with coordinating transport to and from the vaccination site and arranging the necessary support and accommodations during the appointment.

See the details and links to resources: [Dedicated team to support disabled people to access COVID-19 vaccine](https://www.beehive.govt.nz/release/dedicated-team-support-disabled-people-access-covid-19-vaccine)

**COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Bill**

The Ministry of Health welcomes submissions on the COVID-19 Public Health Response Amendment Bill (No 2) which is currently being considered by Parliament’s Health Select Committee. Submissions can be made until 11.59pm on Monday 11 October 2021. More information, including the Bill, can be found on the [New Zealand Parliament website](https://www.parliament.nz/en/pb/sc/make-a-submission/document/53SCHE_SCF_BILL_115898/covid-19-public-health-response-amendment-bill-no-2)

**Health key messages – 4 October 2021**

**Get tested for COVID-19**

If you live in a suburb or region of interest you are encouraged to get a test, even if you do not currently have symptoms.

Anyone else with cold, flu or [COVID-19 symptoms](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/about-covid-19#symptoms) should call Healthline, your doctor or iwi health provider. They will tell you if you should get a COVID-19 test.

Information on testing and testing centres is on the [Unite Against Covid-19 website](https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/covid-19-testing/)

**Where to get your COVID-19 vaccine**

If you haven’t been vaccinated for COVID-19 there are a wide range of options available.

You can reserve your spot at a vaccination centre near you on [Book My Vaccine](https://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz/). If you have questions or need help booking, call the COVID-19 Vaccination Healthline 0800 28 29 26.

You can also get your vaccine at a walk-in and drive-through centre without a booking, or through some marae-based centres, general practices, pharmacies or Pacific providers.

Find out more about where you can get a vaccine at [healthpoint.co.nz](https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination/) or [www.karawhiua.nz](http://www.karawhiua.nz).

Get accurate and trusted information about the COVID-19 vaccine at [health.govt.nz](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-health-advice), [www.covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/), and [karawhiua.nz](https://karawhiua.nz/)

**New resources to support mental wellbeing**

The Ministry of Health has added three new resources by Triple P to their website. These resources support parents and caregivers to manage their children’s development and anxiety.

[Mental health and wellbeing resources](https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-mental-health-and-wellbeing-resources#others-wellbeing)