



COVID-19 VACCINE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION WEEKLY REPORT

Week ending:	11 December 2020	Priority:	Routine
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2021-1800

Action sought		
	Action sought	Deadline
Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister	Note the contents of this Weekly Report	N/A
Hon Grant Robertson Minister of Finance		
Hon Dr Megan Woods Minister of Research, Science and Innovation		
Hon Chris Hipkins Minister for COVID-19 Response		
Hon Nanaia Mahuta Minister of Foreign Affairs		
Hon Andrew Little Minister of Health		


 Dr Peter Crabtree
General Manager Science, Innovation and International
 11/ 12 / 2020


 Maree Roberts
Deputy Director-General, Systems Strategy and Policy
 11 / 12 / 2020

Minister's comments:



IN CONFIDENCE

COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy Implementation

Weekly Report

Week Ending 11 December 2020

RELEASED UNDER THE
OFFICIAL INFORMATION ACT

Purpose

This weekly joint report updates Ministers on key developments in the implementation of the COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy.

Workstreams

Advance Purchase Agreements

Contact: Poppy Haynes

Phone: 9(2)(a)

This week joint Ministers approved the purchase of 3.8 million courses of AstraZeneca's COVID-19 Vaccine candidate. The Minister of Finance has signed the Deed of Indemnity.

This week we concluded negotiations with a fourth vaccine supplier. We will have provided a briefing on this purchase opportunity by the time you receive this weekly report. We have secured enough doses to offer wide population coverage and to cover potential use in Polynesia. This candidate will add a new technology platform to our portfolio, further diversifying and building the resilience of the portfolio.

We understand that the Prime Minister will announce these deals on 17 December, as part of a wider vaccine announcement.

9(2)(ba)(i) & (ii)

We have reached out to a potential fifth vaccine supplier to initiate negotiations and will advise if a purchase opportunity arises.

Immunisation Strategy and Programme

Contact: Mathew Parr

Phone: 9(2)(a)

Governance Group

The COVID-19 Vaccine & Immunisation Programme Governance Group had their final meeting for this calendar year on 9 December. Members received an update on a number of areas, including outcomes from the Cabinet Paper, the service design model, communications, and programme assurance. The Governance Group will reconvene during the week of 14 January.

Service Design

Since our last update, the service design model has been tested and endorsed by the Programme Governance Group and Steering Group. Our approach is focused on making the vaccine accessible and having the workforce employed, trained and in the right locations from 1 March. We will share this model

with DHBs this week and work collaboratively with them in the development. The approach is one of very tight national oversight, with local delivery.

Vaccine Eligibility

Following the Prime Minister's announcement that the COVID-19 vaccine would be free, officials have prepared advice relating to vaccine eligibility that will be shared with Ministers prior to Christmas.

Immigration status currently limits access to publicly funded immunisation. Our preferred option is to allow anyone in New Zealand to have access to a free COVID-19 vaccine as it would support our goal of population immunity over time. Further information will be shared with Joint Ministers once a formal decision has been made.

Joint update from MBIE and MoH Communications

Contact: Karl Ferguson (MBIE)

Carl Billington (MoH)

Communications planning

We continue to prepare communications collateral for the planned Vaccine Day on 17 December, which will include additional vaccine purchase announcements. We are working with Minister's offices to coordinate key elements of this event, and will provide a draft media release, reactive Q&As, key messages, event briefing documents and speaking notes, as required. We have met with the communications and government relations contacts at relevant companies this week, to ensure we are coordinated in advance of planned announcements.

In support of the event, MBIE is developing a short animated video to explain the Vaccine Strategy, which will appear on the COVID-19 website and social media channels. The video will be translated into several languages for accessibility and we are exploring options for voice-overs in Te Reo Māori and Pacific languages.

MoH is developing a back pocket 'vaccine primer' for staff. It will outline the overall narrative, purchasing process and timeframes, sequencing summary, and rollout/logistics planning and our stakeholder and partner engagement headlines. This will help ensure that staff are prepared for questions and discussion with stakeholders, family and friends. A "Vaccine Update" video is also in production for staff to ensure they're updated and informed on progress. The Ministry for Pacific Peoples is also currently preparing their summer messaging campaign and have invited us to support this work with relevant COVID-19 vaccine-related messages they could include.

Stakeholder engagement

We will again brief the 'COVID commentators' this week (Michael Baker, Siouxsie Wiles, etc) on progress to secure the vaccine portfolio, immunisation planning, timeframes and sequencing, and the Medsafe approval process. The briefing invitation has been extended to Dr Rawiri Jensen and Dr Api Talemaitoga to support them in their MoH roles as key spokespeople for both Māori and Pasifika audiences.

MBIE and MoH are continuing to identify opportunities to jointly engage with other key stakeholder networks across a range of sector groups and communities. This work is expected to gather further momentum in the New Year.

Media management

We continue to field a range of media queries, and we are working with other Taskforce agencies to coordinate and align responses.

Upcoming Briefings

Due Date	Briefing Number	Title	Sign Out Manager
11 Dec	2021-1723	Purchase of COVID-19 vaccines from Company Four	Peter Crabtree

Ministerial Official Information Act Requests

Number	Due to MO	Due to Requestor	Requestor	Request	Status	Sign out
OIA20-131	11 Jan 2021	18 Jan 2021	9(2)(a)	Copies of any briefings the Minister has received from Government Departments (except for Briefings to Incoming Ministers, which I understand are being proactively released) between 6 November 2020 and 13 November 2020 under the Official Information Act.	Drafting	Poppy Haynes