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Tēnā koe Virginia

Thank you for your email of 16 August 2021. Your request has been passed to the COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme to respond to directly. I appreciate you taking the time to write.

I understand that you're concerned about the inclusion of 12 to 15-year-olds in New Zealand's vaccination rollout. Medsafe has approved the Pfizer vaccine for those aged 12-15 years old. It has already been used in this age group overseas. Medsafe only grants consent for a vaccine in Aotearoa New Zealand once it's satisfied it has passed required levels of safety and effectiveness. Additionally, the World Health Organization's Strategic Advisory Group of Experts (SAGE) has concluded that the Pfizer vaccine is suitable for use by people aged 12 years and above.

Pfizer's study in 12 to 15-year-olds involved 2,260 participants in the United States. The trial looked for indications of a strong immune response in these individuals after vaccination. The observed vaccine efficacy from seven days after second dose in this study was 100%, with no cases of COVID-19 observed among the vaccinated group versus 18 cases observed within the placebo group. There were no vaccine-related serious adverse events reported.

Getting vaccinated is the best way to protect ourselves and our whānau. The more of us who are vaccinated in our community, the greater our immunity. We want to protect young people and their families from COVID-19. The vaccine is how we will protect each other from the virus, and vaccinating youth aged 12 to 15 years-old will help us achieve this.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I hope this information is useful, and I wish you well.

Nāku noa, nā



Jo Gibbs  
**National Director**  
**COVID-19 Vaccine and Immunisation Programme**