

## 11 October Government Announcement

### Vaccination of Health and Disability Sector Workers Vaccination

The Government, in consultation with the Ministry of Health has announced on 11<sup>th</sup> October that an amendment will be made to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 that will require a new set of workers in the health and disability sector to be fully vaccinated by 1<sup>st</sup> December, 2021.

Vaccination is already mandatory for high-risk roles (including health worker roles) in Border, MIF and MIQ settings. This amendment seeks to extend that requirement so that certain roles in the health and disability sector are also covered by this order, including:

- Regulated professions currently registered under the HPCA regulations
- Non-regulated professions in the following healthcare setting:
  - Aged Residential Care Facilities (ARC)
  - Home and Community Care Services (HCSS)
  - Kaupapa Māori Health Providers, Pacific Health Providers and Non-Government Organisations who provide health services
- Roles undertaken by people who:
  - are in frequent contact, face-to-face contact, or are in close proximity to healthcare workers providing a health service.
  - work where a health service is being provided.
  - do not necessarily provide a health service, but their role requires frequent contact/engagement with those providing health services and is considered tied to a role within a healthcare setting.

Under these new amendments, it's likely that any health and disability workers who fall under the categories above must receive their first dose of the vaccine by 30<sup>th</sup> October and their second dose by 1<sup>st</sup> December 2021. Further details about the criteria for this amended order will be released in due course.

Vaccination remains our strongest and most effective tool to protect against infection and disease, and we want to thank everybody who has helped New Zealand reach such a high rate of voluntary vaccination among its health and disability workers. We will be working closely with the sector and unions to put together an implementation plan to help increase the vaccination rate further.

As further detail around this criteria is confirmed I will share with you in as timely way as I can.

Ngā mihi

Martin

#### **Dr Martin Chadwick**

Chief Allied Health Professions Officer | Office of the Chief Clinical Officers | Mobile: 021 220 3044



[martin.chadwick@health.govt.nz](mailto:martin.chadwick@health.govt.nz)

<http://www.health.govt.nz>