

COVID-19 – Update 6

8 April, 2020

Dear Practitioners,

Welcome to our 6th update. Please find some useful information and resources. We will also be placing information on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- **Use of telehealth:** We have been receiving questions around the use of telehealth, particularly Zoom. We don't mandate the use of any particular platform. Given some questions have been raised, we have put together some [practical steps](#) to use it safely. The OTBNZ also has [Telehealth Guidelines](#) for practitioners.
- **Cancellation of OTBNZ webinar on 14 April:** In light of the current pandemic, we have decided to cancel our webinar next Tuesday, Notifying the Board about Complaints, Health & Competence. Instead, we will be posting interviews with practitioners on our website and linking them in our Updates and Newsletters. These will be half-hour interviews looking at how practitioners are managing their practice during the pandemic. If you would like to take part in an interview or know someone who would be of interest, then please let us know by emailing comms@otboard.org.nz. We will notify practitioners when they are available on our [YouTube channel](#)
- **Essential services:** We have been contacted by OTs and businesses again asking if 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. [This page](#) lists the essential businesses and how they should operate
- **He Paiaka Totara:** He Paiaka is a collective of Māori psychologists and keen to offer support within the current COVID-19 environment. They are now able to provide peer supervision undertaken by Māori psychologists, for Māori health professionals (or health professional students) who are working in front-line services and belong to registered affiliated bodies. This service will be at no charge to those who access this supervision service, and is intended to be in place while Aotearoa is in Alert 3 or 4 status. If members of your rōpu are interested, they can directly email Lisa Stewart hepaiakatotaracovidresponse@gmail.com for further details
- **Getting Through Together: Ethical values for a pandemic:** This publication by the [National Ethics Advisory Committee](#) from 2007 has scenarios used as case studies similar to the current level 4 status. There are also two very useful quick guides for [making ethical decisions](#) in a pandemic and to help identify [ethical values](#) behind these decisions
- **Resources:** Practitioners may find the following resources helpful:
 1. <https://www.hinz.org.nz/>
 2. [Updated Personal protective equipment use in health care page](#)

Kia Kaha,



Andrew Charnock

Chief Executive and Registrar

Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand

+64 4 918 4740