Consultation update: Proposed Vaccinating Health Worker role

10 February 2022

Important changes have been made to the proposal to amend the Medicines Regulations 1984 to introduce a Vaccinating Health Worker role.

Change in scope of proposed role

Based on early sector feedback the **proposal has been amended to include an option for a Vaccinating Health Worker to immunise children ages 5 and up**. This would further ensure equitable access to all vaccines particularly for Māori and Pacific peoples as well as further support health service teams to take every opportunity to vaccinate tamariki against a range of preventable diseases.

Given Māori, iwi and Pacific providers' ability to engage and reach both whānau and tamariki across regions including rural remote areas, this amendment creates a window of opportunity to vaccinate all whānau members where possible.

The documents have been amended to reflect this and we welcome your feedback on the proposal, with both ages 5 and up and/or ages 12 and up in mind.

People who have already provided feedback and joined the webinars will be contacted wherever possible to let them know about this change.

Consultation period extended

The consultation period has been extended by one week. **Feedback now closes at 5.00pm on Friday 18 February 2022.** We kindly encourage you to find a few minutes to have your say.

Background information and the survey link is on the Ministry's website here. Please share this information through your own networks.

Additional webinar added

Thank you to those who joined our webinars on 3, 4 and 9 February where we presented on this kaupapa. A further webinar is taking place on:

- **16 February** from **12:00 to 1:00pm.** Click here to join.

The webinar is being delivered through Microsoft Teams, so please schedule the above date into your diary, and remember to copy and paste the Webinar link into it.

You can get in touch with us at vaccinatorauthorisations@health.govt.nz with any questions.

Thank you once again for your mahi.