

COVID onboarding FAQs

Offering COVID-19 vaccinations at your site.

COVID-19 vaccination remains an important vaccination particularly for older people aged 65+ and those with co-morbidities.

COVID-19 vaccination site onboarding requirements have become easier, and we strongly recommend adding COVID-19 vaccination if you do not already offer it. These FAQs are designed to support this.

Does the COVID-19 vaccine still require multi-dose vials, dilution, or complex preparation?

No. From 2 March 2026, New Zealand transitions to the LP.8.1 COVID-19 vaccine for people aged 12 years and over. This vaccine is supplied as **a single-dose glass pre-filled syringe** that can be stored alongside other routine vaccines.

There is no dilution or vial draw-up required.

Other age-appropriate COVID-19 vaccine formulations are available including: Comirnaty LP.8.1 paediatric formulation for children aged 5–11 years, supplied as a single-dose vial with no dilution required, and LP.8.1 infant formulation for ages 6 months to 4 years, which comes as a multi-dose vial requiring dilution.

Do I need a separate COVID-19 contract?

Currently, COVID-19 vaccinations are covered under standalone contracts with their own administration fee.

If your practice previously offered COVID vaccines, you may already have an active contract.

Regional Approvers can assist in confirming your current agreement status and discuss

the potential availability of contracting options.

From 1 July 2026, COVID-19 vaccinations will be delivered under PHOSA or ICPSA. All separate COVID-19 agreements expire 30 June 2026.

Do vaccinators need to complete specific COVID-19 training?

Yes. All vaccinators intending to offer COVID-19 vaccines must complete the free 3-hour IMAC [COVID-19 Vaccinator course](#) before commencing vaccinating. This training covers key COVID-19-specific considerations, such as pre-vaccination screening and post-vaccination advice. Vaccinators who completed COVID-19 training during the pandemic are **strongly encouraged to refresh their knowledge**, as guidance will have changed. Refresher information is also available through the *Immunisation Handbook*, IMAC webinars and the upcoming Winter Preparedness sessions. In the future, COVID-19 content will be incorporated into Vaccinator Foundation Training.

What site set-up is required to offer COVID-19 vaccinations?

A formal COVID-19 site sign-off is **no longer required**. However, we recommend providers utilise the [site readiness checklist](#) as a self-check tool. It is likely that most vaccinating GPs and pharmacies will already have everything in place.

What about storage and cold chain requirements?

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Standard cold chain requirements apply for COVID-19 vaccines. If you are starting (or resuming) delivery of COVID-19 vaccinations, this must be reflected in your cold chain policy. Processes should be fit for increased winter demand including:

- fridge capacity to support winter vaccine volumes
- temperature monitoring and cold chain breach processes are up to date
- Immunisation Coordinator (IC) is informed that the site will be offering COVID-19 vaccinations, to support with clinical queries and cold chain processes including any intended off site services

How do we order COVID-19 vaccines?

COVID-19 vaccines are ordered through the Health NZ Inventory Management System. COVID-19 vaccines are free to order, with no minimum order quantities.

Once you are signed up to the Inventory Management System (IMS) you will receive the login details to the portal. When logged on you will find information on how to use the portal. If further support is needed contact the Helpdesk

help@imms.min.health.nz

How do I dispose of adult COVID-19 vaccines?

Adult COVID-19 vaccine pre-filled syringes should be disposed of through standard medical waste process, consistent with usual sharps disposal practices.

How do consumers find our service?

Providers should ensure COVID-19 vaccinations are included in their Healthpoint listing as this is used by the Vaccine Helpline agents to locate services for consumers. Providers can also use [Book My Vaccine](#) to offer vaccine appointments (this is a free service).

Are resources available for consumers?

Yes. Consumer vaccination pre & post information is available through HealthEd, alongside consent forms, posters and leaflets.

Interested in offering COVID-19 vaccines or need more information?

Contact your **regional approver**, who can confirm your contract and support you to onboard.

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