

28 June 2021

**Note: this centre has now closed**

### **COVID-19 community vaccination options expand north with new Albany centre**

A second North Shore-based community COVID-19 vaccination centre was officially blessed and opened at Albany this morning – the fourth of its kind in the Waitematā DHB catchment.

The Albany centre will initially operate from Monday-to-Friday and will be capable of vaccinating up to 500 people per day once it is fully up to speed.

Vaccination is by appointment only and the centre is located at the end of Oaklands Rd, off the Albany Highway and near a number of major arterial routes. Free parking is available on-site.

Waitematā DHB is following national guidelines to ensure those most likely to be exposed to COVID-19, or at risk of catching it, receive their vaccination first.

The initial focus on border and frontline health workers (Group 1 and Group 2) has now expanded to include Group 3 - people who are over 65, pregnant people, those living with a disability and people with underlying health conditions that would make them more vulnerable than others if they contracted COVID-19.

People in Group 3 will receive a text or email over the next few weeks inviting them to book an appointment. They are encouraged to click on the link to book in as soon as they receive their invitation.

They might also receive an invitation from their GP or other local health provider.

All those over the age of 65 should now have received their invitations to book an appointment. If you are 65 and over and haven't received yours, or if you don't have an email or mobile phone, you can call the vaccination helpline on 0800 28 29 26 to make a booking.

Group 4 invitations will begin to be issued from the end of July, starting with people aged 60 and over. From August 11, people aged 55 and over will begin to receive invitations. Depending on vaccine supply and progress with other age groups, invitations will open up to people aged 45 and over from mid-to-late August and mid-to-late September for people aged 35 and over. Everyone else will be eligible from October.

The new facility complements the existing super clinic that opened at Birkenhead's Highbury Shopping Centre in May.

Waitematā DHB also operates COVID-19 vaccination clinics in partnership with community health providers Te Whānau o Waipareira in Henderson and The Fono at Westgate.

“Today’s opening is another positive step in our efforts to assist with the government’s national rollout by making vaccination as easy and accessible as we possibly can,” Waitemātā DHB COVID-19 Executive Lead Tamzin Brott says. “This centre will provide a convenient, closer-to home service for the many people who live and work in the upper reaches of our North Shore catchment.

“We also have seven general practices vaccinating people on the northern side of the harbour bridge, with another four ready to come on-stream in the same area over the next few weeks.

“This is being done on an appointment-only basis – either through the online booking system or co-ordinated directly by participating practices.”

The Northern Region Health Coordination Centre (NRHCC) is also working to enable pharmacies to provide vaccinations to the community, with a number of pharmacies in the Waitemātā area to begin providing this service over the next couple of months.

Matt Hannant, Programme Lead at NRHCC, is encouraging all the people in Group 3 who will receive an invitation over the next few weeks to make their booking straight away.

“We want to thank our northern communities for their very positive response to the vaccine invitations and for doing their part to keep their whānau and local community safe from COVID-19.

“As soon as you receive your invitation by text or email, we encourage you to click on the link and make a booking. Our vaccination centres are busy, so you may need to wait a few weeks for your appointment.

“People having any difficulties making a booking can also call our vaccination helpline on 0800 28 29 26.”

Translation services will be available at the new centre, if required, to meet the needs of the Korean and Chinese people who live in the greater Albany area.

People can find out more about who gets vaccinated when [here](#) .

**Ends.**

**For further information, contact:**

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