



ANZCA
FPM

President
Australian and New Zealand
College of Anaesthetists

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Dr Ashley Bloomfield
Director-General of Health
Ministry of Health/ Manatū Hauora
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Via email:

Tēnā koe Dr Bloomfield

New Zealand vaccine rollout plan

I am writing to you regarding New Zealand's COVID-19 vaccine roll-out plan.

While the border and managed isolation and quarantine workforce and those working in COVID wards, should, quite correctly, be among the first to be vaccinated, I am seeking clarification on where anaesthetists and trainee anaesthetists at risk of exposure to the virus will be placed in the vaccination rollout.

Throughout the pandemic, anaesthetists have regularly been called on to intubate and resuscitate COVID-19 and suspected COVID-19 patients. In many hospitals, anaesthetists play a vital role in primary and back-up resuscitation and intubation teams alongside our intensive care and emergency medicine colleagues.

ANZCA is seeking assurances that anaesthetists and trainee anaesthetists who are members of these teams will be amongst the first hospital-based staff to receive the vaccine.

Early vaccination of staff who resuscitate and intubate confirmed and suspected COVID-19 patients and in all critical care settings should be seen as a crucial element of the vaccine roll-out in preventing transmission from hospitals to the community.

While I appreciate there is some uncertainty around the vaccine rollout, this is causing anxiety for anaesthetists working with COVID-19 patients and in critical care and I would appreciate a response providing assurance and further detail by 1 March.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Nāku noa, nā

Dr Vanessa Beavis
President

Cc: Hon Chris Hipkins