

1 December 2021

Kia ora koutou

Additional guidance for allied health professionals in the COVID-19 Protection Framework

Firstly, I want to acknowledge the dynamic environment we are all working in, whilst continuing to provide care and services to New Zealanders. I am aware that navigating new policy measures has been particularly difficult for many allied health providers, and I have continued to seek clarity and raise your concerns.

New Zealand moves to the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF), also known as the traffic light system, at 11.59pm 2nd December 2021. The Order establishing the requirements that apply at different alert levels is the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Protection Framework) Order 2021 (referred to as the Order).

The Order aims to manage the effects of COVID-19 and implements the traffic light system. This letter and attached decision flow chart aims to provide guidance for Allied Health providers. However, the Order itself is the definitive source of information and prevails if there is any inconsistency¹.

To ensure that health services can operate effectively, the order provides an exemption from some restrictions for health services, which includes allied health. The exemption provision is contained in clause 103 of the Order. Allied health services fall within this definition. Exempt health services can continue to operate and are still required to meet certain requirements, including requirements to display QR codes, maintain contact tracing records. In addition to the requirements specified in the Order, infection prevention control precautions remain the primary mechanism to protect yourself and the people you see.

To ensure that New Zealanders can access essential health services, a more limited subset of health services are prohibited from requiring vaccination certificates or vaccination. These health services must not deny access to premises or provision of goods and services on vaccination grounds. The health services that are subject to this prohibition are health services that are partly or wholly funded by certain government

¹ The Order is available at: <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0386/latest/whole.html>

entities.² These health services are subject to the rules that apply to “designated premises” under the order (clause 10).

If you are a health service operating a designated premise, you must not request people to provide a COVID-19 Vaccination Certificate or other evidence of being vaccinated to access your health service. Further details of these rules are provided in clauses 31-33 of the Order. Please note that these rules do not affect obligations to ensure workers covered by the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 are vaccinated to perform work.

The Ministry of Health has made a [position statement](#) on the management of unvaccinated individuals in healthcare settings.

I hope that this provides clarity ahead of the CPF coming into effect.

Nāku noa, nā



Martin Chadwick
Chief Allied Health Professions Officer

² These agencies are the Ministry of Health, Oranga Tamariki, MSD, the Department of Corrections, a DHB, Veterans’ Affairs New Zealand or ACC. Any level of current public funding causes the service to operate a designated premise.