

What is a TME

- a) A TME was a document issued by MOH/Te Whatu Ora which stated the holder was exempt from having a vaccine. Without a vaccine, the Vaccine Certificate (an official document which shows the vaccination and booster status of an individual) could not be issued. Under some COVID-19 restrictions, a Vaccine Certificate was necessary for employment, access to business, using services, etc.
- b) TMEs were:
 - a. Limited to situations where a suitable alternative COVID-19 vaccination is not readily available
 - b. Time specific. This considered: recovery from clinical conditions; availability of alternative vaccines; establishing specialised supportive care arrangements for the administration of the vaccine.
- c) If a TME was granted, the applicant was provided with a copy of the exemption. The exemption was valid for a maximum of six months. With most exemptions granted a time period between 3-6 months.
- d) If the circumstances still applied after six months, the applicant could reapply for another exemption.

Process to gain a TME

- e) Applications were submitted by a health professional on behalf of the individual against the exemption criteria. The applications were required to be detailed and with supporting information.
- f) The applications could be submitted under either:
 - a. COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 clause (9. 9A, 9B); or
 - b. COVID-19 Public Health Response (COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate) Order 2021 clause 6. (Order revoked on 17 June 2022)
- b) The TME Categories and associated clinical criteria and advice was regularly updated and available on the MOH website: [Vaccine Temporary Medical Exemption Clinical Criteria](#). CVTAG provide the latest clinical advice that informs this.
- g) Applications were submitted to MOH/Te Whatu Ora and were considered by a panel of experts (the Temporary Medical Exemptions Panel "The Panel").
- h) The Panel included medical and nurse practitioners, with relevant expertise including immunology, neurology, pharmacology, general medicine, psychiatry, paediatrics, and primary health care expertise. The panel also consulted with appropriate external experts as required.
- i) The Panel made its recommendation to the DG of Health who then made the final decision to grant or turn down the application.
- j) Once a recommendation and decision had been made there was no review process. If further medical evidence became available, the applicant could reapply for an TME.

Establishing the clinical criteria for a TME

- k) The Temporary Medical Exemption categories and criteria were regularly reviewed, with input from both the TME Panel and [COVID-19 Vaccine Technical Advisory Group](#), who provided science advice and decisions to the Vaccination Programme, including the latest scientific advice available.
- l) Clinical criteria and advice was regularly updated and available on the MOH website : [Vaccine Temporary Medical Exemption Clinical Criteria](#)