

COVID-19 – Update 4

March 31, 2020

Dear Practitioners,

Welcome to our 4th update. As we enter into uncertain times, we have provided more information and links to resources practitioners may find helpful. We will also be placing information on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- **Expressions of interest – growing the workforce:** The Ministry of Health has established an expression of interest for those who wish to offer their services during the COVID-19 crisis. You can access the information [here](#). The information is collected centrally and we understand people will be contacted if needed. Employers can register their demand needs on the same web page.
- **Special Purposes Scope of Practice – Responding to COVID-19 – growing the workforce:** We have developed a scope of practice for people who want to register their interest in helping during the pandemic. This is for people who are not currently registered or hold a current practising certificate. It is also available for students of occupational therapy who are on the AUT or Otago programmes. This scope is offered and will run in parallel with the Ministry's expressions of interest described above. More information is available [here](#).
- **OTBNZ webinar – Practising during COVID-19 Pandemic:** We had a webinar on Monday, March 30. Here's the [recording](#) and the [presentation](#)
- **Using telehealth applications:** OTBNZ guidance on the use of telehealth can be accessed [here](#).
- [NZ Telehealth resource centre](#) provides a helpful resource for practitioners setting up and using telehealth. It's an Aotearoa NZ site so it is relevant to us here. They also have recommendations about safe platforms to use. Allied Health Aotearoa New Zealand [telehealth best practice guide](#) has a draft informed consent template which could be adapted for use.
- **Access to personal Protective Equipment:** This continues to be a consistent enquiry from practitioners and something the Ministry of Health is also asked about. We would refer practitioners to the Ministry of Health's website on this matter which is updated regularly and can be accessed [here](#).
- **Essential services now named (very clear most OTs would fall under this):** We understand that practitioners have been querying whether their work is identified as essential. It seems reasonable to assume that if your employer provides services deemed essential than by default you are too. The information on COVID-19 – Essential services in health and disability system is updated regularly. The latest posting can be accessed [here](#).
- **ePortfolio auditing:** We are currently undertaking an audit of some practitioners. This will be the last audit at this time. For more information please contact audits@otboard.org.nz

- **Te Rito – Bicultural online training programme:** A reminder to practitioners and students that the online cultural learning package is available. To obtain a login please email Terito@otboard.org.nz
- **Practising certificate renewal:** Please ensure you renew your practising certificate by today, 31 March, to continue practising. This may be essential to support the health service managing COVID 19. Practitioners who apply for a certificate after this date must not practise until a new practising certificate has been issued. Check all communication sent by OTBNZ to you.
- **Additional resources:** Practitioners may find the following additional resources helpful:
 1. [National Māori Pandemic Group](#)
 2. [World Federation of Occupational Therapists – COVID-19](#)
 3. [Resources for whānau, communities and services during COVID-19](#)
 4. [Coronavirus: Sophisticated scammers target remote workers](#)
 5. [Working from home keeping safe online](#)
 6. [MSD Covid 19 website](#) covers information about income support, disability allowances, wage subsidies including for self-employed people.
 7. [Ministry of Health](#) has provided updated guidance for [disability and aged care providers](#), and for using [Personal Protective Equipment](#).
 8. OTNZ-WNA is providing education and support related to insurance and professional practice <https://www.otnz.co.nz/>

Kia Kaha,



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