



## **Joint COVID-19 Vaccination Position Statement for Patients and Whānau affected by kidney disease in Aotearoa New Zealand**

### **Tēnā koutou**

### **Who are we?**

The Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN) and the Renal Society of Australasia (RSA) are the two Professional Societies that represent health professionals (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, allied health, scientists and others) who look after people with kidney disease and Kidney Health New Zealand (KHNZ) is the patient organisation for people living with kidney disease.

### **What do we recommend about vaccinating against COVID-19 for patients with Kidney Disease?**

Vaccination is an important strategy to help reduce the risk of COVID-19.

We have written to the New Zealand Government to make them aware that kidney patients and their whānau or household contacts/papakāinga are priority groups.

### **We recommend that people with kidney disease get vaccinated.**

We know that patients with kidney disease are more likely to be infected with coronavirus and more likely to get sick. Patients receiving dialysis or those with a transplant are most at risk. Patients receiving immune suppressing drugs, or patients with diabetes, heart disease or other serious health problems are also at increased risk.

The 4 vaccines purchased by New Zealand are generally suitable for people with kidney disease including those treated with dialysis or a kidney transplant. Check with your treating health practitioner that you do not have any other medical condition that is a reason not to get a particular vaccine [for example, severe allergy].

### **How can I get the Vaccine?**

Kidney patients, whānau and papakāinga will be in Group Three of the planned New Zealand COVID-19 Vaccine Roll out later in 2021.

All kidney, dialysis and transplant Units in Aotearoa New Zealand are working with District Health Boards to find the best way to make the vaccine available to their patients. It may be different for each unit.

Talk to your kidney doctors or nurses, or your GP to decide upon the best plan for you once the vaccine is available.

### **Where can I get more information?**

The information we have is constantly changing so make sure you keep yourself up to date. Here are some websites with trusted and reliable information.

- Ministry of Health Manatū Hauora [www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines](http://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines)
- New Zealand Government [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)
- Kidney Health Australia [www.kidney.org.au](http://www.kidney.org.au)
- Transplant Australia [www.transplant.org.au](http://www.transplant.org.au)

**Please remember physical distancing, hand hygiene and face coverings are still very important to help protect you from COVID-19.**

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***Important notice***

*This statement has been developed by the Australian and New Zealand Society of Nephrology (ANZSN), the Renal Society of Australasia (RSA) and Kidney Health New Zealand (KHNZ) for the general information of members of the public with kidney disease or who have had a kidney transplant, and their treating general practitioners.*

*The ANZSN, RSA and KHNZ have each made reasonable efforts to ensure that the information in this statement is as accurate as possible and that their recommendation is based on current New Zealand regulatory approvals, and the most current peer-reviewed clinical and scientific evidence. This Statement is for general information and guidance purposes only, and should not be considered a substitute for specific medical or clinical advice, nor a substitute for professional advice and judgement provided by a healthcare service or healthcare professional, in individual cases.*

*Treatment decisions of individuals with kidney disease, or who have had a kidney transplant, should be made in consultation with their treating health practitioners.*

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