

COVID-19 VACCINE STRATEGY IMPLEMENTATION WEEKLY REPORT

Week ending:	22 January 2021	Priority:	Routine
Security classification:	In Confidence	Tracking number:	2021-2065

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 Andrew Little Minister of Health		
Hon Nanaia Mahuta Minister of Foreign Affairs		



Poppy Haynes
Manager of Science Policy
 Labour Science & Enterprise, MBIE
 22/01/2021



Maree Roberts
**Deputy Director-General, Systems Strategy
and Policy**
 22/01/2021

Minister's comments:



IN CONFIDENCE

COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy Implementation

Weekly Report

Week Ending 22 January 2021

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)

Milestones in 2020

Four APAs executed:

- Pfizer – 750,000 courses
- Janssen – 5 million courses
- Novavax – 5.36 million courses
- AstraZeneca – 3.8 million courses

These four deals are now finalised and the legally binding contracts have been executed. The negotiations were concluded in December 2020, with the final APA executed the week of 21 December.

The MBIE based APA team is now working with the newly appointed contract managers within the Ministry of Health to ensure a smooth transition of the relationships with suppliers and knowledge of the negotiations and contracts. As part of the handover, MBIE will be working with the Ministry of Health to ensure key milestones for Q1 2021 are achieved. This includes issuing purchase orders and assessing any new scientific information to support the immunisation roll out.

COVAX

Contact: Gleyns Karren

Phone: 9(2)(a)

The Ministry of Health will meet with Polynesian Heads of Health this week, and the Minister for Pacific Peoples will meet Polynesian Health Ministers next week, to discuss with countries their preparedness needs so that New Zealand is able to support countries with a robust vaccine roll-out. Officials will continue to work closely with Australia and other partners in the coming weeks to coordinate our support for vaccine access in the Pacific. A Cabinet paper, scheduled for late February, will provide advice on the provision and sequencing of COVID-19 vaccines in the Pacific.

Following Joint Ministers' approval, officials have expressed interest in Q1 access to small volumes of the Pfizer vaccine through the COVAX Facility. New Zealand's request will be reviewed against a set of eligibility criteria related to ability to receive and administer doses at short notice. Given only small volumes are available at this early stage, allocation decisions are also likely to consider vulnerability and need. If successful, New Zealand would receive doses to cover 0.25 percent of the population (approximately 12,500 courses). Final allocation decisions will be announced by 29 January. The COVAX Facility expects to offer participants the opportunity to purchase further, more significant volumes of the Pfizer vaccine from Q2 this year.

Immunisation Strategy and Programme

Contact: Mathew Parr

Phone: 9(2)(a)

Cabinet Paper

A Cabinet Paper has been circulated for Ministerial consultation and will be lodged on 28 January ahead of the 2 February Cabinet meeting. This paper seeks Cabinet's agreement to the 'Decision to Use' framework, which sets out the decision-making process for deciding to roll out a given vaccine, as well as updating the Sequencing Framework as evidence continues to emerge. Cabinet Ministers will also receive an update about the Immunisation Programme, including preparations for operational readiness by March 2021.

Stakeholder Engagement

Structured engagement has commenced, with a particular focus on the health sector and other delivery partners. This includes an ongoing dialogue with DHBs: most recently 'open book' sessions were held on 15 and 18 January which provided an opportunity for DHB representatives to ask questions about the programme and provide feedback about current planning assumptions. DHBs will be providing a formal response to questions about service coverage for initial populations by 22 January. Engagement with other population groups will continue and further information will be shared in a subsequent update.

Immunisation Dry Run

Officials are exploring mechanisms for testing various components of the COVID-19 vaccine rollout in order to ensure readiness when the vaccine becomes available. At this stage we expect this to be a cross-agency effort and involve parties such as representatives from the wider health and disability sector and the New Zealand Defence Force. Iterative walkthroughs are expected to take place through February.

Joint update from MBIE and MoH Communications

Contact: Stephanie Symynuk (MBIE)

Carl Billington (MoH)

Communications planning

Work is underway, led by MOH and AoG, on the public information campaign to support the vaccine delivery and rollout.

MBIE continues to stay engaged with communications and government relations contacts at the four pharmaceutical companies that New Zealand has purchase agreements with, pending any further announcements by either the company or Ministers.

Stakeholder engagement

There is increasing activity underway at MOH to connect with a wide range of key stakeholder groups and networks, to share information and updates regarding the vaccine strategy and begin to surface and address their questions and concerns.

Media management

MOH has received a steady stream of media queries over the past weeks, with responses supported by MBIE and other agencies as required. There is an increasing focus on questions relating to rollout preparation and expected rollout sequence, which are being managed by MOH.

Upcoming Briefings

Due Date	Briefing Number	Title	Sign Out Manager
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"> • Names • Job titles • Qualifications • Institutional/business affiliation, and conflict of interest declarations. 	Drafting	Simon Rae