15/02/2021 Covid-19

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Covid-19

As you will be aware, the New Zealand Government has advised that the Auckland region will return to Alert Level 3 <u>from noon on Wednesday</u>

12th August until midnight Friday 14th August, and that the rest of the country will return to Alert Level 2 for the same time period.

Until we receive further advice from the Ministry of Health, please review what these Levels mean for your ability to practice, as per our previous advice.

As before, for Level 3, the primary method of care should be via telehealth or other ways of working remotely. Current guidance allows practitioners to treat face-to-face in the case of 'urgent care' but please note the <u>very high bar</u> set in the definition of 'urgent care'— face-to-face care should only occur in exceptional circumstances and you should be prepared to justify your decision to treat face-to-face for each patient appointment. These requirements will apply from midday today (Wednesday 12th August), including for existing appointments, and the Osteopathic Council must be notified of each patient appointment from this time until we return to a lower Alert Level or further guidance is given.

For those returning to Level 2, please review our guidance for increased hygiene practices, physical distancing requirements, patient screening and contact tracing protocols.

We will continue to update the profession as and when we can with any new information, as we are updated by the New Zealand Government and Ministry of Health.

Please take care of yourselves during this time of heightened alert, and we hope for a quick return to lower Alert Levels.

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Tim Friedlander Chair

Kaunihera Whakanao Uaiw

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