



Amendment to the COVID-19 Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 Counsellors required to fully vaccinate

Counsellors will be required to fully vaccinate under changes to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021.

The Government, in consultation with the Ministry of Health, announced the changes on 11th October. They require a new set of workers in the health and disability sector to be fully vaccinated by 1st December, 2021.

Vaccination is already mandatory for high-risk roles (including health worker roles) in Border, MIF and MIQ settings. This amendment seeks to extend that requirement so that certain roles in the health and disability sector are also covered by this order, including:

- 1) Regulated professions currently registered under the HPCA regulations
- 2) Non-regulated professions in the following healthcare setting:
 - Aged Residential Care Facilities (ARC)
 - Home and Community Care Services (HCSS)
 - Kaupapa Māori Health Providers, Pacific Health Providers and Non-Government Organisations who provide health services
- 3) Roles undertaken by people who:
 - are in frequent contact, face-to-face contact, or are in close proximity to healthcare workers providing a health service
 - work where a health service is being provided
 - do not necessarily provide a health service, but their role requires frequent contact/engagement with those providing health services and is considered tied to a role within a healthcare setting.

Counselling is a Health Service and therefore counsellors will be mandated to be fully vaccinated under these new amendments.

Under these new amendments, it's likely that any health and disability workers who fall under the categories above must receive their first dose of the vaccine by **30th October** and their second dose by **1st December 2021**. Further details about the criteria for this amended order will be released in due course and we will keep you posted.

Information about Human Rights, vaccinations and employment:

https://www.hrc.co.nz/resources/human-rights-relation-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR3nnk4WYdrOw52vq2jyOv0WxHZ5p5gHYKldBuuP04uDfzD6_coUCIkHU-I

Information about mandatory vaccinations:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/vaccinations-and-work/mandatory-vaccinations-for-workers/>

Information on employment and vaccinations:

<https://www.employment.govt.nz/leave-and-holidays/other-types-of-leave/coronavirus-workplace/covid-19-vaccination-and-employment/>

Information for businesses and services:

<https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/guidelines-businesses-and-services#guidelines>

Please be reassured your NZAC membership is not affected by your vaccination status.

Please do not call or email NZAC National Office to discuss this with our staff. It is not in their scope to answer any questions regarding employment or vaccinations.