

COVID-19 Alert levels 3 & 4

Information for Midwives: Updated 25 August 2021

Medical certificates from midwives for pregnant women who are essential workers

Under COVID-19 Alert levels 3 and 4, essential services and businesses continue to operate. A number of midwives have had requests from their clients for medical certificates to enable them to stop work due to their concerns about being exposed to the virus at work.

A midwife may provide a medical certificate stating the woman's gestation and whether she has any comorbidities if requested, but considerations about whether a pregnant woman stops work due to concerns about the potential for COVID-19 exposure are a matter for discussion between the employer and the employee.

Employers will have health and safety processes to assist in their considerations of who is at risk and how this risk can be mitigated. This does not always mean that vulnerable and at-risk workers need to stop work.

Pregnant midwives and other staff who are employed by DHBs can find information about their COVID-19 occupational health process on the [MERAS website](#). Employees are advised to talk to their line manager in the first instance and if required complete a vulnerable and at-risk worker self-assessment form. They can also contact their occupational health service for advice.

[Employment New Zealand](#) provides advice for other employers on health and safety in essential businesses which includes requirements for minimising the risk of COVID-19 transmission at work. The [Essential Workers Leave Support Scheme](#) supports eligible businesses to enable workers who are required to self-isolate due to personal medical risk or potential exposure to Covid-19 to take leave during this time. This is not available to those employed by the wider State Sector, including DHBs, who are covered by provisions of the State Services Commission.