

COVID 19 - Update 3

March 26, 2020

Dear Practitioners,

Welcome to our 3rd update and day one of our 4 week lockdown. We will continue to send you updates as we get information that needs to be shared quickly. This may not be daily. We will also be placing information on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- **COVID-19 Essential services in the health and disability system:** For the latest advice on what is an essential service see the Ministry of Health webpage [here](#). This information is evolving. It does not mention the occupational therapy profession. However, it lists a number of places where occupational therapists may be working. So it would be fair to say that your place of work and your employer could help clarify whether your position fits an essential service. We will update you with additional information about this as it is made available.
- **Practising Certificate payment options:** We have developed 3 options to help practitioners pay for their practising certificate. The information can be accessed [here](#).
- **[Unite against COVID-19 New Zealand Government website](#):** I am sure many of you are aware of this website. In particular the section on [financial support](#) which would be helpful for those facing unemployment and business looking for help with cash flow.
- **Occupational Therapy student placements:** We are in conversation with each of the OT schools about how COVID-19 is affecting their programmes and fieldwork placements. Please contact the schools if you have any questions about fieldwork placements. This may be a time to look how we can support students in a different way. We will update you on this as information becomes available
- **[Occupational therapy New Zealand – Whakaora Ngangahau Aotearoa \(OTNZ-WNA\)](#):** A reminder that OTNZ-WNA has a number of special interest groups where practitioners are connecting and sharing.
- **Telehealth:** Yesterday Fi Graham gave a webinar on the use of telehealth as a way of working with clients. The webinar can be accessed [here](#).
- **Webinar:** Andrew Charnock, CE and Registrar at the Board, and Mary Silcock, Professional Advisor, will host a webinar on Monday 30 March at 10.30 am. It will cover: advice about practising as an occupational therapist during the level 4 restrictions on movement and provision of services; The legislative framework which the OTBNZ will be applying under a situation of national emergency; How OTBNZ intends to operate during the period of lockdown to support the profession and the health service; Advice from the OTBNZ perspective to help with ethical and clinical decision making. Please email specific questions beforehand to mary@otboard.org.nz and we can make sure we address these. Please register [here](#) for the webinar

Kia Kaha,



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