

1 million more Pfizer doses to arrive in July

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Doses of the Pfizer COVID-19 vaccine will arrive in weekly drops from mid July.

Pfizer has scheduled delivery of an estimated 1 million doses of vaccine to New Zealand during July.

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These deliveries will double the total number of Pfizer doses New Zealand has received this year to more than 1,900,000 – enough to fully vaccinate almost 1 million Kiwis.

The doses will arrive in weekly drops, ramping up in quantity from mid July as the wider population roll out happens.

The drops will enable us to continue vaccinating Groups 1, 2, and 3, while giving us the certainty needed to start the general population rollout as planned.

The supplies means DHBs can keep delivering to their plans and start accelerating their way through Group 3 from mid July – which is everyone over the age of 65 and people with disabilities and some underlying health conditions. It's a group of more than 1 million people and will take time to work through. As Group 4 starts, vaccination efforts will significantly ramp up.

Around 20,000 doses a day are currently being administered and the Pfizer deliveries throughout July will enable this to increase significantly. At the peak of the programme in August and September it's expected around 50,000 doses per day will be given.

Our vaccine plan is on track

To date, over a quarter of a million people have been vaccinated. Our strategy has meant we've largely avoided having to stretch the time between first and second doses as many countries have.

Work is well under way to set up more vaccination sites, deliver mass vaccination events, and bring more GPs and pharmacies on-board to help with the rollout.

While the ongoing pandemic can impact vaccine delivery schedules, Pfizer has given us further assurances that the remaining deliveries for 2021 are also on track, just as their deliveries to date have been.

We have vaccinated more people than we had planned for at this point in time and more than 6,800 vaccinators have completed the necessary training to administer the Pfizer vaccine.

We have one of the best vaccines in the world and starting later next month we will start making it available, for free, to everyone in New Zealand over the age of 16.