

Dear CEPNZ members,

The CEPNZ Board recently met to discuss recent developments including the Covid-19 pandemic that has severely impacted all of us.

In 2019, CEPNZ joined the Allied Health Association of New Zealand (AHANZ), the national organization for allied health professions. AHANZ has an important role working with government ministries including the Ministry of Health. A recent update on practice during Level 3 has been circulated to AHANZ members and is summarized below:

Alert Level 3 Guidelines

Virtual appointments should be provided where possible and is the preferred method of service delivery. Face to face appointments may be provided for **urgent care only** so long as professional can take appropriate measures to manage public health.

'Urgent care' for community allied health professionals is defined as:

- a condition which is life or limb threatening **OR**
- treatment required to maintain the basic necessities of life **OR**
- treatment that cannot be delayed or carried out remotely without risk of significant harm or permanent and/or significant disability

AND

- which cannot be delivered by a service which is currently operating or by health professionals that are already in contact with the patient.

Clinical Exercise Physiology **does not** meet any of the requirements for urgent care and therefore must only be held via virtual appointments during this level.

The Ministry of Health is continuing to develop guidelines for health professionals as the move to Alert Level 2 draws closer. These guidelines will focus on:

- Practicing good infection prevention control procedures.
- Using the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE).
- Keeping accurate documentation of appointments to aid contact tracing if required.

CEPNZ will be holding a Q+A session on Wednesday 6th May 4PM via Zoom so your questions can be answered, and your concerns passed on to the Allied Health representative with the Ministry of Health.

There will be another session following the announcement for the move to Level 2 to provide you updated advice on the above guidelines so they can be put into place before you see your patients face to face.

Please contact Tyler at info@cepnz.org.nz to register your interest to the following sessions.