

# Briefing

## Updated Cabinet paper: Update on the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme

**Date due to MO:** 19 November 2020      **Action required by:** 19 November 2020

**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE      **Health Report number:** 20202049

**To:** Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of COVID-19 Response  
 Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health  
 Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Associate Minister of Health

**Copy to:** Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health  
 Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Health

### Contact for telephone discussion

Name	Position	Telephone
Dr Ashley Bloomfield	Director-General of Health	9(2)(a)
Maree Roberts	Deputy Director-General, System Strategy and Policy	9(2)(a)

### Minister's office to complete:

- |   |                                    |  |
|---|------------------------------------|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Approved             | <input type="checkbox"/> Decline   | <input type="checkbox"/> Noted               |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Needs change         | <input type="checkbox"/> Seen      | <input type="checkbox"/> Overtaken by events |
| <input type="checkbox"/> See Minister's Notes | <input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn |  |

Comment:



Released under the Official Information Act 1982

Released under the Official Information Act 1982

RECEIVED  
11 NOV 1982

# Updated Cabinet paper: Update on the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme

---

**Security level:** IN CONFIDENCE      **Date:** 19 November 2020

---

**To:** Hon Chris Hipkins, Minister of COVID-19 Response  
Hon Andrew Little, Minister of Health  
Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall, Associate Minister of Health

**Copy to:** Hon Peeni Henare, Associate Minister of Health  
Hon Aupito William Sio, Associate Minister of Health

---

## Purpose of report

1. This report provides you with a copy of the updated draft Cabinet paper *Update on the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme* and seeks your agreement to Ministerial consultation from 19 November 2020.

## Background

2. You have previously received the draft Cabinet paper *Update on the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme* and we sought your agreement to the following [*Health Report 20201926* refers]:
  - the purpose of the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy
  - the development of a Decision to Use Framework
  - the Sequencing Framework, and
  - officials providing an updated Cabinet paper for Ministerial consultation.
3. A separate Cabinet paper is being drafted on *COVID-19 Vaccine Strategy: Update on vaccine purchasing*. The intention is for Cabinet to consider both papers on the *COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme*, and *COVID-19 Vaccine Purchasing* together. This is because COVID-19 vaccine purchasing and the Immunisation Strategy and Programme are interconnected workstreams with shared priorities and draw upon funding from the same tagged contingency.

## Updates to the Cabinet paper

4. Officials have updated the draft Cabinet paper to more clearly highlight the progress on the COVID-19 Immunisation Programme to date and the range of measures being taken to ensure the Programme is successful, with particular reference to the lessons learnt from the 2020 influenza immunisation programme (paragraphs 29 – 33 refers).

5. The updated draft Cabinet paper also responds to specific feedback and provides updated information on the following:
- addressing security for vaccine supply (at paragraph 31)
  - the Sequencing Framework:
    - consideration of older people (at paragraphs 55 - 56)
    - engagement to develop the Sequencing Framework (at paragraphs 57)
    - minor changes and additions to Appendix 3: COVID-19 Vaccine Sequencing Framework (including a caveat around the definitions and data and inclusion of a 'change protocol' for the framework).
  - Financial implications and cost assumptions:
    - including updates to the financial estimates – in particular, increasing the contingency from five percent to 10 percent to help manage the considerable uncertainty around some costings; as well as the flow-on impacts of changes to vaccine purchasing assumptions (at Appendix 5)
    - changes to clarify the financial recommendations (Recommendations 13 and 14)
  - inclusion of Treasury's comment in the Cabinet paper (at paragraphs 88 - 90), and
  - changes throughout the paper, in consultation with the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment, to align it to the *COVID-19 Vaccine purchasing* Cabinet paper and reduce duplication. In particular, removing detail in the paper that discusses vaccine purchasing and aligning the financial implication sections.

### **Ministerial consultation and next steps**

6. The Ministry proposes the updated draft Cabinet paper is provided to the Ministers noted below for their feedback and comment by the end of 23 November 2020.
- Prime Minister
  - Minister of Finance
  - Minister of Research, Science and Innovation
  - Minister of Foreign Affairs
  - Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
  - Minister for Māori Development
  - Minister of Pacific Peoples
  - Minister of Justice
7. The Ministry will then incorporate any changes before providing you with the final Cabinet paper for approval on 25 November 2020 and lodgement the following day. This timing would allow the paper to be considered by the Cabinet Business Committee on 2 December 2020.

8. The following table summarises the proposed next steps for the Cabinet paper

Thursday 19 November	Draft Cabinet paper provided for Ministerial consultation
Monday 23 November (by end of day)	Feedback from Ministerial consultation due
Wednesday 25 November	You will receive the final Cabinet paper for approval
Thursday 26 November (by 10am)	The Cabinet paper is lodged
Wednesday 2 December	Cabinet Business Committee meeting
Monday 7 December	Cabinet

## Recommendations

We recommend you:

Hon Chris Hipkins	Hon Andrew Little	Hon Ayesha Verrall
----------------------	----------------------	--------------------------


- |   |               |               |               |
|---|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| a) <b>Note</b> updates have been made to the Cabinet paper on the <i>Update on the COVID-19 Immunisation Strategy and Programme</i> to reflect feedback received from the Minister of Health and the Office of Hon Chris Hipkins. | <b>Noted</b>  | <b>Noted</b>  | <b>Noted</b>  |
| b) <b>Agree</b> to circulate the attached updated Cabinet paper to the relevant Ministers for Ministerial consultation from 19 November 2020 and provide feedback to officials by 23 November 2020.                               | <b>Yes/No</b> | <b>Yes/No</b> | <b>Yes/No</b> |
| c) <b>Agree</b> that officials will provide you the final Cabinet paper following Ministerial consultation for approval on 25 November to lodge by 10am on 26 November 2020.  | <b>Yes/No</b> | <b>Yes/No</b> | <b>Yes/No</b> |



Dr Ashley Bloomfield  
**Director-General of Health**  
 Date:

Hon Andrew Little  
**Minister of Health**  
 Date:

Hon Chris Hipkins  
**Minister for COVID-19 Response**  
 Date:



Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall  
**Associate Minister of Health**  
 Date: 22/11/20

Released under the Official Information Act 1982