



OFFICE OF THE PRIME MINISTER
HON MARK BROWN
GOVERNMENT OF THE COOK ISLANDS

MEDIA RELEASE
COVID-19 VACCINATION PROCESS
17 MAY 2021

With the first delivery of COVID-19 vaccine now here and the vaccination process about to commence, Prime Minister Mark Brown is urging all Cook Islands residents to take advantage of this opportunity to protect themselves and their loved ones from COVID-19.

First to be vaccinated will be our frontline health workers and border staff, followed by Rarotonga-based accommodation staff.

As an example to our people, the country's Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, House of Ariki representatives and other community leaders will also be vaccinated this week.

Vaccination for members of the general public on Rarotonga is then scheduled to proceed from May 22, and it is envisioned that all eligible Rarotonga residents will have received their first dose of the vaccine by June 1, before vaccination begins on Aitutaki from June 2 and across the rest of the Pa Enua from June 28.

All Rarotonga residents should have received their second dose of the vaccine by June 21, Aitutaki residents by June 24, and the entire rest of the Pa Enua by August 5.

"I cannot stress enough how important it is that all our eligible residents make use of this vaccine," said Prime Minister Brown.

"It is free. It is effective. It will save lives. There is no doubting this fact."

The COVID-19 vaccine we are utilising is the Pfizer vaccine, which is also being used in New Zealand and has been shown to be 95 per cent effective at preventing symptomatic infection.

All residents in the Cook Islands aged 16 and over are eligible for vaccination and the government has secured sufficient vaccine stocks to vaccinate the entire eligible population of the Cook Islands.

Further details on the timing of the vaccine rollout, the vaccination process and other pertinent information will be provided by Te Marae Ora over the coming days and will also be made available on the TMO website at covid19.gov.ck/vaccination.

Ends: Any enquiries to Press Secretary, Jaewynn McKay +682 55486