

# COVID-19 Vaccination Statement

25 October 2022

Safe Network has adopted a policy regarding COVID-19 vaccination, consistent with the statutory and regulatory requirements for vaccination, our employment and health & safety obligations, and our recognition of and commitment to client rights and access to service.

Safe Network is a ‘health and disability service’ under legislation. Safe Network has considered the following in determining an appropriate COVID-19 vaccination policy:

- The legal requirements for vaccination and monitoring of vaccination
- Our obligations to our staff to consult on changes to their conditions of employment and protect their health and safety at work
- The rights of all individuals to make their own decisions on vaccination
- The risks presented by COVID-19 for people in contact with our agency. Specific consideration has been given to the level of risk for Maori relative to the general population
- The risk of adverse effects from the vaccination
- Our desire to limit any vaccination requirements to the minimum justifiable level.

## Policy summary

A summary of the main points in Safe Network’s COVID-19 vaccination policy is as follows:

1. All clinical staff working with clients are encouraged but not required to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19. Staff who contract COVID-19 are required to self-isolate in line with Government regulations. Staff who are household contacts are not required to isolate.
2. Clinical contractors, volunteers, students, and researchers in client contact roles are not required to be vaccinated.
3. Clients and all other visitors to Safe Network premises including family, whanau and professionals supporting clients are not required to be vaccinated.

4. Appropriate hygiene measures will be available and may be encouraged for visitors, e.g. masks and physical distancing.
5. Subject to any Government vaccination mandate in place at the time, this policy will expire on 31 December 2022. Any renewal of the policy at that date will follow a revised risk assessment.