



## **Vaccinators in NZ information for members of Enrolled Nurse Section**

The Enrolled Nurse Section has been in discussions with the Immunisation Advisory Centre (IMAC) re enrolled nurses becoming Authorised Vaccinators.

Below is an excerpt from a recent release from the Ministry of Health

### **COVID-19 response – Changes to vaccinator training and vaccinator processes**

As part of the New Zealand COVID-19 response it is essential that all immunisation vaccinations continue to be delivered with a particular need for influenza vaccinations to be provided as rapidly as possible. There are several vaccination processes that have been amended to enable vaccinations to proceed and be given as safely and efficiently as possible.

#### **1. Influenza and Pandemic Response Vaccinator Training Course**

- a. An Influenza, MMR and Pandemic Vaccinator Training Course has been developed for the administration of influenza, MMR and any potential COVID-19 vaccine. This will be a free course and will be available to any Health Care Professional (HPC) who has a current Annual Practising Certificate (APC) and appropriate health science students registered with a professional body eg, Well Child Tamariki Ora (WCTO) nurses, Māori and Pacific health providers, school registered nurses, pharmacists not already vaccinating, enrolled nurses, retired health professionals, third year student nurses and fourth year student doctors.
- b. The course will consist of four hours online learning including an online assessment, plus a vaccine administration webinar followed by clinical peer review by an authorised vaccinator. It will be available on the IMAC website [www.immune.org.nz](http://www.immune.org.nz) and is planned to be available from approximately 9 April 2020.
- c. Priority will first be given to WCTO nurses, Māori and Pacific health providers, school registered nurses, pharmacists not already vaccinating and, enrolled nurses. Participants will be placed into groups and will undertake the webinar part of the course in these groups. There will be a registration process and

participants will need access to broadband and a computer to undertake the course.

The link to the full article is at: <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/preventative-health-wellness/immunisation>

**Background:**

The Enrolled Nurse Section NZNO National Committee met with a Regional Immunisation Advisor, from the Immunisation Advisory Centre in August 2019 in Wellington, in regards to Enrolled Nurses being Authorised Vaccinators. The current Enrolled Nurse Scope of Practice enables the Enrolled Nurse to be an Authorised Vaccinator. Following that meeting the Immunisation Advisory Centre sent the committee a consultation document in February 2020 which we responded to.

We contacted IMAC on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2020 for an update and we were informed that although the document is currently sitting with the Ministry, caught up in the COVID- 19 cycle. The Nursing Council of New Zealand have indicated there approval in regards to Enrolled Nurses being Authorised Vaccinators.

The Enrolled Nurse Section will keep you updated as information comes to hand.

Robyn Hewlett  
Chairperson  
Enrolled Nurse Section NZNO