

## COVID-19 – Update 9

30 April, 2020

Dear Practitioners,

Welcome to our 9<sup>th</sup> Update with our latest information and useful links. We are working on what level 2 will mean for practitioners and will share information soon. We will also be placing information on our [Facebook](#) and [LinkedIn](#) pages.

- **Amended letter from Dr Martin Chadwick, Chief Allied Health Professions Officer:** Last week we sent you a letter from Dr Martin Chadwick, outlining the changes for the community allied health sector on moving into Alert Level 3. Within this letter there was a definition of 'urgent care', which has been updated after receiving feedback from the sector. Urgent care' for community allied health professionals is defined as:
  1. a condition which is life or limb threatening **OR**
  2. treatment required to maintain the basic necessities of life **OR**
  3. treatment that cannot be delayed or carried out remotely without risk of significant harm or permanent and/or significant disability **AND**
  4. which cannot be delivered by a service which is currently operating or by health professionals that are already in contact with the patient
- For application of this MoH advice for the occupational therapy profession, refer to the [Covid 19 FAQs](#) and the [advice for providing face-to-face contact](#) and associated [decision tree](#) on OTBNZ's website.
- **OTBNZ Survey:** We are collecting information about the occupational therapy workforce during the level 4 period. We are requesting that all occupational therapists complete this short survey to provide accurate information about health and disability service users, the healthcare workforce, and the care you have been providing during the level 4 period. This will assist the Board in understanding the scope of occupational therapy practice during the COVID-19 crisis. You can complete the survey [here](#). Please note:
  1. Participation in the survey is voluntary
  2. You are not required to identify yourself as part of this survey
  3. A summary of the results will be published on our website and shared with the Ministry of Health and other stakeholders.
- **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 third interview, 'In Conversation' with Jonathan Armstrong, Clinical Director for Allied Health and Professional Lead for Occupational Therapy, Counties Manukau DHB, on our [YouTube channel](#) as he speaks to Andrew Charnock, OTBNZ's Chief Executive and Registrar.

- [Personal protective equipment use in health care](#): We have received questions from OTs about making your own PPE. For the safety of yourself and your clients, we advise that you do not make your own PPE for yourself or for your clients. Refer to the Ministry of Health's new posters and guidance in different health care settings and information for [Allied health professionals](#). For application of this MoH advice for the occupational therapy profession, refer to the [Covid 19 FAQs](#) and the [advice for providing face-to-face contact](#) and associated [decision tree](#) on OTBNZ's website. Private practitioners and those working in non-government organisations (NGOs) can look at MoH advice [here](#). In particular the MoH suggest: If you cannot get PPE from your usual supplier, contact the emergency management officer at your local district health board (DHB).
- COVID-19: Allied health professionals – [this page](#) has just been developed and will provide future advice moving to level 2. As well as this page, the [COVID-19 Community Response Framework](#) has been developed as a guide for the community health system when moving between different health sector alert levels. These levels are not related to the Aotearoa wide levels, but are in anticipation of local regional responses to community outbreaks of Covid 19. It includes detailed advice related to practice and staffing for Primary Care, Pharmacy and Community Based Assessment Centres (CBACs), Community Residential, Needs Assessment and Service Coordination (NASC), Health and Community Support Services (HCSS) and – Disability Support Services ( DSS) and other community providers including NGOs, Māori and Pacific providers, district nursing, community midwifery and allied health.
- [An introduction to telehealth for NZ health providers](#) – A webinar tonight provided by [NZ Telehealth](#) with panellist from all disciplines and health perspectives, including occupational therapist Becky George.

- **Resources**

1. [Alert Level 3 for disabled people](#) – updated advice to understand extending bubbles safely
2. [COVID-19: Getting disability support](#) – updated information about individual funding, respite and working with providers. It includes more flexible options for funding use during Covid 19
3. [Alert Level 3 guidance for disability community residential care providers](#) – comprehensive advice about managing visitors, staff and activities for residential care providers to manage equity and safety.
4. [COVID-19 Alert Level 3 – Kei te rāhuitia tonutia te motu](#) & [MATE KORONA-19: Te matenga, te tangihanga](#)- Tangihanga and marae – a need to adapt our practices during this extraordinary time.
5. [Information for hospice staff on Alert Level 3](#)
6. [Te Pou o te Whaakaro Nui](#) is rapidly developing resources and providing education opportunities to help the workforce.
7. [Mental Health and Addiction sector update](#) from Robyn Shearer: Deputy Director-General, Mental Health and Addiction featuring occupational therapist [Kirsty Connell in a YouTube clip](#) speaking about her leadership role in primary health.
8. ACC has provided advice about [housing alterations during level three](#) and how the funding bodies Accessable and Enable will manage these.

**Stay home and stay safe**

**Kia Kaha,**



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