

Thursday 29 April 2021

## Media Release

### **Medical practitioners across Aotearoa New Zealand rally behind COVID-19 vaccination programme “to protect our whānau, patients, colleagues, and our health system”**

Getting vaccinated against COVID-19 should be everyone’s top priority when they’re offered it, says the Council of Medical Colleges (CMC), which represents over 9000 medical practitioners in Aotearoa New Zealand.

Dr John Bonning, an Emergency Medicine physician and Chair of the CMC says all New Zealanders can be proud of the role they’ve played in protecting the country against COVID-19 over the past year.

“It’s critically important we maintain our collective approach when the vaccine becomes widely available from the middle of this year.

“Any vaccine’s strength is in numbers and the more of us who get vaccinated, the stronger and safer we’ll all be.”

More than 172,500 border, managed isolation and quarantine workers and the people they live with, as well as a good number of health care workers, especially those in the front line have already received their first (and many their second) dose of the vaccine.

“This is a good start and we need to keep this momentum going,” says Dr Bonning. “The CMC is encouraging everyone working in the health sector to get vaccinated to protect their whānau, patients, colleagues, and our health system.”

In terms of vaccine safety, Dr Bonning says stringent New Zealand approval processes have been maintained by Medsafe, the country’s medicines and medical devices safety authority.

To date 1.04 billion doses of the vaccine have been administered to people in over one hundred and eighty countries.

“As Kiwis, we know the value of teamwork and what it can deliver.

“We’ve also seen the havoc wrought by Covid-19 globally. Vaccinating New Zealanders is a big part of our pandemic recovery plan.”

**ENDS**

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College of Intensive Care Medicine of  
Australia and New Zealand

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College of Obstetricians and  
Gynaecologists

The Royal Australasian College of  
Physicians

New Zealand College of Public  
Health Medicine

The Royal Australian and New  
Zealand College of  
Ophthalmologists

The Royal College of  
Pathologists of Australasia

Royal Australasian College  
of Medical Administrators

The Royal Australian and New Zealand  
College of Radiologists

The Royal New Zealand College  
of General Practitioners

Australasian College of Sport  
and Exercise Physicians

The Royal Australian and New  
Zealand College of Psychiatrists

## About the Council of Medical Colleges (CMC) in Aotearoa New Zealand

The CMC represents fifteen medical colleges which provide support to over 9000 medical practitioners working in a range of specialties in the New Zealand health system.

**For further information or to arrange an interview with Dr Bonning please contact:**

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