



## COVID-19 VACCINE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION WEEKLY REPORT

<b>Week ending:</b>	29 January 2021	<b>Priority:</b>	Routine
<b>Security classification:</b>	<b>In Confidence</b>	<b>Tracking number:</b>	2021-2113

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

  
 Simon Rae  
**Manager of International Science Partnerships**  
 Labour Science & Enterprise, MBIE  
 29/01/2021

  
 Maree Roberts  
**Deputy Director-General, Systems Strategy and Policy**  
 29/01/2021

**Minister's comments:**



IN CONFIDENCE

# COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy Implementation

Weekly Report

Week Ending 29 January 2021

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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)

We have just received initial clinical trial results for Novavax's vaccine candidate, for which we have purchased 5.36 million courses. These trials were conducted in the UK and South Africa, with the UK trial indicating that the vaccine is **89.3%** against COVID-19 (95.6% effective against the original COVID-19 strain, and 85.6% effective against the new UK variant). The vaccine appears to be less effective (60%) against the South African strain, although there remains some uncertainty as the South African trial was conducted in a smaller number of participants. The results show that Novavax could potentially be as effective as Pfizer and Moderna's vaccines, as those candidates' effectiveness results were largely calculated before the spread of the new UK and South African strains of COVID-19.

The MBIE APA team has also been working closely with the Ministry of Health vaccine contract managers to support the handover of contract management. The MoH contract managers have met with Jansen, Pfizer and Bioclect, Novavax's sponsor. Meetings with Novavax and AstraZeneca are scheduled. The contract managers have been working to identify primary points of contact for ongoing engagement in key areas such as logistics, supply chains and science and technical updates. This handover between MBIE and MoH ensures New Zealand is effectively able to monitor Q1 milestones and maintain ongoing communications with vaccine suppliers.

Vaccine suppliers will be notified in the coming days that a statement will be tabled in Parliament, noting that the Minister of Finance has granted an indemnity in favour of specific suppliers. It is likely this statement will be tabled on or after 9 Feb, and we are working with suppliers to ensure they are appropriately informed before any statements are public.

### COVAX

Contact: Gleyns Karren

Phone: 9(2)(a)

Through the COVAX Facility, New Zealand has been offered a purchase option for 100,620 doses (50,310 courses) of Pfizer's two-dose mRNA candidate. Unlike the separate 'first wave' offer, these doses are guaranteed if we exercise our purchase option and domestic regulatory approval is achieved. Officials are putting advice to Ministers for approval within the timeframe given to us by COVAX.

Gavi has informed us that the 'first wave' offer will provide doses sufficient for 0.25% of the populations of participant countries. We expect to hear from Gavi as to whether we have been included in that scheme over the weekend which, if so, we would expect to deliver around 12,500 courses between late February to early March.

## Immunisation Strategy and Programme

Contact: Mathew Parr

Phone: 9(2)(a)

### *Wider Health Sector Engagement*

Officials are continuing to reach out to the health sector on a regular basis, with a newsletter that is distributed to DHBs, PHOs and PHUs. The list of organisations receiving weekly updates from the Ministry has been expanded, and now includes a number of groups such as Royal New Zealand College of General Practitioners, Te Rōpu Whakakaupapa, Rural GP Network and Nurse Practitioners of New Zealand.

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### *Engagement with NZDF and table top exercises*

The Programme ran an internal 'table-top exercise' to walk through the delivery approach end-to-end for the initial 225,000 Pfizer courses for Tiers 1 and 2 in the sequencing framework. Members of the NZDF attended this exercise to provide feedback and be a critical friend to strengthen supply chain and delivery processes. NZDF will continue to work with the team to plan future dry runs and exercises.

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Additionally, this week the Programme has met with the Privacy Commissioner to give a high-level overview and engage on key risks. A Privacy Impact Assessment has been completed for the COVID-19 Immunisation Register and the programme will continue to engage on privacy risks through its Security and Privacy Working Group.

## Joint update from MBIE and MoH Communications

Contact: Stephanie Symynuk (MBIE)

Carl Billington (MoH)

### *Campaign planning*

Work is well underway with campaign partners for the development of an initial public information campaign to help support the initial rollout to Border/MIQ workers and address key questions, concerns and information needs.

The campaign is being implemented across several streams, with dedicated creative partners for each stream. The key streams are: All of Aotearoa New Zealand; targeted engagement to Māori; targeted engagement to Pacific communities.

Campaign partners are collaborating together on the high-level framing and messaging but working independently on the appropriate design and delivery for the communities they are tasked with reaching.

### Stakeholder engagement

We met this week with a range of stakeholders from both the maritime and airport settings, beginning a schedule of direct engagement with border and MIQ employers and operators and unions ahead of the coming vaccination rollout to the border/MIQ workforce.

These engagements are opportunities to providing an overview of the rollout approach, respond to initial questions and concerns and agree process for how best to meet the information needs of this workforce and their household contacts. These conversations will continue on a weekly basis over the immediate period.

## Upcoming Briefings

Due Date	Briefing Number	Title	Sign Out Manager
4 Feb	2021-2132	COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy – COVAX: Pfizer purchase option	Maree Roberts
11 Feb	2021-1949	Research Investment Plan by the Health Research Council of New Zealand (HRC) – Joint paper with MOH	Peter Crabtree

## Departmental Official Information Act Requests

Number	Due to MO	Due to Requestor	Requestor	Request	Status	Sign out
OIA2021-1218	3 Feb 2021	10 Feb 2021	9(2)(a)	<p>In relation to the purchase of COVID-19 vaccines for NZ, including the safety assessment, risk-benefit analysis and marketing, please provide the following detail for all staff employed by and/providing contract services to and/or any other individuals who are providing other paid or unpaid advice to the Ministry of Health, Medsafe, Pharmac or to the Prime Minister, the Minister of Health (or any other Ministers involved in the government response to Covid-19):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Names</li> <li>• Job titles</li> <li>• Qualifications</li> <li>• Institutional/business affiliation, and conflict of interest declarations.</li> </ul>	Drafting	Simon Rae