



## GUIDANCE STATEMENT

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### 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. Social workers can help to protect themselves, the people they work with, and the wider community by getting their COVID-19 vaccination.**

ANZASW strongly encourages all social workers to take up the opportunity to be vaccinated – unless this is medically contraindicated. Social workers have an ethical and professional obligation to protect and promote the health of clients and their whānau and vaccination has a crucial role to reduce the community risk of acquiring and further transmitting COVID-19.

Frontline social workers are at greater risk of getting COVID-19 or spreading it to people most at risk. Being vaccinated is one measure that can be taken to protect those at risk.

Social workers are not trained health professionals and should avoid providing health advice to clients. Social workers should support clients to access appropriate medical advice from a health practitioner. Information is also available on the [Ministry of Health's website](#).

As the professional association of social workers, ANZASW respects social worker's rights to have their own opinions, however, there is no place for anti-vaccination messages in professional practice, nor any promotion of anti-vaccination claims, including on social media and advertising by social workers.

### ADDITIONAL RESOURCES

Further information about the COVID 19 vaccination programme can be found on the MOH website: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novelcoronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/covid-19-vaccine-advice-specific-groups-and-healthconditions>

The [Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment \(MBIE\)](#) has guidance for employers and workers about the employment law implications for the COVID-19 vaccination programme.