

18 November 2021

Kia ora koutou

Additional guidance on who is covered by the health worker vaccination order

I understand that there are some allied health professionals who are not legally required to be vaccinated under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Required Vaccinations) Amendment Order 2021.

The intent of the order is to ensure the critical work undertaken by the health and disability, education and corrections sectors, and the population groups they work with, is protected against COVID-19. While most people in these sectors have already been vaccinated, mandatory vaccination across these sectors is critical to the country's successful management of COVID-19.

The amended [COVID-19 Vaccination Order](#) does not set out an exhaustive list by profession of which persons must be vaccinated. It does include some specific roles and physical settings that require persons to be vaccinated. These are:

- health practitioners¹ providing health services to patients in person
- workers who work in close proximity to health practitioners providing services to members of the public (for example, reception and administration staff in general practice, shop assistants in community pharmacies)
- workers employed or engaged by certified providers, which includes workers at a certified facilities or providers (under the Health and Disability (safety) Act 2001 providing hospital care, rest home care, residential disability care or fertility services (for example, anyone working in a hospital setting such as laundry staff, orderly, administration staff, or rest home staff like kitchen and cleaning staff)
- care and support workers who are employed or engaged to carry out work within a home or place of residence, to provide care and support services funded by the Ministry of Health, a DHB or ACC.

For those allied health care professionals who do fall outside the vaccination order, I would strongly encourage you to choose to be vaccinated, particularly if you are patient

¹ The definition of health practitioners in the amendment order are those that are regulated by the Health Practitioners Competence Assurance Act (2003). Not all health professions are regulated under the Act. Not being regulated under the Act does not imply that a profession lacks professional standards.

facing. I believe this is part of your ethical and equity obligations to uphold the duty of care.

Employers can also require work to be done by a vaccinated employee if a health and safety risk assessment identifies this necessary. This may be the case where the nature of the work itself increases the risk of COVID-19 infection and transmission above the risk faced outside of work. Worksafe have released [interim guidance](#) to support employers, which may also be useful for contracting or volunteer arrangements.

I will continue to seek clarity on the wording of the Order, but regardless I do not believe it should detract from its intent.

Nāku noa, nā



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Chief Allied Health Professions Officer