

Welcome, we will start the session shortly

- In the meantime, please note the following housekeeping points:
 - Your mics are automatically muted
 - This session is recorded
 - You are welcome to ask questions via the chat function. If we do not manage to answer any questions in the session, we will follow up with you afterwards
 - We update our guidance on the Ministry of Health website regularly so please check the site for up-to-date information

Changes to the significant service disruption exemption application process

23 February 2022

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GM – National Contracts, Quality & Workforce
National Immunisation Programme

Significant service disruption (SSD)

- Temporary SSD exemptions are for a Person Conducting Business or Undertaking known as PCBU (employers) who are at risk of a significant disruption of their services because they will need to stand down worker/s that have not met the mandated booster vaccination timeframe as prescribed in the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 (Vaccinations Order).
- The Health and Disability workforce are required to have their booster vaccination by **11.59pm on the 24 February 2022**.
- Temporary SSD exemptions are granted to employers to allow their staff to keep working and avoid a significant service disruption. This is usually for a period of between 1 to 6 weeks to allow for example, the vaccination of the specified affected worker/s or training of a replacement worker/s for the specified role or part of the role.

Health and disability workers covered by the Vaccinations Order

COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 - Schedule 2: Groups of affected persons: Part 7: Groups in relation to health and disability sector

- 7.1 Health practitioners providing health services to patients in person
- 7.2 Workers who carry out work where health services are provided to members of the public by 1 or more health practitioners and whose role involves being within 2 metres or less of a health practitioner or a member of the public for a period of 15 minutes or more
- 7.3 Workers who are employed or engaged by certified providers and carry out work at the premises at which health care services are provided
- 7.4 Care and support workers

More information can also be found at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations#healthdis>

Changes to the SSD

- On 22 February 2022 we advised of changes to the SSD application exemption process. The new process standardises how you apply for single or group applications.
- This streamlined process is designed to make it easier for employers who have more than two workers who have not met the mandated booster vaccination timeframe to apply for an exemption.
- Under the previous process, these were predominantly applied for each individual worker.
- Employers who are granted an exemption, must have a robust risk management plan in place to reduce the transmission of COVID-19. This plan must protect the affected worker, all the workers in the workplace, and all people where services are provided.

Details of the application

Exemptions are only given where there's supporting evidence of a significant service disruption risk to service continuity.

- **For individual workers** - If you are an employer with one worker who has not met the mandated booster vaccination timeframe, you will need to fill in the individual application form. A risk assessment will be required for each individual worker.
- **For multiple workers** - If you are an employer with more than two workers who have not met the mandated booster vaccination timeframe, we ask that you to fill in the application form and application spreadsheet. A risk assessment will be required for your workplace.
- **For all applications** - For both processes you will be required to provide details of each individual worker, how your service would be significantly disrupted, and what risk management plans will be in place should your exemption application be granted.

