

## UPDATE TO MEMBERS RE CORVID 19

The Ministry of Health has been producing regular updates and health advice about managing Covid 19 and preventing its spread. This has had wide national coverage and we will not repeat any of these messages and we do suggest your organisation uses the [Ministry of Health website](#) for regularly updated information.

As Platform members provide services under contract to every DHB and many Ministries we believe consistency across all government agencies is critical for our business continuity planning.

Therefore, on behalf of members, Platform will concentrate on business continuity issues that may arise during the pandemic as cross government consistency will be critical for members to plan with confidence and ensure the delivery of frontline response work.

We have heard today that the shared service agency TAS will convene a leadership group of DHBs, the aged care sector, home health, disability support and mental and addiction. Platform has been invited to represent our sector. Whilst this is convened via Health we will be seeking responses that reflect all the funders members contract with.

The first meeting is early next week and I will attend that to understand the scope and have already raised with them the following issues:

### Contracts

1. Will contracts continue to be paid across all DHB's and Ministries to providers even if contract deliverables cannot be met?
2. Do the DHB's and Ministries have the ability to auto pay contracts in the event of their key contract staff being absent?
3. In contracts where the provider is subject to clawback, will this be waived in the event of staff not being available or services not able to be delivered?
4. Will organisations still be required to submit reporting in the event of staff not being available or services not able to be delivered?
5. Will providers who are nearer the coalface be supported to use their judgement and direct every resource they have to deliver services differently to meet wider emerging community need rather than contracted services?

### Staff

1. If staff self-isolate (as is the Government's recommendation in most instances) should they be paid?
2. Should it be treated as sick, annual or discretionary leave?
3. What funding support is available for the above if this extends for a long period of time?
4. What funding support is available for a staff member who contracts COVID 19 and is absent for an extended period including the scenario of this staff member

being absent from work where they are required to support dependents and/or dependents are in self-isolation?

5. If a staff member contracts COVID 19 in the workplace is it regarded as a workplace accident?
6. Can we access a technology fund to support all staff to work remotely?

Many organisations already have key people to respond/coordinate pandemic responses and they have already provided useful advice. I would anticipate that Platform will continue to seek your help to support our efforts for sector coordination and technical advice.

If there is anything you would like me to bring to the meeting next week, please contact me on [ceo@platform.org.nz](mailto:ceo@platform.org.nz) or call me on 021 79 587.

We will stay in touch via email briefings in the first instance.

Marion Blake

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