



Covid-19 update statement

As you will be aware, the New Zealand Government has extended the Level 4 lockdown until 11.59pm on Monday 27th April, after which we will move into Level 3 for an initial two weeks.

We have received guidance from the Ministry of Health stating that only allied health professions that are considered Essential Services will be able to offer face-to-face consultations under Level 3, as is the case under Level 4.

Osteopaths have so far not been classified as essential workers under Level 3 or 4, and therefore are unable to conduct face-to-face consultations with patients while the country remains under these restrictions.

Osteopaths New Zealand has made a submission to the Ministry of Health requesting that osteopaths be classified as essential workers and the response to this submission is expected imminently. Please note that should osteopathy be classified as an essential service, there will still be significant restrictions in place to limit face-to-face consultations with patients. Such restrictions would not be limited to osteopaths but are similar across all allied health providers who have been deemed essential workers.

Following a submission to ACC by Osteopaths New Zealand, osteopaths are now able to claim for telehealth appointments during Alert Level 4 (with more information to come regarding Alert Level 3). The OCNZ has released [telehealth standards](#) to assist osteopaths to provide remote care, supported by [telehealth guidelines](#) which provide further detail. Osteopaths may also conduct these appointments under a private funding model if the condition is not covered under the ACC scheme.

[Osteopaths New Zealand](#), as your professional association, is able to provide you with guidance on other matters related to practise under the CoVid-19 restrictions and we wish to thank their team for the tremendous efforts they have made on behalf of the osteopathic profession. Please note, however, that their responsibility is first and foremost to their members, rather than the profession as a whole.

We at OCNZ recognise that these may be extremely difficult times for many of our registrants. We will keep you updated with guidelines and policies to assist you in safely re-opening your clinics as the country moves down through the levels, as we receive more guidance from the Ministry of Health.

Ngā mihi

Tim Friedlander

Chair

Kaunihera Whakanao Uaiwi
