The McGuinness Institute is a non-partisan think tank working towards a sustainable future. LINK: <a href="www.mcguinnessinstitute.org">www.mcguinnessinstitute.org</a>. This opinion piece is adapted from Think Piece 37: The gap between does matters! (June 2021).

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> RNZ. (2021, 26 June). Dr Chris Smith: Covid-19 science news. Retrieved 27 June 2021 from <a href="https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio\_id=2018801411">https://www.rnz.co.nz/audio/player?audio\_id=2018801411</a>. Chris is a consultant clinical virologist at Cambridge University, and one of BBC Radio 5 Live's Naked Scientists. He has been a regular interviewee with Kim Hill over the pandemic.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Public Health England. (2021, 9 June). COVID-19 vaccination programme: Information for healthcare practitioners, p.15. Retrieved 27 June 2021 from

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\_data/file/992270/CO VID-19 vaccination programme guidance for healthcare workers 09 June 2021 v3.8.pdf

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> WHO. (2021, 25 June). The Pfizer BioNTech (BNT162b2) COVID-19 vaccine: What you need to know. Retrieved 28 June 2021 from <a href="https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/who-can-take-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19--vaccine">https://www.who.int/news-room/feature-stories/detail/who-can-take-the-pfizer-biontech-covid-19--vaccine</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> See for example: (i) University of Birmingham. Delaying second Pfizer vaccines to 12 weeks significantly increases antibody responses in older people, finds study. (2021, 14 May). Retrieved 28 June 2021 from <a href="https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2021/05/covid-pfizer-vaccination-interval-antibody-response.aspx">https://www.birmingham.ac.uk/news/latest/2021/05/covid-pfizer-vaccination-interval-antibody-response.aspx</a>. (ii) Neutralising antibody activity against SARS-CoV-2 VOCs B.1.617.2 and B.1.351 by BNT162b2 vaccination. The Lancet. (2021, 3 June). Retrieved 28 June 2021 from <a href="https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01290-3/fulltext">https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(21)01290-3/fulltext</a>

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> The Conversation. (2021, 18 June). What if I can't get in for my second Pfizer dose and the gap is longer than 3 weeks? Retrieved 28 June 2021 from <a href="https://theconversation.com/what-if-i-cant-get-in-for-my-second-pfizer-dose-and-the-gap-is-longer-than-3-weeks-162857">https://theconversation.com/what-if-i-cant-get-in-for-my-second-pfizer-dose-and-the-gap-is-longer-than-3-weeks-162857</a>