



DIETITIANS BOARD

Te Mana Mātanga Mātai Kai

Position Statement

New Zealand Registered Dietitians

COVID19 VACCINATOR

The Dietitians Board (the Board) acknowledges we are in unprecedented times with a global pandemic at play and strongly believes registered health care professionals have an important role in protecting the public.

The Board has been asked by the Ministry of Health to consider enabling registered dietitians to contribute specifically to support New Zealand's largest immunisation programme.

The Board supports the Ministry of Health's national COVID19 vaccination roll-out and is supportive of registered dietitians who hold a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) to be trained to administer COVID19 vaccines should they wish to do so.

To support and enable registered dietitians to deliver COVID19 vaccinations, the Board has developed this position statement to provide guidance for dietitians, other health professionals and employers.

The general scope of practice for dietitians registered in New Zealand is intentionally broad to ensure the health and safety of the public yet allow for workforce flexibility and responsiveness to growing healthcare demands.

Dietitians work in partnership with individuals, whānau, communities, and populations, in states of health and disease, to support optimal health and well-being. Whilst this is usually specific to their knowledge of scientific evidence related to food and nutrition, the Board is acutely aware dietitians are a group of registered health professionals who can step into a shared space within the health sector to support the greater public good.

Authorised COVID 19 Vaccinator

The Board has agreed that registered dietitians who hold a current APC can, following appropriate training and attainment of authorisation as a COVID19 vaccinator, become **Authorised COVID19 vaccinators** and can have this noted on their APC on the public website on request.

Practitioner responsibilities

Practitioners who wish to have their status as an **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator** noted on their APC will be required to provide the Board with evidence of their authorisation as a COVID19 vaccinator issued by a Medical Officer of Health or the Director General of Health.

Authorisation may be granted after successful completion of the relevant Ministry of Health approved COVID19 vaccinator training, including demonstrating the competency requirements set out by [The Immunisation Advisory Centre](#).

Registered dietitians who become **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinators** will be subject to the requirements of the [Ministry of Health's Immunisation Handbook 2020](#) which sets standards for vaccinators.

Adherence to the Board's [Code of Ethics & Conduct for Dietitians](#) is an obligation of every registered dietitian at all times. Dietitians are also expected to comply with the [Professional Standards and Competencies for Dietitians](#). These identify the standards against which the public can expect safe and competent practice.

It is the responsibility of the registered dietitian, and where relevant their employer, to ensure that they comply with any relevant Continuing Professional Development (CPD) activities necessary to maintain their **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator** status.

It is the registered dietitian's responsibility to:

1. ensure they are authorised by a Medical Officer of Health or the Director General of Health as a **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator**, and that they have undertaken the recognised education and training programme to administer the COVID19 vaccine.
2. ensure that they have appropriate professional support and mentoring structures in place when acting as an **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator**,
3. ensure that they maintain competence as an **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator** by undertaking relevant and ongoing CPD and peer review, and
4. meet their professional and ethical obligations as a registered dietitian.

Registered dietitians whose authorisation as an **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator** expires or is revoked must immediately inform the Board of the change in status.

Insurance

Registered dietitians should give consideration to whether work as an **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator** would be covered by Public Liability Insurance or DHB insurance. The Board recommends that dietitians seek advice from their respective insurance companies or DHB-based legal representative, or from an independent legal representative.

How do I become a Vaccinator?

For anyone interested in being a vaccinator, information can be found at health.govt.nz. and [HERE](#) and FAQ's [HERE](#).

Please contact the Board:

1. If you wish to have **Authorised COVID19 Vaccinator** noted on your APC
2. If you need to change your practising status
3. If you need to return to the Register

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