

# Memo

## **Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy: COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) recommendations**

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<b>Date:</b>	27 May 2021
<b>To:</b>	Joanne Gibbs, Director of National Operations, COVID Vaccine Immunisation Programme
<b>Cc:</b>	Juliet Rumball-Smith, Chief Clinical Advisor, COVID-19 Immunisation, Testing and Supply Dr Caroline McElnay, Director of Public Health
<b>From:</b>	Dr Ian Town, Chief Science Advisor
<b>For your:</b>	Information

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### **Purpose of report**

1. To outline the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group's revised recommendations for use of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine in pregnancy.

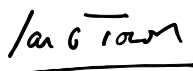
### **Context**

2. Following Medsafe's provisional approval of the Pfizer mRNA COVID-19 vaccine (Comirnaty, BNT162b2) for people 16 years and over on 3 February 2021, the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) met on 4 February 2021 to provide the scientific and technical assessment of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine and outlined recommendations on its use for New Zealand's Vaccine Immunisation Programme.
3. CV TAG recommended that the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine is suitable for use in pregnancy. However, as there was no data available on outcomes in pregnant women at the time, pregnant women were advised to discuss the risks and benefits of receiving the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine with their health professional.
4. There is now a wider body of safety data available for the COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant persons and a number of international bodies have recommended the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy. CV TAG were provided with a literature review on COVID-19 vaccines and pregnancy and a proposed revised recommendation prepared by Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC).
5. It was highlighted that pregnancy is an immune-compromised state, with pregnant persons being at higher risk of severe outcomes from COVID-19 infection. There have been no short-term toxicity issues identified with the COVID-19 vaccine in preclinical studies and there are no first principle reasons to exclude pregnant persons from being offered the COVID-19 vaccine. Moreover, emerging real world data is showing that the Pfizer vaccine is safe in

pregnant persons. Based on this, CV TAG were requested to revise the current recommendation for COVID-19 vaccines in pregnancy to reflect the latest data.

## Recommendations

6. CV TAG met on 25 May 2021 to discuss the revised recommendation.
7. CV TAG noted that:
  - a) The messaging around pregnancy needs to be clear as the vaccine rollout moves into group three, which will include pregnant women.
  - b) Data on the safety of the COVID-19 vaccine in pregnant persons have been reported and international bodies have recommended the COVID-19 vaccine during pregnancy.
  - c) Without a clear updated recommendation, it may be difficult to pivot advice rapidly, in the event of an outbreak, to allow pregnant persons to be vaccinated.
8. CV TAG agreed that the current recommendation should be revised to include more clarity. It was noted that this will be followed up with a complex engagement process with various stakeholders.
9. **CV TAG recommends that pregnant persons are routinely offered COVID-19 vaccination at any stage of pregnancy.**



Dr Ian Town

**Chief Science Advisor and**

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