

Provider Network Update

November 1 2021

THE HEALTH WORKFORCE AND THE COVID-19 VACCINATION ORDER

The main focus of this update is to provide guidance around the Health and Disability Worker Vaccinations Order (Health Order) which is now in effect, and to outline our respective responsibilities in this process.

On 11 October 2021 the Government announced that workers in the health and disability sector will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 before the close of 1 January 2022 and must have received their first vaccination before the close of 15 November 2021.

The mandatory vaccine requirement has now been formally implemented by way of an amendment to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 (“the Order”), which became effective from 25 October 2021.

GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY HEALTH PROVIDERS

The 20 District Health Boards have prepared the attached guidance document to support your implementation of the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021.

The guidance document includes a number of links to helpful information, templates and FAQs.

Templates and specific information on areas of interest available through the attached guidance document include:

- Guide for Managers - Implementation Process for Unvaccinated Staff
- Employee FAQs
- Template Letter - Medical Exemptions
- Template Letter - Notice to Stand Down
- Template Letter - Notice of Termination of Employment

We trust you find this information of assistance.

We are committed to working with you through the implementation process and should you require further information or support please contact your Contract or Portfolio Manager in the first instance.

KEY DATES – INFORMATION WE REQUIRE FROM YOU

We are here to support you over the next few weeks as you and your staff are required to comply with key dates for vaccinations, and to help you get your staff vaccinated. We will also help you to navigate any uncertainty or need for clarity wherever we can.

We will assist you to get all of your staff vaccinated who need to be, but in order to do that effectively and efficiently we need the following information from you **by 5pm Friday 5 November**:

1. How many staff in total do you have in your organisation that come under the Order?
2. How many staff in your organisation will need a first dose **by 15 November**?
3. How many staff in your organisation will need a second dose by **1 January 2022**?

For our health care providers, there is some important guidance around who is captured by the order, and key dates. Please read this information carefully, so we can work with you to ensure you are able to comply with the Order, and that we can have a full understanding of how many people we need to work with you to vaccinate.

Please send your responses to 2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz

TIMEFRAMES

First dose: An *affected person* (see below) is required to have had their first vaccination dose by **11:59 pm on Monday 15 November** to be able to continue working in their current role.

Second dose: They must have had their second dose by **11:59 pm on Saturday 1 January 2022**.

Any worker who does not comply with the above vaccination deadlines must not work in a role which requires them to be vaccinated under Schedule 2 of the Order.

After the dates above, any new worker covered by the Order commencing employment after 15 November 2021 and before 1 January 22 will need to have their first dose before starting work and have both doses by 1 January 2022.

WHO IS CAPTURED BY THE ORDER?

The Order applies to community healthcare providers contracted by DHBs and who provide health services in any of the following sectors:

- primary care
- community pharmacy
- Māori health
- aged residential care
- home and community support
- mental health and addiction
- disability support
- oral health

AFFECTED PERSONS

The Order refers to affected persons and states it is a key responsibility of employers/PCBUs to determine whether a staff member is an affected person. The Ministry of Health website guidance states the mandate applies to:

- health practitioners
- people who work in close proximity to health practitioners providing services to members of the public (for example, reception and administration staff in general practice, shop assistants in community pharmacies)
- workers employed or engaged by certified providers, which includes workers at a facility providing hospital care, rest home care, residential disability care or fertility services (for example, anyone working in a hospital setting such as laundry staff, orderly, administration staff, or rest home staff like kitchen and cleaning staff)
- care and support workers who are employed or engaged to carry out work that includes going to the home or place of resident of another person (not being the home or place of residence of a family member) to provide care and support services funded by the Ministry of Health, a DHB or ACC.

THANK YOU

We are here to help you so if you have any questions or concerns please email us at 2DHBCommissioning@ccdhb.org.nz and a member of the team will respond. Or you can contact your contract manager directly.

A reminder that our previous provider updates and any attachments can be found here <https://www.ccdhb.org.nz/for-health-professionals/covid-19-resources-for-our-community-providers/>

Rachel Haggerty

Director, 2DHB Strategy, Planning & Performance