



## **GUIDANCE STATEMENT**

### **Covid 19 vaccine and your professional responsibility**

Vaccination is a critical part of the Aotearoa New Zealand public health response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Health practitioners can help to protect themselves, the people they care for, and the wider community by getting their COVID-19 vaccination.

The Midwifery Council has an expectation that all midwives will take up the opportunity to be vaccinated – unless this is medically contraindicated. It is an ethical and professional obligation to protect and promote the health of women and their whanau and vaccination has a crucial role to reduce the community risk of acquiring and further transmitting COVID-19.

Frontline healthcare and disability workers are at greater risk of getting COVID-19 or spreading it to people most at risk.

As a health practitioner, Midwives have a role in providing evidence-based advice and information about the COVID-19 vaccination to pregnant and postpartum women and others. These groups have a right to receive information that a reasonable consumer, in that consumer's circumstances, would expect to receive. (Right 6, Code of Health and Disability Services Consumers' Rights). There is information regarding the vaccination [here](#) to support you to have discussion with women and colleagues.

As regulator of Midwifery in Aotearoa New Zealand, the Midwifery Council respects an individual's right to have their own opinions, but it is the Council's view that there is no place for anti-vaccination messages in professional health practice, nor any promotion of anti-vaccination claims including on social media and advertising by health practitioners.

### **Additional resources**

Further information about the COVID 19 vaccination programme can be found on the [Ministry of Health](#) website.

Information regarding at risk groups (group 2 Healthcare workers, group 3 pregnant women at any trimester) and the vaccine roll out can be found [here](#).

Information for midwives wishing to be vaccinators can be found on the [IMAC website](#)

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