

Free flu vaccines coming soon

Free flu vaccines will be available for all Fire and Emergency NZ personnel from early April.

This is the first time this has been offered to all volunteers and is part of expanding a range of health and psychological wellbeing support services to all personnel.

Volunteers will be able to obtain a prepaid voucher from their brigade or fire force that they can use to get a free flu jab from a range of designated local pharmacies or medical centres. A map of pharmacies and medical centres where flu jabs will be available shortly]. If you are going to designated medical centre please make an appointment before going. If you are unable to get to one of the pharmacies or medical centres on the map you can get a flu vaccination via your own GP / medical centre, however this cost will be need to be claimed for and reimbursed.

Vouchers will be available from late March and vaccinations available from early April. Distribution of vouchers will be managed by the business services teams and will be valid until 30 June 2018. New volunteers will receive their vouchers as part of the appointment process from early April to 30 June. More information on how to access the vouchers and the reimbursement process will be available shortly.

Overseas research shows that emergency workers are twice as likely to get the flu than the general population. It is important that we can maintain a sustainable workforce during the flu season.

National Operations Manager Paul Turner said, "It is important that Fire and Emergency NZ maintains a sustainable workforce during the flu season. I would recommend all personnel to take advantage of this opportunity."

Volunteerism Workstream lead Carl Mills says, "This is good news for all volunteers and the first time that volunteers have had access to this service which is part of the ongoing process to ensure support services are provided across the whole of the organisation.

"It's important for brigades and fire forces to maintain personnel numbers during the flu season so that crews can be filled. While getting a flu jab is optional I strongly recommend that volunteers take advantage of this opportunity to protect themselves and their colleagues from the flu."