



29 October 2021

Dear Service Provider

Vaccination Mandate for Waikato District Health Board

We are writing to you as a service provider who provides equipment, products and services to Waikato District Health Board (**Waikato DHB**). On 11 October 2021 the New Zealand Government announced that health and disability workers will be required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 under the [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Vaccinations\) Order 2021 \(the Order\)](#). The Order came into force on 25 October 2021.

The scope of the Order is broad and covers not only employees of health and disability providers but **also contractors, service providers and volunteers and others who provide services** in a setting where healthcare is provided.

Waikato DHB is a Person Conducting a Business or Undertaking (**PCBU**) under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (**the Act**) and is required to take steps to mitigate risks to our employees, those that provide us with services and health consumers. As such and in accordance with the Order, **any contractors, volunteers or service providers coming onto a DHB site, or delivering care and support services in a person's home or place of residence, will be required to be vaccinated to the same extent as if they were a DHB employee.**

This means that anyone in New Zealand who provides services in a healthcare setting is required to have at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine by 15 November 2021, and to have their second dose of the vaccine by 1 January 2022.

The only exception to this requirement is if the individual holds a medical exemption to receiving the vaccine. Waikato DHB does not grant these exemptions and the individual will need to be examined and be granted an exemption by a suitably qualified health practitioner. Where an exemption has been granted Waikato DHB will work alongside the contractor, volunteer or service provider to ensure all necessary and reasonable steps are put in place to mitigate the risk of the individual providing services on our site to our employees, health consumers and the individual.

As an employer, service providers will have obligations themselves as a PCBU for ensuring compliance with the vaccine order, and we recommend you familiarise yourselves with the requirements using the links below. We will communicate further next week with suppliers of Waikato DHB in how we will work together to ensure compliance with the vaccine order.

For more guidance on the Order and the exemption process can be found on the [Ministry of Health website here](#).

Yours sincerely,



Mark Cawthorne

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Waikato District Health Board

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