

From 13 September 2023, Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa the Medical Council of New Zealand no longer provide the guidance statement on COVID-19 vaccine and your professional responsibility as a current expectation for doctors.

## Guidance statement

### COVID-19 vaccine and your professional responsibility

Vaccination is a crucial part of the New Zealand public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Health practitioners can help to protect themselves, their patients, and the wider community by getting their COVID-19 vaccination.

~~The Dental and Medical Councils have an expectation that all dental and medical practitioners will take up the opportunity to be vaccinated—unless medically contraindicated.~~

You have an ethical and professional obligation to protect and promote the health of patients and the public, and to participate in broader based community health efforts. Vaccination will play a critical role in protecting the health of the New Zealand public by reducing the community risk of acquiring and further transmitting COVID-19.

Patients are entitled to information that a reasonable consumer, in that consumer's circumstances, would expect to receive (Right 6, Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights).

~~As a health practitioner, you have a role in providing evidence-based advice and information about the COVID-19 vaccination to others. You should be prepared to discuss evidence-based information about vaccination and its benefits to assist informed decision making. There is information on the [Ministry of Health \(MOH\) website](#) to support engagement with staff or colleagues and the public who may be hesitant about getting a vaccine.~~

As regulators we respect an individual's right to have their own opinions, but it is our view that there is no place for anti-vaccination messages in professional health practice, nor any promotion of anti-vaccination claims including on social media and advertising by health practitioners.

More information:

- The latest government information on the COVID-19 vaccination programme can be found on the [MOH website](#).
- The [Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment \(MBIE\)](#) has guidance for employers and workers about the employment law implications for the COVID-19 vaccination programme.