
From: jsimeon@mcnz.org.nz
Sent: Thursday, 24 September 2020 2:33 pm
To: Ashley Bloomfield
Cc: Andrew Simpson
Subject: YouTube videos re: COVID-19
Attachments: Letter DG Health - 24 Sept 2020.pdf

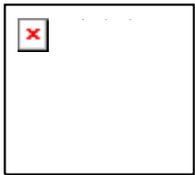
Kia ora Ashley

Please find attached a letter about recent postings of YouTube videos related to COVID-19.

You are welcome to contact me if you would like to discuss this further.

Ngā mihi

Joan



Joan Simeon

Chief Executive

Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | **Medical Council of New Zealand**

s 9(2)(a)

www.mcnz.org.nz | jsimeon@mcnz.org.nz

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24 September 2020

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To be opened by addressee only

Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Director-General of Health
Ministry of Health
By email: Ashley.bloomfield@health.govt.nz

Dear Dr Bloomfield

YouTube videos re: Covid-19

The Medical Council of New Zealand (**Council**) has received several notifications from the public regarding a series of YouTube videos posted by **s 9(2)(a)**.

The YouTube videos of concern are titled **s 9(2)(a)** and **s 9(2)(a)**. In these videos, **s 9(2)(a)** represents **s 9(2)(a)** as a medical doctor and the notifications raise concerns that the information and guidance **s 9(2)(a)** provides about Covid-19 contradicts that which is provided by the Ministry of Health.

Given the potential risk of harm to public health that the videos presented, and the substantial number of views that the videos had received at the time, Council has requested **s 9(2)(a)** provide a voluntary undertaking to remove the two videos listed above, as well as undertake not to post any further videos on the topic of Covid-19 until Council has an opportunity to consider the matter in full. The predominant consideration for Council in requesting this undertaking, is that **s 9(2)(a)** is providing **s 9(2)(a)** opinions on the Covid-19 virus and the Ministry's response to it, using **s 9(2)(a)** platform as a medical doctor which distinguishes **s 9(2)(a)** from any other member of the public. There are also questions about whether **s 9(2)(a)** scope of practice extends to commenting on these matters.

As is our usual process, copies of the notifications were sent to **s 9(2)(a)**, and **s 9(2)(a)** has been provided an opportunity to comment on the substance of the allegations **s 9(2)(a)** has until midday on Friday 25 September to both sign the voluntary undertaking, and to provide **s 9(2)(a)** response to the notification. The Council's Notification Triage Team (**NTT**) will consider **s 9(2)(a)** response on Monday 28 September and consider what, if any, further action is required.

Given our shared interest in this matter, we would like to work with the Ministry in our approach and accordingly I welcome your views on the above, and any update on steps the Ministry has taken in relation to the videos. I am happy to keep you updated also, following the NTT meeting on Monday.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Yours sincerely

Joan Simeon
Chief Executive Officer

From: jsimeon@mcnz.org.nz
Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 11:50 am
To: Ashley Bloomfield
Cc: Steve Osborne; Amy Wilson; Mathew Parr; DDunbar@mcnz.org.nz; AHall@mcnz.org.nz; NPatel@mcnz.org.nz
Subject: RE: Extending Pandemic Scope of Practice

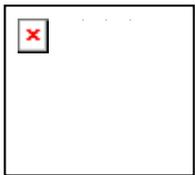
Kia ora Ashley

Thank you for sending this request through.

We will ask Council to consider and approve your request to extend the special purpose COVID-19 scope of practice at its meeting on 9 February. We will confirm approval of the extension following the Council meeting.

Please get in touch if there is anything else that we can help with.

Ngā mihi
Joan



Joan Simeon

Chief Executive

Te Kaunihera Rata o Aotearoa | **Medical Council of New Zealand**

s 9(2)(a)

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From: Ashley Bloomfield [mailto:xxxxxx.xxxxxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx]

Sent: Monday, 1 February 2021 10:37 a.m.

To: Joan Simeon - Staff <jsixxxx@xxxx.xxx.xx>

Cc: Steve Osborne <steve.oxxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.nz>; Amy Wilson <xxx.xxxxxx@xxxxxx.xxxx.xx>; Mathew Parr <Mathew.Parr@health.govt.nz>

Subject: Extending Pandemic Scope of Practice

Kia ora Joan

I am writing to you to once again request your assistance in managing the response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Specifically, in the coming months the roll-out of vaccinations will require the Council's and medical practitioners' support and we also need to ensure we continue to be prepared to respond to a resurgence.

In my role as Director-General of Health, I now request that the Medical Council extend its special purpose COVID-19 Pandemic scope of practice for 12 months, to enable medical practitioners to support the COVID-19 response.

Thank you for your responsiveness in responding to medical practitioners' requests for the special purpose scope of practice and for your engagement with the Ministry on our shared mahi responding to COVID-19.

