

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR LEARNERS: NORTHTEC REQUIRED VACCINATION POLICY (JAN 2022)

What is NorthTec's Covid-19 vaccination policy?

From Monday, 17 January 2022, NorthTec requires all ākonga (learners), kaimahi (staff), contractors and visitors to be fully vaccinated or have a Ministry of Health-approved vaccine exemption. This applies to any NorthTec site, including off-campus learning that involves face-to-face interaction. Anyone coming onto NorthTec sites or using NorthTec vehicles must be able to show their *My Vaccine Pass*, and this must be recorded. There are some fully-online programmes that do not involve any campus access or face-to-face staff contact, which therefore do not require vaccination.

Why has this decision been made?

NorthTec has a duty to provide a safe environment for everyone, and vaccination is the best way to achieve this.

The policy also gives certainty that face-to-face teaching can continue under every setting of the Covid-19 Protection Framework (traffic light system).

What does fully vaccinated mean?

To be verified as fully vaccinated for NorthTec's purposes you must be able to obtain a New Zealand Government-issued *My Vaccine Pass*. This can currently be obtained by having two doses of an approved vaccination. More information about getting a *My Vaccine Pass* can be found [here](#).

I have a medical exemption, will this be accepted?

Yes, if you have an official medical exemption issued by the Ministry of Health, you will still be able to get a *My Vaccine Pass*.

Are there any exceptions allowed under this policy?

As above, if you have an official medical exemption issued by the Ministry of Health, you are still able to obtain a *My Vaccine Pass* so you will be able to come to campus.

Additionally, under Ministry of Education guidelines, secondary school students are exempt while they are accessing NorthTec campuses for the purpose of tertiary education.

How will this policy be implemented and enforced?

- For returning students, vaccine passes must be sighted and recorded by NorthTec staff (Enquiries & Enrolments; Regional Administrators; Navigators; Tutors) before you can start classes in 2022. This will be recorded in our student management system.
- For new students, recorded proof of vaccination status is now part of the process to become fully enrolled.
- Proof of staff vaccination status is managed by NorthTec's People Operations team.
- Visitors to campus are required to show their vaccine pass at the point of entry to a NorthTec site (for example, reception areas).

How will I be able to prove my vaccine status in order to study?

You can show your *My Vaccine Pass* (downloaded to your mobile phone or a printed version) to staff at our Enquiries & Enrolments centre on the Raumanga campus. You can also show your pass to

Regional Administrators (Kerikeri and Kaitaia campuses), Navigators, Tutors or Pathway Managers/Coordinators.

Alternatively, you can email your *My Vaccine Pass* to vaccinepassport@northtec.ac.nz which will be received by our Enquiries & Enrolments team. Your pass will be deleted once it has been recorded as sighted, to protect your privacy.

For International students at the Auckland campus, email Jenny Zhang via jzhang@northtec.ac.nz to have your vaccine pass verified and recorded.

What is the cut-off date for me to show my vaccine pass?

Your pass must be shown before you can attend a first pōwhiri and orientation activities, or go to your classes. This can be on the day you start your studies, although we strongly encourage you to do so beforehand if this is possible. Please note that you will not be fully enrolled until this has been done, which may affect your entitlement to financial assistance, for example, StudyLink.

Has NorthTec consulted with kaimahi (staff) and ākongā (learners) before implementing this policy?

NorthTec has consulted with kaimahi and ākongā, and also with our two staff unions. The responses to this consultation showed that a majority supported the implementation of a required vaccination policy. This was then evaluated by a working group consisting of kaimahi and ākongā representatives, and union representatives.

Is this decision supported by iwi leaders in Te Tai Tokerau?

This policy is in line with the views of Te Kahu O Taonui, representing the eleven iwi in Te Tai Tokerau.

When does the policy come into effect?

The policy comes into effect on Monday, 17 January, 2022.

I am a current student at NorthTec but I don't want to be vaccinated. Can I continue with my studies?

As you will not be able to come to any NorthTec site if you are not vaccinated, you should contact your tutor to discuss the options available to you, which will depend on your individual situation.

I want to start a NorthTec programme in 2022 but I don't want to be vaccinated. Can I still study?

If you are not vaccinated you will not be able to study any programme which requires you to come to campus at any point, or involves teaching at another site, such as a marae, farm or building site. Learners on programmes which contain a practical element and/or a work placement will also be subject to the vaccination policies of the relevant industry.

So what are my study options if I am unvaccinated?

NorthTec has a range of programmes that can be studied fully online, with no vaccination requirement – see the list of programmes below.

If I withdraw from NorthTec but then change my mind and get vaccinated, can I return to my studies?

This will be possible if enrolments are still open for your study programme.

I am a secondary school student due to study at NorthTec and I am not vaccinated. Will I still be able to come to campus?

Secondary students attending NorthTec campuses as part of STAR or Trade Academies are not required to be vaccinated. However, some off-site activities may not be accessible to you if you do not meet the vaccination requirements for those sites or organisations. You will need to be vaccinated if you want to come to a NorthTec campus for other reasons, such as open days or outreach events.

Are other polytechnics and tertiary institutes requiring staff and students to be vaccinated?

All other polytechnics, institutes of technology and universities in Aotearoa New Zealand are currently either implementing a required vaccination policy, or considering one.

Who can I talk to at NorthTec about this?

Call us on 0800 162 100 or email your questions to covid@northtec.ac.nz

Where can I find information about Covid-19 vaccination?

We understand that getting vaccinated is a personal choice and that you may want to find out more about the vaccine. We encourage you to get advice from your doctor, or by visiting [the Ministry of Health website](#), or [the Government's Covid-19 website](#).

Which NorthTec programmes are available to be studied fully online without any vaccination requirements?

- New Zealand Certificate in Business (Administration and Technology) (Level 3)
- New Zealand Certificate in Business (Introduction to Team Leadership) (Level 3)
- New Zealand Certificate in Business (Small Business) (Level 3)
- New Zealand Certificate in Computing (Intermediate User) (Level 3)
- New Zealand Certificate in Information Technology Essentials (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Business (Administration and Technology) (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Business (Accounting Support Services) (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Business (First Line Management) (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Business (Small Business) (Level 4)
- New Zealand Certificate in Project Management (Level 4)
- New Zealand Diploma in Business (Administration and Technology) (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Business (Human Resource Management) (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Business (Marketing and Sales) (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Business (Project Management) (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Business (Accounting) (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Business (Leadership and Management) (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Primary Industry Business Management (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Writing for Creative Industries (Level 5)
- New Zealand Diploma in Creative Writing (Level 6)
- Diploma in Advanced Applied Writing (Level 7)