

# Memo

## Extending age groups who can receive COVID-19 vaccine

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**Date:** 13 August 2021

**To:** Dr Ashley Bloomfield, Director General of Health

**Copy to:**

**From:** Dr Ian Town, Chief Science Advisor, Ministry of Health

**For your:** Action

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### Purpose of the memo

1. This is a noting memo confirming support from the COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group (CV TAG) to extend the age of people who can receive the Pfizer-BioNTech comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine to 12 to 15 year-olds.

### Background and context

2. CV TAG convened by email on 12 August to discuss extending eligibility for the vaccine.
3. There was agreement that children aged 12 to 15 years should be vaccinated.
4. Potential benefits include helping to provide equitable vaccination coverage in Māori and Pacific Peoples, as young people represent a greater proportion in these communities compared to the overall population, and given that Māori and Pacific Peoples are higher risk from COVID-19.
5. It was also noted that this would likely lead to a reduction on school closures and disruption in the education system.

### Recommendations

It is recommended that you:

1.	Note	CV TAG supports extending the eligibility for the Pfizer-BioNTech comirnaty COVID-19 vaccine 12-15 year-olds	
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Signature \_\_\_\_\_



Date: 13/08/2021

Dr Ashley Bloomfield  
**Director General of Health**

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