Ngā mihi

Ashley

Dr Ashley Bloomfield

Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora
Director-General of Health

email: ashley.bloomfield@health.govt.nz
www.health.govt.nz

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From: Luuk Abernethy on behalf of Ashley Bloomfield
Sent: Friday, 12 February 2021 6:23 pm
To: 'Lynne.Hayman@rnzcgp.org.nz'; 'rnzcgp@rnzcgp.org.nz'; 'admin@nurse.org.nz';
'nurses@nzno.org.nz'; 'lesley@nzma.org.nz'; 'asms@asms.nz'; 'mcnz@mcnz.org.nz';
'executivedirector@alliedhealth.org.nz'; s 9(2)(a)
[REDACTED]
'ntrainor@scdhb.health.nz'; 'Peter.Bramley@nmdhb.govt.nz'; s 9(2)(a)
[REDACTED] 'Andrew.Brant@cdhb.health.nz'; s 9(2)(a)
Subject: Vaccine update from the Director-General of Health

Kia ora koutou

As you will have seen, this morning the Prime Minister announced that our first delivery of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is expected to arrive in New Zealand early next week. This is earlier than we'd originally expected and great news for all New Zealanders.

This follows last week's approval by MedSafe and this week's Cabinet approval for use of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine.

An enormous amount of work has gone into preparing to roll out our largest-ever immunisation programme and this has really accelerated in recent weeks. Thank you to all those who have been involved in getting us to this point.

On arrival, the vaccine will be independently tested for quality assurance, which is another important safety check. The doses will then be formally released to start the first phase of the vaccination programme.

As we have previously discussed, our first priority will be to vaccinate your people working in MIQ facilities and at the border, who New Zealanders owe a debt of gratitude to for helping keep COVID-19 out of our community. We estimate it will take three to four weeks to vaccinate the border and MIQ workers

We will begin vaccinating in Auckland from 20 February and will have more details on the rollout programme early next week. Vaccines are expected to be available to many healthcare workers as part of the next group and the wider community in the second half of the year.

While vaccination is not mandatory for New Zealanders, I ask you to use a variety of approaches to encourage all your frontline staff to be vaccinated and ensure they are provided with information to inform their decision. To support you, I've included a draft message to send to your workers. Information is also available at [Unite Against Covid-19](#) and [Ministry of Health](#)

The Ministry will continue to work closely with your teams to engage with iwi, Pacific and ethnic communities and other key stakeholders across New Zealand to ensure an equitable delivery of the vaccines.

We have come far and New Zealand is in a fortunate position with no current community outbreaks or transmission of COVID-19. This is in no small part due to the work of you and your teams. Getting our people vaccinated is key to locking in the gains we have made.

Ngā mihi,

Ashley

Dr Ashley Bloomfield

Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora

Director-General of Health

email: ashley.bloomfield@health.govt.nz

www.health.govt.nz

Suggested content for DHB CEs to pass on to their staff

Kia ora koutou

You will have seen that Prime Minister has announced that our first delivery of the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is expected to arrive in New Zealand next week. That is great news for all New Zealanders as it means we can start the first phase of the vaccine programme.

Government has secured supplies of COVID-19 vaccines for the entire country, and Medsafe and Ministers have approved the first vaccine, from Pfizer/BioNTech.

I want to assure you that Medsafe's approval is the culmination of a rigorous assessment over many months to ensure the Pfizer/BioNTech vaccine is safe and effective to use here. I am confident this decision has been informed by the most up-to-date medical and scientific data.

Nonetheless, on arrival the vaccine will be further tested independently for quality assurance, which is another important safety check. The doses will then be formally released to start the first phase of the vaccination programme

Because of the increased risk to exposure to COVID-19 to workers in Managed Isolation and Quarantine facilities, people working in those facilities, including health staff and other border workers will be the first group to receive the vaccine along with the people that they live with.

At this stage, we plan to start offering the vaccine to those working in MIQ and at the border from 20 February, starting in Auckland. We estimate it will take three to four weeks to vaccinate all border and MIQ workers. Vaccines are expected to be available for many others in the health workforce in the next tranche, and then to the wider community in the second half of the year.

More details on those timings will be available early next week.

I appreciate that the nature of your work means you have a heightened interest in the vaccine and may have questions. We will continue to provide information as soon as it becomes available. The Ministry of Health vaccine team is also available to support you and can be contacted at covid19vaccine@health.govt.nz for any questions you might have. There is also more information on the Ministry of Health website.

The COVID-19 vaccines will be free of charge. It is not mandatory although we strongly encourage you to be vaccinated to protect yourselves and your whānau. Your employer will provide more detail on where and when the vaccine will be available.

We have come far. New Zealand is in a fortunate position with no current community outbreaks or transmission of COVID-19. Getting vaccinated is key to locking in the gains we have made.

Thank you for all your continued mahi keeping New Zealand communities free from COVID-19.

Ngā mihi,

Dr Ashley Bloomfield

Te Tumu Whakarae mō te Hauora

Director-General of Health