



**Volunteer Update from Tina McCafferty - CE**

Memo: All Totara Hospice Volunteers - All areas

From: Tina McCafferty, Chief Executive

Date: 21st March 2020, 3:30pm

**Notice for Volunteers following New Zealand's Prime Minister Jacinda Aderns' Nation Address at midday 21st March 2020 regarding the Covid-19 pandemic**

Kia ora koutou,

As Totara Hospices communities health and wellbeing is at the heart of what we do, our thoughts are with all our families both here and overseas. As I mentioned in my previous email we are living, working and volunteering in unprecedented times and that our Government are reviewing advice daily in order to keep us all as safe as possible.

Following on from the Nation Address from Prime Minister Jacinda Adern we will be following the request from Government to ensure that all Volunteers who are over 70 and those with certain medical conditions remain at home.

**Announced at midday 21st March:**

**New Zealanders over 70 and those with certain medical conditions told to stay at home as much as they can to reduce risk of contact with the virus.**

**For those under 70 years of age - working as a volunteer during Covid-19:**

We support our volunteers to make an informed decision about continuing as a volunteer in the current situation. If you wish to continue volunteering we want you to do so being informed of all the risks and as part of the team to contain this virus.

- If you would like to take a break from volunteering during this time of global pandemic we completely support your decision, and want you to know that this will not place undue pressure on us. Your safety is paramount and we will welcome you back with open arms in the future.
- During this time of pandemic, all active volunteers will be making an agreement that they are:
  - Not awaiting test results for Covid-19 virus.
  - They have not been confirmed as a person carrying Covid-19 virus.
  - They are not in a situation that requires them to self-isolate nor have they recently returned from overseas or had contact with a person known to carry the Covid-19 virus.

We are monitoring government directives daily and should there be different requirements on social groupings and work places then we will inform you of the change - this may mean temporarily taking a break from your volunteer roster.

**Emotional Wellbeing:** It's normal to feel anxious in the current climate especially with all of the media coverage we are exposed to. If anyone is feeling overwhelmed and needs support please reach out to your manager, colleagues the Volunteer Services team or our Employee Assistance Programme.

**Information Available:** We are continuing to monitor the developing situation very closely we really encourage everyone to visit the Ministry of Health website [www.health.govt.nz/covid-19](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19) or the Government website - [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz) this is constantly being updated and is the resource we will always refer to.

**Remember be Kind:** Make a difference by checking in on others, especially the elderly and vulnerable. Look after anyone that needs help, always considering your health and wellbeing as well.

In times like these we all need to come together to support each other. Thank you all for your assistance and calm as we continue to care and support our cause.

If you have any questions or concerns please contact Trina Napier via phone or email 09 640 0220 / [trina.napier@hospice.co.nz](mailto:trina.napier@hospice.co.nz).

Ngā mihi nui,  
Tina McCafferty - Chief Executive

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