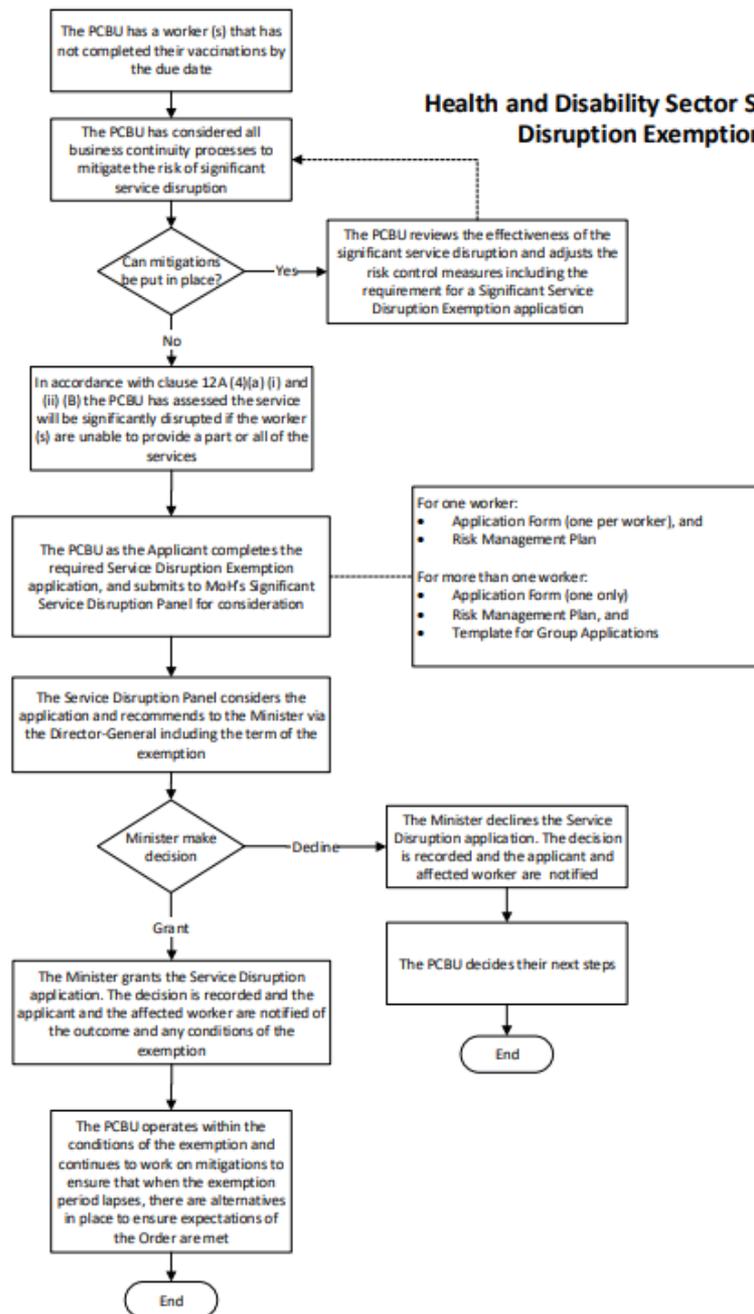
Whom of your workers are impacted

You can request information about your employees' vaccination status from the Ministry. Once we receive your CIR data sharing application, we will email you with the next steps, including detailed information on getting your employees' authorisation to obtain their vaccination record. More information on this available at:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-requesting-employee-vaccination-records>

Health and Disability Sector Significant Service Disruption Exemption Process

The process



The application form for individual workers



Ministry of Health Application

COVID-19 Health and Disability Sector Temporary Significant Service Disruption Exemptions Version 2.0 Booster requirements

COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccination) Order (VO) 2021 grants:

Power of Minister to grant exemptions; a relevant PCBU may, by notice in writing to the Minister, apply for an exemption for a person specified, from any other provision of this order.

Use this form to apply for a significant service disruption exemption for a health or disability worker (affected worker) who is not vaccinated with a booster and where removing the affected worker from the role would result in a significant disruption to the service.

Temporary Significant Service Disruption Exemption Requirements

In accordance with VO clause 12A (4)(a) (i) and (ii) (B) the PCBU has assessed that the service will be significantly disrupted if the affected worker is unable to provide a part or all the service.

- Where the affected worker has a contraindication to the available vaccine(s), a temporary medical exemption is required before applying for a temporary service disruption exemption.
- Exemptions should be limited to situations where an affected worker cannot be replaced by another worker without causing a significant service disruption.
- Exemptions should be for a specified time, reflecting, for example, the vaccination of the specified affected worker/s or training of a replacement worker/s for the specified role or part of the role.
- The affected worker/s should be vaccinated as soon as clinically safe within the exemption timeframe.

Please send this completed application, with supporting information attached, to:
HealthDisabilityPCBUExemption@health.govt.nz

We will aim to process application/s within 10 working days.

Temporary Significant Service Disruption Exemption Application form v 2.0			
Employer/PCBU information as Applicant			
Organisation Name			
Contact Name			
Contact Title			
Physical address			
Contact Email			
Contact Phone			
Duration of exemption being requested			
I [] certify that the information I have provided for the purposes of making this application is complete, true and accurate.			
Signature		Date Signed	

Is your application for less than two affected workers?

Yes – continue completing below section for each affected worker

No – stop here and contact HealthDisabilityPCBUExemption@health.govt.nz for a template which will enable you to record affected worker information using an Excel spreadsheet.

Affected Worker information			
Affected Worker Name			
Affected Worker email address			
Affected Worker Title			
Role description			
Reason for being unvaccinated			
I [] agree the information in this application is complete and accurate and acknowledge my employer as the PCBU is applying for a temporary service disruption exemption under clause 12A of the COVID-19 Public Health			
Signature		Date Signed	

Common questions

How long does it take for an exemption to be considered?

- We aim to process any correctly completed applications within 10 working days. The process includes processing the application, a review by an expert panel, review by the Director General and information being provided to the Minister to make an informed decision and then communicating to the employers on the outcome of the application.

Your questions

If you have any questions please email:
healthorders@health.govt.nz

Useful links

Information on temporary significant services disruption exemptions

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations/covid-19-exemptions-mandatory-vaccination#service-disruption>

Information on mandatory vaccinations under the Vaccinations Order

- <https://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-response-planning/covid-19-mandatory-vaccinations/covid-19-exemptions-mandatory-vaccination#temp-exempt>

Risk assessment guidance

- <https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/vaccination-assessment-tool/>
- <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus-covid/how-to-decide-what-work-requires-a-vaccinated-employee/>

Ngā mihi nui.
We appreciate your mahi.