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Waitematā DHB achieves 90% double vaccination milestone for Pasifika population and first-dose 90% vaccination milestone for Māori as part of the metro-wide Auckland vaccine drive.

New Ministry of Health figures show 90% of the DHB's eligible Pasifika population has now received two doses of the COVID-19 vaccine.

The latest data also shows 90% of the DHB's eligible Māori population has received a first dose – a key step in efforts to reduce the impact of COVID-19 and its variants. Both milestones were achieved as part of the vaccination programme jointly led by DHBs across the whole metro-Auckland area.

Waitematā DHB CEO, Dr Dale Bramley, says vaccination will continue in the community over the coming weeks, with a specific focus on booster shots for people who received their second doses four months ago. Efforts to continue to lift Māori vaccination rates to achieve equity will continue and vaccinations for five to 11-year olds across the city will start on 17 January.

“We have seen the impact of Omicron overseas and learned how important vaccination is for the wellbeing of all communities. Booster shots are particularly important in helping protect us from the new Omicron variant. Full vaccination reduces the chances of people ending up in hospital. It lessens the likelihood of anyone passing the virus on to other people, including their whānau. The virus is not stopping, so neither should our efforts to protect our friends, our families and our community,” Dr Bramley says.

Vaccination centres in Westgate, Orewa and Albany are open again following the Christmas break. Henderson's vaccination centre re-opens on 24 January. More community-based options can be found on the <https://bookmyvaccine.covid19.health.nz/> website.

“Thank you to everyone who has worked so hard to achieve these latest milestones,” Dr Bramley says.

“The Māori and Pasifika communities and the many supporting service providers like Te Whānau o Waipareia and Te Ha, plus geographically-targeted pop-up vaccination centres aimed at specific Pacific groups have assisted – as has a large Pacific-led vaccination centre, set up in conjunction with Pacific Health provider, The Fono, at Westgate. In addition, there are currently close to 400 GPs and pharmacies across the city taking part in the vaccination roll-out. Everyone has really come together to make this happen.”

“Our advice to everyone is simple, get doubled-vaccinated and follow up with a booster shot to give yourself the best-possible protection.”

Ends.

For further information, contact:

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