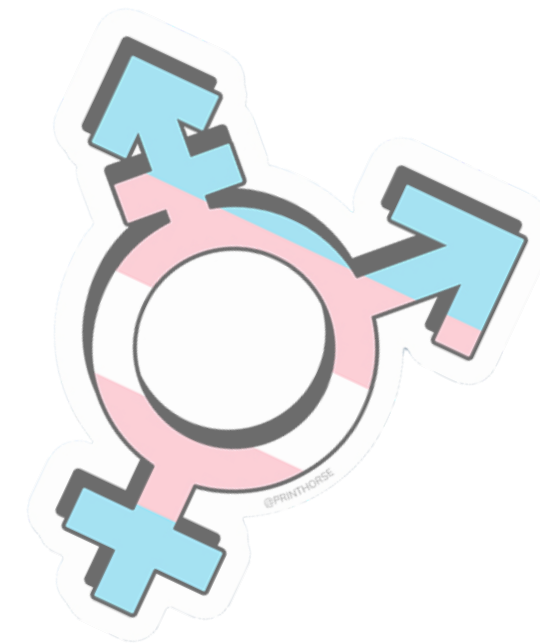


Trans Safety Tips for Vaccine Passports



Why would someone's name on their Vax Pass be incorrect?

For some people, it may not be safe to change their name legally or on their vax pass. Similarly, some people's names on their ID and vax passport may not match. They may have changed their name on their National Health Index record (which is what informs the name shown on one's vax pass) but not yet changed, or been able to change, their name legally and/or on their identification. Changing one's name legally can be a long and difficult process and is not always possible.

So what can you do?

1. Don't presume their preferred name

While it might seem like good customer service to use the name from someone's passport in order to greet them after checking it, this can risk outing a trans person to the people around them. Not everyone is able to be open about their identity in every context and being outed can be distressing, uncomfortable or, at worst, dangerous. It's very rare you'll need to check or cross reference a vax passport but, if you do, ask for the birth date listed instead of the name.

2. Don't presume pronouns

Avoid presuming what a person's pronouns are based on their appearance or name. If you're unsure, it's always safest to default to the gender neutral pronouns eg. 'they're sitting at table four'. You can also avoid gendered collective greetings like 'ladies' or 'lads' and instead use 'folks' or 'team'. It takes a bit of effort to change vocab habits like this, but it makes a huge difference to the experiences of gender diverse people in public spaces. Challenge yourself to ditch gendered language and you'll be surprised at how easy and natural it becomes.

Having and using a vaccine pass is now essential for accessing services and many public spaces in Aotearoa. However, it's important to be aware that some trans, non-binary, takatāpui and gender nonconforming folks may be using a different name from the one that appears on their pass and/or identification documents. Here are some tips and info about how to keep our rainbow whānau included and safe when checking vax passports.

3. Look out for QR Code frames

Some trans people who have inaccurate or 'dead' names on their vax passes use frames for their QR Code instructing readers not to say the listed name out loud. For these people's safety and comfort, just follow the instructions, don't mention the frame, and continue to be polite, friendly and kind.

4. Share these policies with your staff

Ensure that your crew are all on the same page. Feel free to print and display and/or distribute this resource, and take the time to chat with your team about it. If your business does not yet have a rainbow inclusion policy, consider forming one. As always, if you need support in creating an inclusion policy or staff rainbow awareness training, Pride Pledge is happy to help.

And remember!

Gender diversity is a wonderful thing! If queer people feel comfortable in your space, you are doing something right. Keep up the good work in supporting our trans, non-binary, takatāpui, gender nonconforming and rainbow whānau in Aotearoa.