



24 May 2021

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Tēnā koe [REDACTED]

### **Open Letter to Medical Council of New Zealand: Concerns about Covid-19 vaccine**

The Medical Council of New Zealand has received correspondence from a group of registered doctors raising concerns with the current Covid-19 vaccination programme in New Zealand. Your name has been listed as a signatory on the following two items of correspondence, along with your registration number:

- 1) E-Mail dated 14 April 2021 in support of an affidavit filed in the Wellington High Court
- 2) An 'open letter' received on 17 April 2021

Copies of all information received by Council are enclosed.

On 27 April 2021, the open letter was also posted on a [website](#) linked to the organisation Nga Kaitiaki Tuko Iho Inc. (<http://kti.org.nz/?p=361>). This has resulted in multiple enquiries from members of the public who have expressed significant concern with the views expressed by the signatories.

#### *Guidance Statement - Covid-19 vaccine and your professional responsibility 28 April 2021*

The Covid-19 pandemic and rollout of the vaccine programme has led to significant public interest.

To ensure that we fulfil our role of protecting the public and promoting good medical practice, and to support the profession with clear guidance on the issue, our recent joint [Guidance Statement](#) with the Dental Council of New Zealand outlines Council's position on vaccination and our expectations of all medical practitioners:

- All doctors will take up the opportunity to be vaccinated—unless medically contraindicated.
- Doctors have an ethical and professional obligation to protect and promote the health of patients and the public.
- Doctors have a role in providing evidence-based advice and information about the COVID-19 vaccination to others.
- There is no-place for the promotion of anti-vaccination messaging in professional health practice (including online and social media).<sup>1</sup>

Council is aware that its role as a regulator must be balanced with respecting an individual's right to their own opinions and their own healthcare decisions. However, we draw the Guidance Statement

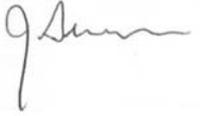
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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.mcnz.org.nz/about-us/news-and-updates/expectations-for-covid-19-vaccination-released-for-doctors-and-dentists/>

to your attention as a reminder of Council's expectations and ask you to exercise caution when providing information which may be contrary to the evidence and expert public health advice.

Council is taking this matter no further and you are not required to respond to this letter.

Nāku noa, nā

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Simeon', written over a faint rectangular stamp.

Joan Simeon  
Chief Executive