

## COVID-19 response Information for Midwives: Updated 10 May 2023

### Medical certificates from midwives for pregnant women and people in employment

As the Covid-19 pandemic response continues, 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, or because they have to self-isolate with Covid-19 infection.

A midwife may provide a medical certificate stating the woman's or person's gestation and whether there are any comorbidities if requested, but considerations about whether the person stops work due to concerns about the potential for COVID-19 exposure are a matter for discussion between the employer and the employee. Midwives cannot be expected to assess the health and safety risk for the multiple industries whose employees may become pregnant.

Employers will have health and safety processes to assist in their considerations of who is at risk and how this risk can be mitigated.

[Employment New Zealand](#) provides advice for employers on health and safety 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 (including self-employed sole traders) to take leave if they are self-isolating because they:

- have COVID-19
- are the parent or caregiver of a dependant who has COVID-19
- are in the category of people most at risk of severe illness from COVID-19, or has a household member who is, and have been advised by a medical practitioner (eg. a GP) to self-isolate.

This is not available to those employed by the wider State Sector, including Te Whatu Ora districts, who are covered by provisions of the State Services Commission.

Pregnant midwives and other staff who are employed by Te Whatu Ora or other maternity facilities 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.