

AOG COVID-19 message grid – 3 February 2021

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
First COVID-19 vaccine approved	New Zealand's first COVID-19 vaccine has been approved by Medsafe as safe to use.	<p>Medsafe is independent of the Government and approves all medicines and vaccines available in New Zealand.</p> <p>Medsafe's approval is the culmination of a rigorous assessment over many months to ensure the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is safe and effective to use here.</p> <p>Medsafe has been in regular contact with medicines regulators around the world where the vaccine is already being rolled out. Allowing some time to study the roll-out overseas has given us extra assurance before starting our vaccination programme here.</p> <p>We are confident that this decision has been informed by the most up-to-date medical and scientific data.</p> <p>The Government will be encouraging all New Zealanders to get vaccinated.</p>	PM PR 3 Feb
NZ COVID-19 vaccine programme	The Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine approval gives the green light for the first phase of New Zealand's vaccination programme.	<p>The Government plans to make a decision about using the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine this week.</p> <p>2021 is the Year of the Vaccine. It's a full-year programme to ensure safe and timely access to vaccines for all New Zealanders.</p> <p>We expect the first Pfizer/BioNTech vaccines will arrive in New Zealand by the end of the first quarter and we are making sure everything is in place in case they arrive earlier.</p> <p>New Zealand is in a fortunate position with no current community outbreaks or transmission of COVID-19.</p>	PM PR 3 Feb

		<p>A phased approach will see those most at risk getting the vaccine first, and the broader community accessing the vaccine in the second half of the year.</p> <p>Our first focus will be to vaccinate our border and managed isolation and quarantine workers - including cleaners, nurses who undertake health checks in MIQ, security staff, customs and border officials, airline staff and hotel workers, which is about 12,000 people - plus the people they live with.</p> <p>Once vaccination of this group starts, we expect it to be completed within two to three weeks.</p> <p>Vaccinating our frontline staff will provide a critical additional line of defence to keep them well and help prevent COVID-19 entering the community. It's an extra layer to help protect New Zealanders and our economy against future outbreaks.</p> <p>We have come far in the fight against COVID-19 - getting vaccinated is key to locking in the gains we have made and protecting our hard-won freedoms.</p>	
Transmission in MIQs	We have identified 10 instances of COVID-19 transmission within Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) facilities.	<p>To date, we have identified five returnees infected by a source within a New Zealand MIQ facility. This does not include 13 international mariners where the source infection may have been overseas.</p> <p>We have also identified five staff infected by a source within an MIQ facility.</p> <p>The infections involve seven events across five facilities: Rydges Auckland, Pullman Auckland, Sudima Christchurch Airport, Crowne Plaza Christchurch and the Jet Park Auckland quarantine facility.</p> <p>We have reviewed and refined our infection prevention controls following each incidence, and we continue to review our processes to keep our borders safe.</p>	MoH media release 2 Feb

		<p>The total number of returnees through MIQ facilities in is now more than 105,000 and there are more than 4,000 staff nationwide.</p> <p>We'd like to take this opportunity to again thank the tireless efforts of all staff working in MIQ facilities around New Zealand. Your frontline efforts to help break the chain of transmission of COVID-19 and keep New Zealanders safe and healthy are truly appreciated.</p>	
<p>Safe travel advice for Waitangi weekend</p>	<p>There are some simple actions you should take if travelling over the upcoming Waitangi weekend.</p>	<p>New Zealand remains at Alert Level 1. We have no evidence of community transmission.</p> <p>Currently there are no restrictions on events. We can enjoy these safely if we all play our part.</p> <p>However, some of our communities are more at risk from COVID-19 than others and we all need to work together to ensure our whānau across Aotearoa can enjoy this time in a way that keeps us all safe.</p> <p>Be kind while travelling – COVID-19 affects us all differently. Those around you or at your destination may be more at risk. Check in with your hosts before you leave and do your bit to keep all our communities safe.</p> <p>If you're sick, stay home and do not travel. If you become unwell while travelling, call Healthline on 0800 358 5453 straightway for advice - do not wait until you get home.</p> <p>If you're advised to get a test, do so from wherever you are in the country. Do not wait until you get home to get a test. Remember testing is free and available every day of the week.</p> <p>Keep track of your travel – use the NZ COVID Tracer app with Bluetooth on.</p>	<p>MOH/DPMC</p>

		<p>Travel safely - wash your hands well and often, think about whether you can limit the number of stops along your journey, take face coverings with you and wear them whenever you can't keep your distance from people you don't know.</p> <p>Remember there are some places where face coverings must be worn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on all public transport to, from and through Auckland — including on long-distance bus and train journeys, as well as Auckland ferries on domestic flights throughout New Zealand by Auckland taxi and ride-share drivers — while it's not compulsory for passengers to wear them, we strongly encourage you to. 	
Back to school messages	As students return from their summer holidays, schools continue to have a key role in preventing the spread of COVID-19.	<p>The Ministry of Education is working with schools to ensure recommended actions are taken:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> display NZ COVID Tracer App QR code posters keep visitor registers, attendance registers and timetables up to date monitor for illness and ask anyone who is unwell to remain at home, or to go home. encourage people with relevant symptoms to seek medical advice through Healthline or their GP and get tested for COVID-19 if recommended to do so reinforce the importance of good hand washing and drying reinforce good cough and sneeze etiquette. 	MoE
Summer campaign	The nationwide COVID-19 public information campaign <i>Make Summer Unstoppable</i> includes helping ensure events run safely.	<p>We will have an active presence at annual festivities at Waitangi and at the One Love festival in Tauranga over Waitangi weekend.</p> <p>An Event Activation Toolkit and Checklist for event organisers with easy-to-use ideas and resources for event organisers can be found on covid19.govt.nz/updates-and-resources/unstoppable-summer-toolkit/#event-activation-toolkit</p> <p>More detailed advice for event organisers on what they need to do to run events safely can be found in The Event Sector voluntary code on</p>	UAC

		<p>www.majorevents.govt.nz/resource-bank/covid-19-information-for-event-organisers/</p> <p>Kiwis can keep enjoying their summer if everyone continues with the simple health behaviours that'll protect your families and others and keep the virus in check.</p> <p>E te whānau, tautokohia te kaupapa: Make Summer Unstoppable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Stay home if you're feeling unwell and get advice about a COVID-19 test- Wash your hands- Scan QR codes- Turn on Bluetooth tracing on the NZ COVID Tracer app. <p>Businesses also have an important role to play:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Put up plenty of QR code posters in your shop/café/restaurant/bar- Invite your customers to scan in as they go in- Encourage everyone to wash or sanitise their hands- Use the hashtag #unstoppablesummer where possible. <p>Let's have a stunner – don't let COVID-19 stop the summer!</p>	
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