

## Wording for Pānui

### Vaccination Passports TPOTI Regionals, Karāprio 2021

Te Puku o Te Ika is committed to hosting safe and enjoyable Regional Sprint Champs leading up to the Waka Ama Nationals and World Sprint Champs in 2022. However, the situation with the Delta outbreak in Aotearoa remains a concern. We have a duty of care for our region's paddlers and whānau and would like to ensure that we protect everyone from the spread of COVID-19.

After considering all the information about COVID-19 and taking into account the traffic light system announced by the NZ Government, the Board of Te Puku o Te Ika has made the decision to support vaccinations of paddlers for all Te Puku o Te Ika events going forward.

Under the new Covid Protection Framework :traffic light system, no event with more than 100 participants would be able to go ahead unless participants are fully vaccinated. In addition, while the World Sprint Champs in London are still scheduled to go ahead, they will require all paddlers to be fully vaccinated.

Therefore, we want to start gearing up our waka ama community to meet these criteria. Paddlers not fully vaccinated will not be eligible to participate in Te Puku o Te Ika events or be able to qualify for the Waka Ama Nationals through the Te Puku o Te Ika regional events.

For our upcoming Regional Sprint Champs, if official vaccination certificates via the NZ Government are not yet in place, we will be asking all paddlers 12 years or older (and the volunteers that assist in the running of the events) to confirm their vaccination status by way of our event liability forms. If the Covid Protection Framework is in place, all attendees at the event will need to present their Covid Vaccination certificate. More information on this will be released in the coming weeks.

Importantly, if you have not had your vaccination yet, there is still time. With the minimum 3-week gap between the first and second shot, plus 2 weeks after, paddlers can be fully vaccinated in time for our Regionals.(It takes 5 weeks to be fully vaccinated)

Our decision was not made lightly as everyone has the right to make a personal choice and we would like to respect each individual decision. However, we have a duty of care to ensure our event is safe for all present and have received enough guidance and direction to pursue this course of action. We want to minimise the risk of paddlers and whānau being exposed to or potentially spreading COVID-19. Vaccination with the COVID-19 vaccine is one of the best ways to help protect your whānau against COVID-19.

High vaccination rates protect our whole community, including those who can't be vaccinated for medical and age reasons. We all need to work together to reduce the spread

of COVID-19. We have included below a list of common questions related to our stance on vaccinations.

**Frequently Asked Questions:**

*Can I still paddle in the region if I am not vaccinated?*

- You can still paddle for your own club and in your own time but not in Te Puku o Te Ika sanctioned events as there is a risk of you being exposed and or potentially exposing others to COVID-19.

*How does the entry system work for paddlers?*

- All attendees at events, paddlers, volunteers, organisers, support crew and spectators will be required to sign a form to confirm that they have been vaccinated. If you have not signed the form, you will not be eligible to enter any events organised by Te Puku o Te Ika.

*If you have not been vaccinated to date, is it still possible to enter the upcoming Regional Sprint Champs?*

- There is enough time to get double vaccinated in time for our upcoming Regionals.
- Full Vaccination requires a 5-week time frame.

*Where can I get more information about the vaccine?*

- Go to [FAQs: Doctors Stand Up For Vaccination](#).

Ministry of Health COVID Website	<a href="https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public">https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public</a>
immunisation advisory centre	<a href="https://www.immune.org.nz/">https://www.immune.org.nz/</a>

COVID-19 Website (Vaccines)	<a href="https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/">https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/</a>
Te Rōpu Whakakaupapa Urutā	<a href="https://www.uruta.maori.nz/">https://www.uruta.maori.nz/</a>
Vaccination Information Webinar with Dr Matire Harwood, Dr Anthony Jordan and Dr Jamie-Lee Rahiri	<a href="https://www.wakaama.co.nz/stories/read/1005780">https://www.wakaama.co.nz/stories/read/1005780</a>

*Where can I get General Government information and updates?*

- Go to [Unite against COVID-19](#).
- <https://wakaama.co.nz/stories/read/1005798>