



PREPARE
PACIFIC



COVID-19 **VACCINATION** ROLL OUT FOR **PACIFIC COMMUNITIES**

INTERFAITH BOOKLET

Updated 25th June, 2021



**A RESOURCE CO-DESIGNED BY
PACIFIC YOUNG PEOPLES
TO PREPARE
YOUNG PEOPLES
TO RESPOND TO COVID-19**

Developed by the
PACIFIC YOUTH INTERFAITH COLLECTIVE
Auckland Region, Aotearoa NZ

**THEREFORE ENCOURAGE ONE
ANOTHER AND BUILD ONE ANOTHER
UP, JUST AS YOU ARE DOING**

1 THESSALONIANS 5:11

An encouragement for young people to be active,
alert, and intentional.

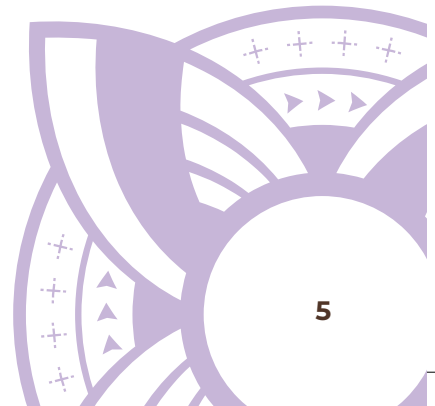
Purpose

Pacific young Peoples can do it all!

During times of crisis our young peoples demonstrate their values and leadership through service to others: caring for family members, delivering food, acting as source of information for those who speak English as a second language and praying for others in need.

Pacific young peoples have an important role to play to prepare and protect their families, church and community against COVID-19. This resource has been co-designed by the Pacific Youth Interfaith Collective to support Pacific youth groups to be prepared for:

- An outbreak that might have their church as a location of interest
- A lockdown because of a community transmission
- Vaccinating their church family to prevent COVID-19.



Supporting our young peoples to keep connected

During Covid-19 lockdowns, the church has been a safe space for young Pacific peoples to seek pastoral care and spiritual support. Here are three ways the church can actively support the spiritual wellbeing of its young people:

1. Keep communicating The Word

- Continue to preach The Word to encourage and build up our young people.

2. Stay in regular contact with young people in your church community

- Youth leaders can stay in regular contact with young people.
- Set up online forums for young people to engage in such as a weekly Zoom session or Facebook Messenger group.
- Young people can volunteer to connect with vulnerable members of the church such as elders, single-parent families, and other young people.

3. Mental health and spiritual support

- Sometimes young people can feel pressure when there is stress in the home so they may need some extra support especially in times of lockdown.
- Let your young people know they have access to mental health support, pastoral care and spiritual support if they need it.
- Mental health and spiritual support aren't the same thing. Each require a specialist or expert to help deal with issues appropriately.
- Youth leaders should look for signs that specialist help

might be needed, for example if your young person is:

- self-harming (eg: cutting themselves);
- talking about hurting themselves or thinking about suicide;
- feeling sad, anxious or depressed and can't get themselves out of it.



Supporting our young people to encourage one another

During times of crisis it is important that young people are given a sense of hope and are consistently encouraged. They will also find strength in encouraging others. Here are three ways the church can encourage its young people:

1. Prayer

- Maintain a prayer routine – e.g. pray every day at a time(s) that suits you (when you wake up and/or before you snooze at night).
- Set up a regular online prayer group with your church youth group, the Interfaith Collective and other South Auckland congregations.

2. The Word

- Pastors and church leaders continue to share The Word with young people such as a bible study, fellowship group, and praise and worship sessions.

3. Keeping digitally connected

- Young people need regular check-ups (online, mobile) from their pastors and church leaders.
- Encourage digital connection and with older church members. For example, empower young people to teach them how to correctly use their social media and/or mobile and laptop.



Supporting young people to be part of the crisis relief

The key to responding well in times of crisis is having good preparation. Our young people hold many skills that can support our Pacific churches to be ready for a crisis situation, including COVID-19 outbreaks in the future.

Here are three ways that young people can support their church to be part of the crisis relief:

1. Preparing the church community

- Identify those church members who may be more vulnerable and might need some extra help (eg: elders, disabled, pregnant), especially if there is a positive case and people need to isolate at home for a period of time.



- Think about those young people or families who might not have easy online access at home and how you might be able to connect with them regularly.
- Ensure there is an updated list in the church of all young people (and their families) in case there is a positive case and you need to provide a list for contact tracing purposes.
- Know what help you can get from your church: food parcels, clothing and blankets, face masks and gloves, and/or financial assistance.
- Create a crisis response committee or a youth committee to work out a plan ahead of time. This includes appointing key roles and responsibilities. This group will work with the church leadership to communicate official health information to different groups within your church.
- The crisis committee could be responsible for keeping the church youth connected and engaged in positive activities during lockdown situations.
- Ensure that your church is able to operate online if there is a lockdown. Young people should make sure everyone has access to online church and could be helpful in teaching their elders how to use the online platform.

Remember: Young people often have great technology skills to support the church community to connect online.

