

# Memo

## **Pfizer dosing regimen for those arriving in New Zealand with a prior vaccine history: COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) recommendation**

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**Date:** 13 April 2021

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**To:** Jo Gibbs, Director of National Operations, COVID Vaccine Immunisation Programme

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**Cc:** Juliet Rumball-Smith, Chief Clinical Advisor, COVID-19 Immunisation, Testing and Supply

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**From:** Dr Ian Town, Chief Science Advisor  
Dr Caroline McElnay, Director of Public Health

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**For your:** Information

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### **Purpose of report**

1. To outline the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group's recommendation following a request for advice on the Pfizer dosing regimen for those arriving in New Zealand with a prior vaccine history.

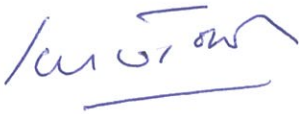
### **Context**

2. Historically, the safety, efficacy, and interchangeability of vaccines has not been well explored. In the case of COVID-19, the vaccines use relatively novel technologies, with little experience of using these vaccines for a longer term and with mixed schedules.
3. Instances will inevitably arise with persons travelling to New Zealand from other countries and are likely to occur more frequently once travel opens with Australia, where the AstraZeneca vaccine will be the most commonly used.
4. This requires a standard vaccination approach for New Zealand where, for the time being, only the Pfizer vaccine is approved and available. Formal immunogenicity and safety studies of mixed schedules are underway in the UK, but there are currently no data available.
5. Over time, a variety of vaccine histories from arrivals in New Zealand will present similar issues. This issue does not apply to single dose vaccine regimens, such as the Janssen vaccine.

### **Recommendations**

6. CV TAG members were asked to consider one of the following options for where a single dose of another two-dose regimen vaccine is documented:
  - a) **Single dose of the Pfizer vaccine at least 4 weeks after the first vaccine dose.**

- b) Re-start with two doses of the Pfizer vaccine, disregarding previous alternative vaccine dosing.
- 7. **The CV TAG recommended that option (a) should be implemented.**
- 8. Once available and approved, a third option may include further dose(s) of AstraZeneca or a single dose of the Janssen vaccine.
- 9. CV-TAG also advised that the CIR will need to be able to record any such individuals as having completed their vaccination and to not recall them for a second dose.



Dr Ian Town

**Chief Science Advisor and**

**Chair of the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group**