

8 May 2020

To Allied Health, Scientific and Technical providers,

RE: Alert level 2 for community allied health, scientific and technical providers

Thank you for your continued hard work as the country moved into Alert Level 3. I recognise for most of you the move from Alert Level 4 to 3 did not make a significant difference to the ways in which you are working.

On Monday 11 May 2020, New Zealand Cabinet will decide whether the country will move into Alert Level 2 and at what date.

When the country does move into Alert Level 2 the following changes can occur in the community allied health sector:

Please note, telehealth and virtual appointments are still the preferred option in Alert Level 2. Please exercise extra caution when treating vulnerable groups.

- Practitioners will be able to see patients in person if the following processes are in place:
 - Screening for COVID-19 symptoms prior to in person appointment
 - Physical distancing measures
 - Infection prevention control measures including PPE where required
- Practitioners will be able to travel within and to the neighbouring regions to provide care to patients and receive training.
- Group treatment (e.g. exercise classes) can occur so long as physical distancing is in place.

It is expected that professional bodies and employers will operationalise the Level 2 guidance to their local context. Further information for the allied health sector during Alert Level 2 will be available on the Ministry of Health website soon.

The COVID-19 case definition for screening purposes can be found here:

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

The current infection prevention control advice including appropriate PPE can be found here: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel->

[coronavirus/covid-19-information-specific-audiences/covid-19-advice-workers-including-personal-protective-equipment](#)

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Martin Chadwick', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Dr Martin Chadwick
Chief Allied Health Professions Officer