

17 March 2022

Pharmac Te Pātaka Whaioranga
Simpl House, Level 9
40 Mercer Street, Wellington 6011
vaccines@pharmac.govt.nz

Re: Proposal to widen access to influenza vaccine

Tēnā koe

Regional Public Health (RPH) would like to formally register our agreement and support for Pharmac's proposal to widen the access to influenza vaccine.

RPH is the public health unit for the greater Wellington region (Wairarapa, Hutt Valley and Capital & Coast District Health Boards). Our purpose is to improve, promote and protect the health and wellbeing of the population in the greater Wellington region with a focus on achieving equity.

The upcoming flu season will have a disproportionate impact on our most vulnerable populations who are already struggling with the impact of COVID-19. Widening access will contribute to improving equitable health outcomes for Māori and Pacific peoples. RPH fully supports the widening of access to the influenza vaccine to protect those who are vulnerable.

RPH also recommends:

- To ensure equitable health outcomes, Pharmac take a whole-of-household approach for Māori and Pacific people households who have members who are 55 years or older
- Widening access is supported by clear public messaging
- Proactive delivery of vaccines to this group
- Māori and Pacific health organisations are resourced appropriately to deliver this
- Consideration be given to making this standard practice for subsequent years

The contact point for this submission is:

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Nāku noa, nā

Dr Craig Thornley
Clinical Head of Department

Peter Gush
General Manager