

Provisional authorisation for vaccinators and the Provisional Vaccinator Training course

Frequently asked questions

As part of the New Zealand COVID-19 response, it is essential that all immunisation services continue, with a focus on influenza vaccinations and an upcoming MMR campaign. In the future it will be important that we also have an increased vaccinator workforce to deliver a potential COVID-19 vaccine.

For these reasons, a pathway to **provisional authorisation** for vaccinators has been developed. The Provisional Vaccinator Training Course (PVTC) is the main component of this pathway.

Who can do this course?

Any HCP with a current annual practising certificate (APC) e.g. Well Child Tamariki Ora nurses, Registered Nurses working in Aged Care, Maori and Pacific health providers, school registered nurses, pharmacists not already vaccinating, enrolled nurses. Health professionals with expired APCs (e.g. retired HCPs) can also apply to complete the course.

Health science students such as third year student nurses and fourth year student doctors can also complete this training.

NOTE: if you have completed a Vaccinator Training Course in the last 2 years, but did not do a clinical assessment, or have not done your two-yearly update please contact imacadmin@auckland.ac.nz to see which course will best suit you.

How long is this course available for?

IMAC are offering this course through to April 2021.

Is the course free?

Yes, this course is free and available online on the IMAC website, immune.org.nz. You will need to create an account [Conectus Learning](#).

What does the course cover?

The online component covers information on vaccine preventable diseases, the immune system, the National Immunisation Schedule, vaccine composition and safety, storage of vaccines and informed consent. The live webinar tutorial will focus on vaccine administration. When a COVID-19 pandemic vaccine becomes available, an additional online course will be available for all vaccinators.

The course does not cover the peer assessment process.

For those needing to be authorised to administer NIS vaccine or wanting to be pharmacist vaccinators, you will need to enrol in a full Vaccinator Training Course, see the IMAC education flyer for course details, which can be found on the IMAC website immune.org.nz.

What are the steps to obtain provisional authorisation?

1. Request access to the PVTC (see the [education and training page](#) on immune.org.nz)
2. Complete:
 - a. Four hours online learning
 - b. One-hour webinar tutorial
 - c. Online assessment (40 multichoice questions).
 - d. A peer assessment of your clinical skills (minimum of two patients required).
3. Apply for provisional authorisation (you will need to have a current or expired CPR certification)
4. If not currently certified at CPR, book to do a CPR course, CORE Immediate or equivalent.

What will provisional authorisation cover?

Once the course, assessment and peer review are completed you will have provisional authorisation to administer influenza and MMR to those aged 3 years and older. Pharmacists are still restricted to those 13 years and above for influenza (funded and unfunded) and 16-50 years old for MMR. In the future any potential COVID-19 vaccine could be added to this authorisation.

The provisional authorisation allows you to vaccinate anywhere in New Zealand for a maximum of two years.

Do I have to be authorised by a Medical Officer of Health?

No, instead of Medical Officer of Health sign-off, provisional vaccinators are being authorised nationally by the Director of Public Health. IMAC will send this authorisation through following application and completion of the requirements.

Who can provide my peer assessment?

A currently authorised and experienced vaccinator or pharmacist vaccinator who is willing to assess you in your workplace. An experienced vaccinator is someone who has been vaccinating for at least two years. They will observe your vaccinations of at least two patients and fill in a peer-review form. The form is available on the IMAC website, immune.org.nz on the written resources page under 'Standards'. They are also available through the online tutorial materials.

What if I don't have access to an experienced vaccinator to do my peer assessment?

Contact your local immunisation coordinator to discuss this. If you do not currently work in an area that offers vaccination services, it may not be possible to complete the assessment until you are working within/alongside a vaccination service or as part of a COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Do I need a standing order or prescription for my peer assessment?

Yes, you will need a standing order or prescription to give the vaccines as part of your peer assessment. Once you have obtained your provisional authorisation, the standing order and prescription requirement is no longer needed for the administration of MMR or influenza vaccine. However, if you are administering other vaccines you will require standing orders or scripts for those vaccines.

How long does the provisional authorisation last for?

Provisional authorisation lasts a maximum of two years, most will expire on 30 June 2022.

To continue vaccinating after your provisional authorisation has expired you will need to do a specific IMAC bridging course, complete a clinical assessment by an Immunisation Coordinator and apply for authorisation from the Medical Officer of Health or let PSNZ know if you are a pharmacist.

How do I apply for my provisional authorisation?

Complete the online course, online assessment and peer assessment. Then complete the Provisional Authorisation application form. Email this application form **and** your completed peer assessment form through to the IMAC Education Office PVTC registrations (imacreg@auckland.ac.nz) to receive your provisional authorisation. Once approved, the office will email you a letter of authorisation.

Send a copy of your peer assessment and letter of authorisation to your local immunisation coordinator. Your local immunisation coordinator's details are found on the IMAC website immune.org.nz under 'Regional and Local Immunisation Coordinators'.

Do I need a CPR certificate?

You will need either a current or expired CPR certificate to apply for provisional authorisation. If you do not hold a current CPR certificate, you will need to enrol and complete an appropriate CPR course as soon as practically possible. Refer to Appendix 4 of the [Immunisation Handbook](#) for what is required to be covered in CPR courses for vaccinators. Not having a CPR will not prevent you from completing the course or online assessment.

Do pharmacists need to apply for provisional authorisation following the course?

Yes. As they have not completed the full requirements to be a Pharmacist Vaccinator, they are required to be authorised to give influenza and MMR vaccine. If a pharmacist wants to give the full scope of pharmacy vaccines, they will have to complete a full Vaccinator Training Course (VTC) and process.

Can paramedics and health students become provisional authorised vaccinators?

No, as they do not currently have an Annual Practising Certificate. They can however complete the course and vaccinate under standing orders. For paramedics, once the Paramedic Council has a registration process in place and paramedics complete this process, they will be able to apply for authorisation.

What happens if my job changes and I want to administer other vaccines?

You will need to complete a full VTC and meet the requirements of an authorised vaccinator or pharmacist vaccinator. If after June 2022 you wish to continue vaccinating, there will be a VTC specifically designed for you to become a fully authorised vaccinator or pharmacist vaccinator. This course will only be available in 2022 until the end of 2023.

The Provisional Authorisation pathway

