## Key Messages and Reactive QAs

## Book My Vaccine Upgrade on 16 March

Key Messages

* From 16 March, consumers will be able to use the Book My Vaccine website ([www.bookmyvaccine.co.nz)](http://www.bookmyvaccine.co.nz) to book appointments for their 2023 flu vaccinations, as well as their COVID-19 vaccinations.
* 2023 Flu Vaccine
  + You can get the 2023 flu vaccine from 1 April.
  + There are approximately 300 flu vaccination sites across Aotearoa who are set up to use Book My Vaccine to list their available vaccination appointments.
  + All locations will be visible on Book My Vaccine from 1 April. However, people can start searching the website now for appointments, noting that additional locations and appointments will be added daily.
* 2023 Additional COVID-19 vaccination
  + From 1 April, anyone aged 30 and over, and people aged 16 and over who are at higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19, can receive an additional dose as long as it’s been at least 6 months since their last COVID-19 vaccination or positive COVID-19 test.
  + Eligible people can now use Book My Vaccine to book an appointment for their additional COVID-19 dose from 1 April.
  + People are asked to carefully check that they are eligible to receive the additional dose before making their booking.

Reactive QAs

**How many flu vaccination sites are offering appointments on the Book My Vaccine website?**

There are approximately 300 flu-enabled vaccination sites across Aotearoa who are set up to use Book My Vaccine to list their available vaccination appointments. More vaccine providers are being added daily so this number will continue to grow.

Approximately 50 sites will be visible on the website from 16 March. All flu-enabled providers will be visible from 1 April.

**Can I book a flu vaccine for my whole family at the same time?**

Yes. You can book a vaccination for yourself, or a group of up to 30 people. Simply follow the on-screen prompts to book an appointment for your group.

**Can I book flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time and at the same location?**

Yes. You can book an appointment to receive flu and COVID-19 vaccines at the same time at the same vaccination site if they offer both vaccines. Simply follow the on-screen prompts to select the most convenient location for you.

**How do I know if I am eligible for a free flu vaccine?**

The flu vaccine is free for people at higher risk of getting very sick from the flu including:

* children aged 6 months to 12 years old
* pregnant people
* Māori and Pacific people over 55
* people aged 65 and over
* people with underlying health conditions including heart disease, cancer, diabetes and serious asthma
* people with significant mental illness such as schizophrenia or those currently accessing mental health services.

[Find out more about the flu vaccine](https://www.health.govt.nz/your-health/conditions-and-treatments/diseases-and-illnesses/influenza/flu-influenza-vaccines)

**Does Book My Vaccine tell me if I am eligible for a free vaccine when booking the appointment?**

When making a booking, you will be asked to check the eligibility criteria to see if this flu vaccine will be free, or if you have to pay for it. Based on your eligibility, you will then be asked to tick one of three boxes:

* *“Based on the free flu eligibility criteria, I expect this vaccine will be free”*
* *“I understand that I will have to pay for this flu vaccine”*
* *“I am using a free flu voucher and will choose a location listed on my voucher”*

**What is a free flu voucher? How can I get one? And how do I use it?**

Some employers provide free flu vaccines to their staff as part of their organisational policy. The employer will have a pre-arranged relationship with one or more flu-vaccine providers. Staff will be given a voucher which enables them to get a free flu vaccine at the agreed provider locations. The voucher must be presented at the location in order to receive the vaccine free of charge.

If you have a free flu voucher, when using Book My Vaccine to book your vaccination you must choose a location listed on your voucher.

**How much will I have to pay for the flu vaccine if I’m not eligible?**

If you’re not eligible for a free flu vaccine, and you are not covered by an employer-funded programme, it costs between $25 and $45 depending on the vaccine and provider.

You can contact the vaccine provider or providers you are considering booking with to find out how much they charge.

**Do I have to use Book My Vaccine to book a flu or COVID-19 vaccination?**

No. In addition to using Book My Vaccine you can also call Healthline on 0800 28 29 26, or contact your GP, pharmacy or healthcare provider.

**Will you be adding other vaccines to the website such as MMR?**

In the future, Book My Vaccine may be expanded to include additional vaccine types.