

13/10/21

Hi Valued Professionals,

I see there is a lot of confusion around mandatory vaccination and treating clients post vaccination.

After contacting Ministry of Health this morning, they have confirmed that only nurses and teachers and front-line staff are required to be vaccinated to retain their jobs. This does not apply to the private business sector e.g. hairdressers, beauty therapists and other close contact business people. Minister Hipkins has stated the government intend to leave these decisions to individual businesses.

I also don't believe we are being asked to differentiate between treating vaccinated and nonvaccinated clients at this stage. It is the clinic owners and therapist's choice to decide who they decide to treat, and these decisions should be made on a case-by-case scenario.

This newsletter sets out the NZPBST's current understanding and position on vaccinations for staff and clients, and answer questions regarding post vaccination and infection inflammatory responses.

Mandatory Vaccinations

Worksafe state ¹

The Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) provides you and your workmates with a number of rights, and you have the right to stop working if you believe it is unhealthy or unsafe.

You are entitled to:

- *work in environments where the risks to your health and safety are properly controlled*
- *access adequate facilities, such as toilets, washing facilities and first aid*
- *have sufficient training, information, and support on how to do your job safely*
- *contribute to health and safety decisions at your workplace*
- *have personal protective equipment (PPE)*
- *ask to have a Health and Safety Representative (HSR) or a Health and Safety Committee (HSC)*

You have a right to stop work if you believe it is unhealthy or unsafe.

Right to stop or refuse to carry out work

You have the right to stop work or refuse to carry out work if you believe that doing the work would expose you, or anyone else, to a serious risk to health or safety from an immediate or upcoming hazard.

¹ <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/workers/your-rights-and-obligations>

With the failure to contain the spread of Covid, the government is presently formulating their strategy and plan to try and control the spread of Covid and the impact it will have on our health system and current announcements may change.

Epidemiologists have been saying for some time now that Covid is here to stay and at some stage we will all contract Covid, with varying levels of symptoms.

The problem we face is the effect of Covid on our Health system. By being vaccinated you have a 50% less chance of,

- being hospitalised and being in ICU on a ventilator.
- passing it on to someone else

If you aren't vaccinated, then the reverse can happen, and you are 50% more likely to incur the above.

[Clients Inflammatory responses to treatments post vaccination and after Covid infection](#)

After receiving any viral injection e.g., flu, influenza etc, it's normal to feel a little off afterwards. This also applies to your covid vaccination.

The reason you need to know if and when your client was vaccinated, and the date of their last jab is because we have received reports of inflammatory responses to clients receiving semi-invasive and invasive treatments e.g. [waxing and electrolysis] within days of their second jab.

An inflammatory response is erythema, puffiness, or sensitivity which the client usually doesn't experience with that treatment pre Covid jab. As this is a new community disease, medical data on inflammatory response and reaction times aren't available, so to protect yourself and your clients it is suggested a minimum delay of two weeks for semi-invasive and invasive treatments and 4 weeks for injectables.

As humans we all react differently and, it is the responsibility of the therapist to evaluate their client's health, skin sensitivity and treatment risk and if unsure seek medical advice before commencing the treatment.

It has also been reported in the UK, that some clients who have recovered from Covid suffer from "long haul Covid" these symptoms vary from person to person, but some report a heightened sensitivity to things (such as hair dyes and skin treatments) that they previously have never reacted to pre-Covid infection. Therapists need to understand the continued inflammatory response mechanism and be aware of this potential new condition and adjust their consultations, questioning and treatments accordingly.

As the NZ Board of Professional Skin Therapies learns more about this condition, we will inform you.

Consent Form and Waivers

- Your consent form is the form that your client signs giving informed consent to having a treatment performed by you after you have explained the procedure, risks, and any other information they need to know about that treatment. The primary purpose of the consent form is **to provide evidence that the patient gave consent to the procedure in question.**
- A waiver is a legally binding provision where either party in a contract agrees to voluntarily forfeit a claim without the other party being liable.