

(Neilson, 2021c)

NEW ZEALAND | Politics

Covid 19 coronavirus: South Auckland mass vaccination event should address 'failure' of rollout for Māori, Pasifika

15 Jul, 2021 05:00 AM

🕒 6 minutes to read

The mass vaccination would be targeted at Manukau Institute of Technology students and their families - and would be an opportunity for people in group 4 to be vaccinated ahead of schedule.

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A mass vaccination event in South Auckland needs to address the failure so far to vaccinate vulnerable groups including Māori, Pasifika, and those in south Auckland, health experts say.

Five months into the vaccine rollout and nearly 1.4 million doses having been administered, the rate of Māori fully vaccinated is more than 40 per cent behind Pākehā per capita.

Pasifika are also about 20 per cent behind, despite both groups being identified as at twice as at-risk from Covid-19 and expert advice they be prioritised.

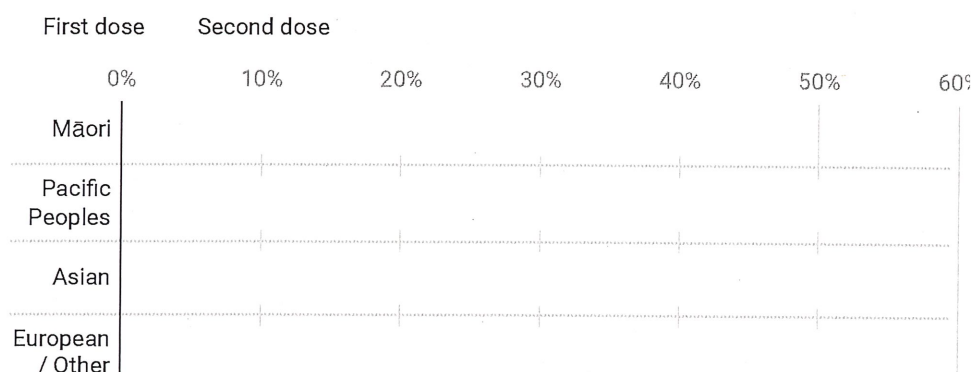
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Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins said these reasons, and proximity to the border, were behind the country's first mass vaccination event, delivering 15,000 doses over three days, being held in Manukau, South Auckland.

The event would target Manukau Institute of Technology students, staff and families and take place at the Vodafone Events Centre over the weekend of Friday, July 30, to Sunday, August 1.

Other population centres with density could expect to see similar events to "top up" vaccination rates, he said.

Percentage vaccinated by ethnicity



Rates are calculated using Ministry of Health's HSU population numbers. For people identifying with multiple ethnic groups, only the first is used (ordered by Māori, Pacific Peoples, Asian and European/Other).

Choosing Manukau was also in recognition of low vaccination rates for Auckland, tracking about 40,000 doses or seven per cent behind schedule.

Across New Zealand the rate of Māori fully vaccinated per capita is about 42 per cent behind European/Other New Zealanders.

Data analysis by the Herald cross-referencing Ministry of Health vaccine data with Stats NZ population data has found just 6.8 per cent of Māori have been fully vaccinated, compared to 11.6 per cent of European/Other, 11.5 per cent Asian ethnicity, and 9.4 per cent Pacific Peoples.

And the gap between Māori and European/Other is widening, up from 39 per cent two weeks ago, despite the rollout having moved well into group 3, which has a strong focus on Māori.

Due to differences in recording ethnicity between the departments - Stats NZ allows multiple ethnicities while the ministry records just one in order of priority with Māori first -

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