

Free Vaccine Certificates 7 January 2022 (CKT)

Health ministry Te Marae Ora (TMO) will be issuing free vaccination certificates at the National Auditorium between 9am and 3pm this coming week, starting from Monday, January 10.

All those who have received either the double dose Pfizer vaccine or the double dose and the booster dose Covid-19 vaccination shots are strongly encouraged to pick up their certificates, which will be issued alphabetically, starting with those whose surnames begin with the letters A through I on Monday, January 10; followed by surnames beginning with the letters J through R on Tuesday, January 11; and surnames beginning with the letters S through Z on Wednesday, January 12.

If you have not already brought in either your passport or birth certificate, you will need to bring one of these documents with you to the Auditorium in order to be issued your free vaccination certificate.

While TMO is still in the process of setting up a digital registration system for all Cook Islands residents who have been vaccinated against Covid-19, these paper certificates will allow people access to places or facilities here in the Cook Islands that will require proof of vaccination from the time our new health regulations take effect on January 13.

From January 13 onwards, certain venues, businesses and other facilities defined as high-risk by TMO will require proof of vaccination before entry is allowed, so it is very important that all those who are vaccinated have their certificates with them.

There will be no entry restrictions to any businesses, events or venues if all the attendees are vaccinated.

Restrictions will apply if there is going to be a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated people in attendance at any events or venues or entering any businesses that are defined as **HIGH-RISK** facilities.

A **high-risk** facility is one that does not have two-way air ventilation.

Examples of **high-risk premises** are defined as:

- (i) premises where a close-proximity business or service is undertaken:
- (ii) a bar or nightclub:
- (iii) an enclosed cafe or restaurant and, if part of a cafe or restaurant is enclosed, the enclosed part:
- (iv) a gym:
- (v) a cinema:
- (vi) a gallery:

- (vii) a church:
- (viii) a school hall if 100 or more children are expected to be inside the hall at the applicable time:
- (ix) a bank:
- (x) enclosed retail premises and, if part of retail premises is enclosed, the enclosed part:
- (xi) an enclosed office space open to the public:
- (xii) any other premises specified as high-risk premises by the Secretary under clause 2;

High-risk premises do not include:

- a supermarket; or
- a dairy or grocery store; or
- a pharmacy; or
- a school or other educational institution; or
- a petrol station; or
- a court or tribunal.

The best way to define a high-risk facility is by using the 3 C's:

- Closed Spaces
- Crowded Spaces
- Close Contact Settings

The following restrictions will apply for any high-risk facility.

- Limited to 100 persons if a mixture of vaccinated and unvaccinated people are in attendance.
- Minimal physical distancing of 1 metre
- Face masks to be worn
- No limit on numbers if all in attendance are vaccinated.

These paper certificates will also allow travel to the Pa Enea, which will also require proof of vaccination from January 13 onwards – although it should be noted that the vaccination requirement for travel to the Pa Enea does not apply to those who were already resident in the Cook Islands prior to January 13 and who have not left the Cook Islands.

These paper certificates are an interim measure until the digital version, compatible with New Zealand's one has been developed in the first quarter of this year. Those wishing to travel to New Zealand can apply for the NZ My Vaccine Pass using their current vaccination details.

For more information on the issuing of vaccination certificates and what is required, visit www.health.gov.ck and for queries – email tmo.updmyname@cookislands.gov.ck or contact us on Phone: 22664.

For more information visit:

www.covid19.gov.ck

www.health.gov.ck

ENDS: Contact Jaewynn McKay; jaewynn.mckay@cookislands.gov.ck +682 55486