2. Protecting the church community

- Mobilise your youth group/peers to implement health and safety practices at your church and to help educate parents in the practices. Some ideas might be:
 - install QR codes at entrance/exits;
 - make hand sanitiser available;
 - put up signs for good hygiene practices;

- spacing out pews and seating arrangements;
 - making a roster to wipe down surfaces at the end of each service.
- Organise community education sessions for young people so they can become informed about the vaccination programme.
 - Organise vaccination community education sessions, including for elders with the option of delivering it online.

3. Be part of the crisis response and vaccination programme

- Encourage your pastor and church leaders to connect into the existing forums that are supporting the churches to respond in the crisis and as part of the vaccination programme (eg: Ministry for Pacific Peoples, Ministry of Health online forum).
- Know where the closest testing and vaccination centres are for congregation members to access.
- Encourage your youth to promote factual information among young people online from credible sources.
- Identify a congregation(s) that is already associated with your church (part of a stake, pulega, or district of parishes) to join the Interfaith Collective.
- Look at what resources and learning your congregation has that it can pass on to other churches within the Interfaith Collective to help support them.



A Guide to the church response in an outbreak

SCENARIO

- | | | |
|----------|--|---|
| 1 | There is an outbreak in a Collective member's church | Post on church social page a case has been confirmed |
| 2 | There is an outbreak confirmed for the Auckland Region | Post on church social page a case has been confirmed |
| 3 | There is an outbreak over the Christmas and New Year's holiday period | Post on church social page a case has been confirmed |
| 4 | I am concerned a young person in my church is at risk of self-harm/ suicide | Talk to a youth pastor or elder |
| 5 | I am concerned about the physical wellbeing of a young person (sexual and family violence). Confidentiality is important. | Talk to a youth pastor or church leader (gender specific) |

RESPONSES

Txt message/phone calls
to each family/member

Share official govt. health
info with members

Youth drop off food
and sanitation packs to
vulnerable families.

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Youth pastor or elder to
inform senior leader

Facilitate contact with
support services

Follow-up plan must
include family support

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The Vaccination Programme

From July 2021, the COVID-19 Vaccination will be made available to the general population. This includes young people aged 16 years and over.

You will need two doses three weeks apart.

Young people can also get vaccinated now if they live in the same household bubble as an eligible person who is:

- A Pacific person who is 55 years or older;
- A frontline health worker, a managed isolation or border worker;
- Living or working in residential care.

You can also get vaccinated if you live in South Auckland and:

- Have a serious health condition (for example: asthma, heart conditions, diabetes, lung or kidney disease);
- Have a disability;
- are pregnant.

People who fall into these categories will receive an email or text message invite to make a booking online or through the Vaccination Helpline.

If you or your family member haven't received a message you can call the Vaccination Helpline on: 0800 28 29 26 between the hours of 8:00am – 8:00pm, 7 days a week.

Pacific young peoples as informed advocates

Pacific young peoples play an important role in making sure their household bubbles participate in the COVID-19 vaccination programme.

Here are three ways that the church can support their young people to be part of the vaccination programme:

1. Become informed advocates

- The church can run community education sessions targeting young people to make an informed choice about vaccination.
- The church can encourage congregation members to be responsible in posting factual information about the vaccine.



2. Empower young people to support their families

- Encourage young people to pass on the information they learn to their parents and elders.
- Encourage young people to help their families to book online for a vaccination.

3. Organising church group bookings for vaccination

- Empower young people to help organise group bookings for churches to be vaccinated.



A Pacific-focused vaccination site is now up and running in Ōtara and Westgate. If you have been invited to receive your vaccination this is what will happen:

- 1. People will receive a text or email inviting them to book**
- 2. Click on the link in the email or text for the online booking system**
- 3. Select Ōtara or Westgate as your Vaccination Centre**
- 4. Choose a date and time**
- 5. Confirmation will be sent by text or email**

To make a booking, call 0800 28 29 26 between 8:00am - 8:00pm, 7 days a week



If you live in Auckland and want to
make a church group booking for your
Covid-19 vaccination, please contact
Maria Lafaele,

maria.lafaele@waitematadhb.govt.nz
or call **021 582 794.**

For Pacific-Specific Healthcare Guidelines in English and Pacific Languages

- **Prepare Pacific** preparepacific.nz / visit facebook.com/preparepacific

Accessing Healthcare Services

- If you are sick, go to your GP or in an emergency go to hospital
- If you have general health questions, call Healthline on 0800 611 116

Accessing Support Services

- Call **The Fono** on 0800 366 648 for support with: food, housing, accommodation, finances and well-being checks
- **WORK AND INCOME** Call 0800559 009 / workandincome.govt.nz for more info
- **ALCOHOL DRUG HELPLINE** Call 0800787 797 or text 8681 / alcoholdrughelp.org.nz for more info
- **GAMBLING HELPLINE** Call 0800 654 655 or text 8006 / gamblinghelpline.co.nz for more info

**AND LET US NOT GROW WEARY OF
DOING GOOD, FOR IN DUE SEASON WE
WILL REAP, IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP.**

GALATIANS 6:9

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT
Your family doctor or
Healthline on **0800 358 5453**

Prepare Pacific website **www.preparepacific.nz**

COVID 19 vaccines website:
**[www.covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing
/covid-19-vaccines](http://www.covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/covid-19-vaccines)**

**This Resource was developed based on
the latest information available:
Updated 25th June, 2021**



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