

# Inclusivity for transgender people/irawhiti/fa'afāfine/fa'atama

Ministry of Health COVID-19 vaccine update  
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Here are some tips for ensuring transgender/intersex/non-binary /takatāpui/MVPAFF+ people feel safe and included when checking in to get vaccinated:

- Don't make assumptions about a person's gender, pronouns, or family roles. If you need to know this information to provide a good service, it's okay to respectfully ask for it.
- Use the words and pronouns that they have asked you to use or that they use to refer to themselves. For example, some people use the pronouns "they/them" instead of "he/him" or "she/her". If you don't know a person's pronouns, try using gender-neutral language like "this person" when talking about them.
- Identification is not required when coming in for vaccination. Be aware that people may not want to show you identification that has a different name or incorrect gender on it.
- If someone asks you to use a different name or gender to that shown on their NHI/CIR, please respect that and do your best to ensure that others do the same. You will need to tell the vaccinator to use a different name when calling the person. The person may have a card with them with their NHI name, the name they use and/or their NHI number as they may not wish to discuss it.
- If someone wishes to change their NHI name or gender details, they should contact their regular health care provider such as their GP practice. Their health care provider will either be able to directly update their details on the National Health Index or, if they do not have update access, they can contact the relevant DHB who can make the changes for them.
- Confidentiality is especially important for people whose names and gender do not match those on their NHI/CIR or identification – please ensure that any discussions between staff members needed to ensure the person's correct name is used and their gender is affirmed are not able to be overheard by others

Many transgender/intersex/non-binary /takatāpui/MVPAFF+ people experience distress or discomfort in healthcare settings due to past experiences and fear of discrimination. Treat everyone with respect and remember to be kind.

\* MVPAFF+ refers to a number of Pasifika gender identities and forms of gender expression and sexual orientation. These include Māhu, Vakasalewalewa, Palopa, Fa'afafine, Akava'ine, Fakafifine, Fakaleiti / Leiti amongst others. The term MVPAFF+ was first coined by Phylesha Brown-Acton in 2011.

## Online resources to reach vaccine hesitant

We recently filmed Mihingarangi Forbes talking with Dr Hinemoa Elder about key concerns and hesitancies. Feel free to place these new videos with your networks and on your channels.

Long video is here <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/get-the-facts-about-covid-19-vaccination/how-to-talk-to-your-friends-and-whanau-about-the-covid-19-vaccine/>

Here's the Facebook link: <https://fb.watch/8FUy9oDys/>

## Reporting adverse events following immunisation (AEFI)

This week is MedSafety week, when medicine regulators and their stakeholders across the world take part in a campaign to raise awareness about the importance of reporting suspected side effects from medicines. The 2021 theme is vaccine safety. The Post Event Team within the Covid Vaccine Immunisation Programme works with MedSafe to monitor the safety and effectiveness of the COVID-19 vaccine.

We encourage healthcare professionals to report AEFIs experienced by consumers within the initial observation period after COVID-19 vaccination in the COVID Immunisation Register; any other suspected AEFI with COVID-19 vaccines can be reported through the [COVID-19 vaccine-specific reporting form](#) on the Centre for Adverse Reactions Monitoring (CARM) website. Please use this form to report all suspected AEFIs for COVID-19 vaccines that you are made aware of. You do not have to be certain that the vaccine caused the event to report. For more information on the expected reactions for approved COVID-19 vaccines, [see the Data Sheets and Consumer Medicine Information](#) webpage on the Medsafe website.

## Where to seek help for clinical questions

The Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) is your local source of scientific and clinical information regarding the COVID-19 vaccine. It has a wide range of useful clinical COVID-19 resources, including frequently asked questions found here: <https://covid.immune.org.nz/> If you require more immediate clinical advice, including in the context of an individual patient or event, please call 0800 IMMUNE (0800 466 863). This is staffed by clinical advisors from 8am-8pm, seven days a week. Clinicians can also email [0800immune@auckland.ac.nz](mailto:0800immune@auckland.ac.nz) for advice.

## RESOURCES AND SUBSCRIPTIONS

## Clinical and general resources

- The Ministry's COVID-19 vaccine [webpage for health professionals](#) has the latest **operating guidelines** and useful clinical information.
- The [Planning Guidelines \('The blueprint'\)](#) support conversations between DHBs and providers in existing healthcare facilities in **General Practice, Community Pharmacy, Hauora providers, and Urgent Care Centres**.
- The **Immunisation Handbook 2020** provides clinical guidelines for health professionals on the safest and most effective use of vaccines in their practice. A chapter on the COVID-19 vaccine can be found [here](#).
- The **Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC)** has an information-rich [website dedicated to COVID-19](#). The new pre-vaccination screening & assessment resources are available on <https://covid.immune.org.nz/faq-resources/written-resources>
- The app **Āwhina** lets you access information from the Ministry of Health and other trusted sources on your mobile device and sends out notifications on key COVID-19 vaccine announcements. You can download Āwhina [here](#)
- The Ministry [COVID-19 Vaccine Resources page](#) is full of useful information, frequently asked questions and also **fact sheets in multiple languages**
- **Data and statistics** about the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines in New Zealand can be found [here](#).
- Most **HealthPathways** platforms nationwide have published COVID-19 Vaccination Information pages. General practices can log into their local HealthPathways site to access this information.
- Medsafe's [website](#) has COVID-19 **vaccine approval information** and vaccine reports.
- Medsafe also publishes [data sheets and consumer medicine information](#) for approved COVID-19 vaccines.
- Government **cyber security** agency CERT NZ has published guidance on how to protect your organisation when communicating about the vaccine on [CERT NZ's website](#).
- [Unite Against COVID-19](#) contains a multitude of resources on the COVID-19 vaccine, including the **latest government announcements**.