

## **Vaccinating Health Worker Pathway now open**

Kia Ora

Earlier this year, we announced we were developing the Vaccinating Health Worker (VHW) programme.

In June, we launched the pathway to enable a COVID-19 Vaccinator Working Under Supervision (CVWUS) to transition to become an authorised Vaccinating Health Worker (VHW) Stage 1.

We are pleased to announce we have now opened the VHW pathway to also include people entering the pathway for the first time.

VHW Stage 1 will be able to administer COVID-19 (Pfizer) and Influenza vaccines for 12 years+, and human papillomavirus (HPV9) and tetanus, diphtheria and pertussis (Tdap) for 11 years+.

Access to this pathway is via employer nomination to IMAC. Details on how to register a staff member can be located on this [IMAC webpage](#). Unique package codes to access the training will then be sent the learner.

There are three VHW Stage 1 online courses. Completion of the first introductory course is compulsory before starting the vaccine-specific courses. Each course has a multichoice-style assessment and the pass mark is 80%.

- *Vaccinating Health Worker Course: Stage 1*
- *Vaccinating Health Worker Course: Stage 1: COVID-19 and Influenza vaccines*
- *Vaccinating Health Worker Course: Stage 1 Tdap and HPV9 Vaccines*

Each of the training courses may be done online or in person in a group setting. If you do the training in a group setting you will need to complete the competency assessment on your own.

Once you have successfully completed the training requirements and assessment you can apply for authorisation to Te Whatu Ora Health NZ to administer either:

- COVID-19 (Pfizer) and Influenza, or
- Tdap and HPV, or
- All of the above.

For information on how to apply for authorisation, please visit the Ministry of Health website: [Vaccinating workforce | Ministry of Health NZ](#)

Being an authorised VHW Stage 1 opens the pathway to moving to VHW Stage 2. Details of what is included in Stage 2 will be released shortly but includes preparation of vaccines and administering vaccines including MMR to a younger age group (5+) under clinical supervision and direction of an authorised vaccinator.

We look forward to supporting you as you develop into the Vaccinating Health Worker role. If you have any questions, please email [vaccinatorauthorisations@health.govt.nz](mailto:vaccinatorauthorisations@health.govt.nz)