

COVID-19 – Update 8

21 April, 2020

Dear Practitioners,

Welcome to our 8th Update with our latest information and useful links. As we prepare to move from Level 4 to Level 3, we provide details on what it means to practitioners. We will also be placing information on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- **What moving to Level 3 will mean to OTs:** The Prime Minister announced yesterday that at 11.59 pm on Monday 27 April, New Zealand will move back to Alert Level 3 - Restrict. Level 3 would mean health professionals continue taking the same precautions and the principle will be "do as much care as possible while keeping people safe". Most appointments should happen through video-conferencing. We have [updated advice](#) around when to provide face-to-face contact and put together a [decision-making tree](#) for Levels 3 & 4. We have also compiled a list of [COVID-19 FAQs](#) to guide you through this.
- **Statement on scopes of practice, competence, and responding to COVID-19:** The Ministry of Health's statement on scopes of practice, competence and responding to COVID-19 is on our [website](#).
- **Policy - Essential worker designation for students completing training placements:** Read the Ministry of Health [policy](#) that applies to students from all professions who are completing training placements in any setting (eg DHB or non-DHB). The policy will be reviewed and revised as necessary and in anticipation of New Zealand moving to lower COVID-19 alert levels.
- **In conversation:** The OTBNZ is doing 30 minute interviews with practitioners about their area of work, challenges and opportunities to their practice during the ongoing pandemic. Watch our second interview, 'In Conversation' with Sally Wallace, OT from Enable NZ, on our [YouTube channel](#) as she speaks to Andrew Charnock, OTBNZ's Chief Executive and Registrar.
- **Support for 1737 line:** Thank you to all the OTs who reached out to Homecare Medical to support the National Telehealth Service including 1737 line. They have had a huge response from psychologists, psychotherapists and counsellors so 1737 currently has what it needs.
- **Register for contact tracing:** Contact tracing is an increasingly important tool in ensuring that COVID-19 remains under control in NZ. You are required to keep records for the purposes of contact tracing. The OTBNZ recommends that you keep a register of all your face-to-face contacts. The register should include the

names and contact information of any service users that you have had direct contact with, and any subsequent service users that may have been exposed. You are generally not required to provide details of the service, except where it relates to COVID-19. If you are required to provide a face to face service then:

1. Record the name and contact details of the service user
 2. Record why face to face contact was necessary (refer to decision tree)
 3. Record preparation and PPE used
 4. Record any other people present (family members, chaperone etc)
 5. Record any equipment that you may have used during the contact
- Resources:
 - Updated [Primary care quick reference guide](#)
 - New advice for [hospice staff](#) and [inpatient hospice care](#)
 - Release of the [COVID-19 Health and Disability System Response Plan](#)
 - Updated [Information for disabled people and their family and whānau](#)
 - [Guidelines for the use of personal protective equipment for frontline health care workers](#)
 - [Personal Protective Equipment \(PPE\): for staff caring for COVID-19 positive patients in hospital](#) (one pager - A3 poster)
 - [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\) used by community care providers for prevention of COVID-19*](#)
 - [Te Pou o te Whakaaro Nui](#) has provided an excellent resource [Personal protective equipment \(PPE\): guidance for NGO community workers](#)
 - For people working with children and young people there is a public lecture hosted by Starship Hospital Wednesday 22nd April at 8am:
"A paediatric infectious diseases perspective on COVID-19"
Presenter: Dr Lesley Voss, Paediatric Infectious Diseases Consultant, Starship Child Health
Topic: Paediatric Update
Time: Apr 22, 2020 08:00 AM Auckland, Wellington Join Zoom Meeting
<https://aucklanddhb.zoom.us/j/97411401794>

Stay home and stay safe

Kia Kaha,



Andrew Charnock
Chief Executive and Registrar
Occupational Therapy Board of New Zealand
+64 4 918 4740