



GOVERNMENT OF NIUE

MEDIA RELEASE

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NIUE PAEDIATRIC VACCINATION ROLLOUT APPROVED FOR CHILDREN AGED 5 - 11 YEARS AND MIQ UPDATES

Government of Niue Rollout Pfizer / BioNTech Vaccine For Children

Alofi, Niue – 7 February 2022 – The Government of Niue today announced that it had approved the rollout of its Pfizer and BioNTech (Comirnaty) programme to vaccinate its youth aged 5 to 11 years of age starting on 14 February 2022.

Niue is one of the few countries in the world to be COVID-19 free and has fully vaccinated over 97% of its eligible population aged 12 years and older. Over 96% of the 18-year-olds and over have received their booster shots in the past two weeks.

The Premier of Niue, Hon. Dalton Tagelagi says the Government of Niue's priority is always about protecting the wellbeing and safety of the Niue people, including its young people, with the vaccine programme.

Minister of Health, Hon. Sauni Tongatule says that it is important for our children to get their vaccination to protect them from COVID-19.

"Getting our children vaccinated is a great way to help protect our youngsters and keep all of our communities safe. The evidence shows that while children may have milder symptoms, some will still get very sick and end up in hospital if they do get COVID-19 so being vaccinated is the best form of protection," says Hon. Tongatule.

"Niue is extremely fortunate that we have not yet had a COVID-19 case come through our border, and we are ensuring that the majority of our population is protected by vaccinating our children. Getting vaccinated also helps prevent them from passing it on to more vulnerable family members, like babies and elderly family members. For this reason, Niue has now approved the rollout of the Pfizer vaccine to Niue children aged 5 to 11 years old, with a 3 – 8 weeks gap between doses," Hon. Tongatule further added.

The Director of Health and Chief Medical Officer, Dr Edgar Akau'ola assures that the vaccine is very safe for Children.

"The COVID-19 vaccine used for children has a lower dose and smaller volume than the adult vaccine and is administered using a smaller needle. To be fully immunised against COVID-19, a child needs to get two doses of the vaccine and given at least eight weeks apart," says Dr Akau'ola.

"We're looking forward to vaccinating our children during our annual health checks for children programme. All our staff who will be administering the vaccine to the children have been specially trained in childhood immunisations and are ready to answer any questions from parents or kids," says Dr Edgar Akau'ola.

For those who have not yet been vaccinated or received their booster shot, please get in touch with the Department of Health today.

The GON would like to thank our Health team for their continued efforts to vaccinate our eligible population.

The GON would also like to remind Niue residents who depart Niue for overseas travel that Managed Isolation and Quarantine (MIQ) spaces are limited and may decrease in the coming weeks. Therefore, it is paramount that the Office of the Secretary to Government is informed of all overseas travel plans before departing Niue to avoid disappointment.

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For further information or any questions, please contact the DG of Ministry of Social Services, Gaylene Tasmania, Gaylene.Tasmania@mail.gov.nu or the Secretary of Government on +683 4308 or email on Niue.secgov@mail.gov.nu.