

Practical Access Support Package

Information for health providers and health sector staff

Health New Zealand is launching a Practical Access Support Package, a national pilot aimed at reducing practical barriers families face when accessing childhood immunisation services.

The pilot will launch on **21 September and run until 31 December 2026**. It will provide targeted practical support to eligible families. Around 1,000 children are expected to be eligible nationally.

This pilot is part of a range of Health NZ initiatives designed to improve access to immunisation.

Eligibility

Health NZ will identify eligible children who can be brought up-to-date before their second birthday and contact their parent/caregiver directly by SMS or email.

Families will be able to receive a \$100 support voucher if their child:

- is catching up on one or more vaccines on the childhood National Immunisation Schedule, and
- turns 2 years old between 1 October and 31 December 2026, and
- receives their catch-up immunisation/s by 31 December 2026.

Eligibility will be checked by Health NZ before the \$100 support voucher is provided. For any queries about eligibility please contact the Practical Access Support Team at pasp@tewhatuora.govt.nz.

How it works

1. Health NZ will contact the parents/guardians of eligible children via SMS or email and provide information about the support package and how to access immunisation services.
2. Families can arrange for their child to be immunised through their usual or preferred immunisation provider. Once the child receives the immunisation/s, the vaccinator records the event in the Aotearoa Immunisation Register (AIR) or PMS as usual.
3. Families can then register for \$100 of practical support towards fuel or a car seat by accessing the link provided in their SMS or email and filling in an e-form. Health NZ will validate eligibility and the recorded immunisation before arranging a voucher.

Information for immunisation providers

What do I need to do?

Families contacted about the pilot may approach your service for immunisation. Continue to assess, obtain informed consent, check the immunisation is due, vaccinate and record the event in AIR or your PMS as usual. Timely and accurate recording is important for voucher validation. Providers are not required to complete any additional administrative tasks in relation to the support voucher but are encouraged to support families to fill in their e-form if requested.

Can people receive more than one support voucher?

Yes. Families can receive a \$100 support voucher for each eligible catch-up visit completed during the pilot period. Families will need to complete a separate form after each eligible catch-up visit. In many cases, several immunisations can be given at the same visit. Some children may need more than one catch-up visit because of their age, vaccination history, or clinical needs. Vaccinators can contact IMAC for guidance.

What vaccines should I prioritise?

Children should be supported to catch up on all vaccinations on the National Immunisation Schedule; however, priority should be given to vaccines that contribute to the 24-month childhood immunisations as listed on the [national schedule](#).

Why is the voucher provided after immunisation and not at the vaccine event?

The \$100 fuel or car seat support is provided after the immunisation event has been validated by Health NZ. It will support families getting to future healthcare appointments.

Why is the package limited to this group?

This is a time-limited pilot testing whether practical support helps reduce barriers for a defined cohort of around 1,000 children approaching their second birthday. Those who have declined and asked for no further contact have been removed.

Why now?

Parents have told us getting to appointments has become harder because of transport limitations and financial pressures. This pilot is part of a range of Health NZ initiatives designed to improve access to immunisation.

For clinical advice please contact IMAC on **0800 466 863**

For general queries please contact the Practical Access Support Team at pasp@tewhatuora.govt.nz