

<b>Status</b>	<b>Draft</b> / For review / Final
<b>Channel</b>	Email from Brendan] to whole country
<b>Focus</b>	COVID-19 – Flu Vaccinations
<b>Timing</b>	26 March 2020
<b>Review</b>	Nicky Chilton, Paul Berrington, Mandy Simpson, April Christie, ELT (tbc)
<b>Final approval</b>	Brendan Nally

**Subject: COVID-19 update: Flu vaccinations**

Kia ora koutou

Keeping ourselves safe and healthy is the most important thing we can do as we focus on keeping our communities safe during this pandemic.

Therefore, I'm very pleased to let you know that flu vaccinations have been prioritised for Fire and Emergency operational personnel and non-operational 'essential' personnel, as part of New Zealand's H5N1 pre-pandemic vaccine policy.

While the flu vaccine won't protect you against COVID-19, it will help to protect you from getting the flu, which infects around one quarter of New Zealanders each year. Reducing the risk of flu hitting our frontline personnel means keeping our capability strong, and doing our bit to reduce any additional pressure on our health system caused by flu.

All the information you need about how to get your flu vaccination is on the [Flu Vaccinations COVID-19 Portal page](#) [link to come]. If you have any questions about getting a flu vaccination please email them to [covid@fireandemergency.nz](mailto:covid@fireandemergency.nz).

All other non-operational FENZ personnel will be able to access the flu vaccination as normal, when it is made available to the general public.

Ngā mihi

Brendan