

College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ)

Position on COVID-19 Vaccination

The College of Nurses Aotearoa (NZ) supports and endorses the COVID-19 strategy being implemented by the Government of Aotearoa / NZ, including within that the mandatory requirement for vaccination of all health workers interfacing with members of the public.

The College is mindful of the right to individual choice so far as acceptance of the overall strategy and vaccination programme is concerned. However, as a professional organisation seeking to represent the interests of nurses and provide a forum for critical inquiry into professional, education and research issues relating to nurses and to the achievement of equitable outcomes for health consumers, we are committed to ongoing support of the Government's COVID-19 strategy.

The College bases this position on the advice and information provided at these sources:

Ministry of Health New Zealand COVID-19 (novel coronavirus) website

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus>

Ministry of Health New Zealand COVID-19: Information for health professionals website

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-health-professionals>

Government of Aotearoa / NZ Unite against COVID-19 website

<https://covid19.govt.nz/>

The Immunisation Advisory Centre (of NZ) COVID-19 Education website

<https://covid.immune.org.nz/>

The College acknowledges there are many additional sources of information appertaining to COVID-19 but we consider the above to be credible and sufficient to assure our membership of the sound rationale underpinning our support of the Government's COVID-19 strategy.

We also draw attention of members to the statement issued by the Nursing Council of New Zealand reminding registrants of their ethical and professional obligation to protect and promote the health of patients and the public, and to participate in community health efforts, including the COVID-19 vaccination programme:

Nursing Council of New Zealand COVID-19 vaccine and your professional responsibility

https://www.nursingcouncil.org.nz/NCNZ/News-section/news-item/2021/5/Guidance_statement_COVID-19_vaccine_and_your_professional_responsibility.aspx