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At Voices For Freedom, we do not consider that there is a template communication that can be provided to those looking after our children when they are not in our care because every situation is so different. Therefore, the purpose of this outline is to empower you to communicate with those that care for our kids when we are not. We have included a blank letter for you to use for formatting and inspiration at the end of this outline.

This outline covers discussions at school regarding the vaccination and Covid 19

**Remember, in all circumstances, kids 12 and under are exempt from the**

**masks order, PCR test, or the Jab.**

If you have been forwarded this outline by a friend, family member or colleague then please go to <https://voicesforfreedom.co.nz/resources> to see the other letters regarding PCR tests, masks and vaccination.

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**Risks of Covid-19 in kids**

The research and results have been clear from the outset:

* The risk of death or serious disease from Covid-19 to children is **close to zero**[[1]](#footnote-1) and **children play an insignificant role in transmission** of Covid-19[[2]](#footnote-2).
* The Covid-19 vaccine used in the NZ is based on **completely new gene technologies**[[3]](#footnote-3), it has **not been licensed**[[4]](#footnote-4), and **remain experimental** until Phase 3 trials have been completed in 2023. That means there is no way to know the short, medium or long-term effects of the vaccine and once administered it is irreversible.
* Further, there are very serious adverse events and vaccine-related deaths have been reported to Government databases in NZ[[5]](#footnote-5), the UK[[6]](#footnote-6), the US[[7]](#footnote-7) and Europe[[8]](#footnote-8). As at 11 September 2021, 18,077 adverse reactions were reported to Medsafe in New Zealand[[9]](#footnote-9). Of those in the age bracket 10-19 years, 1094 adverse events were reported after the first does and 122 adverse events were reported after the second dose.

**Covid 19 and vaccination discussions at schools**

Some Covid 19 and vaccination discussions at schools may be appropriate for example where the discussion is open and factual. Those discussions might not be appropriate where the teacher is advocating a particular preference and/or congratulating other children on their particular preference.

Freedom of choice and informed consent are key cornerstones of this decision which is one for the families/caregivers rather than the schools.

**Responsibilities of our schools and teachers**

Teachers have an important and trusted role in society and have a strong influence on learners in shaping their future. As such, each teacher is governed by the:

* **Code of Professional Responsibility** which sets out the high standards for ethical behaviour that are expected of every teacher; and
* **Standards for the Teaching Profession** and the expectations of effective teaching practice (respectively).

With respect to learners, teacher's obligations to them include:

1. promoting the wellbeing of learners and protecting them from harm
2. engaging in ethical and professional relationships with learners that respect professional boundaries
3. promoting inclusive practices to support the needs and abilities of all learners
4. being fair and effectively managing my assumptions and personal beliefs.

With respect to society, teacher's obligations include promoting and protecting the principles of human rights, sustainability and social justice.

The above are only an example of teacher's obligations under the code. The code is available <https://teachingcouncil.nz/assets/Files/Code-and-Standards/Our-Code-Our-Standards-Nga-Tikanga-Matatika-Nga-Paerewa.pdf>

It is not appropriate and is a breach of various aspects of the Code where attempts are made by a teacher / principal or board to influence learners' decisions about Covid-19 and vaccination. Examples of such scenarios may include:

* Being alarmist and not factual with respect to Covid-19 and its risks
* Advising learners that the teacher is off to get their vaccination
* Congratulating other leaners in the class of their vaccination status (vaccinated or unvaccinated)
* Advising children of the pros or cons of the vaccine
* Teachers sharing their views on the vaccine and allowing children to share their views on the vaccine in a way that is intended to influence children to have or not have the vaccine

**What can a teacher or school not do with respect to Covid 19 and vaccination**

It is not suitable nor appropriate for teachers, school leaders or board members to use their position to promote their personal views about Covid-19 or the vaccine in an attempt to influence a learner's decision about vaccination or not.

This has been confirmed in the Ministry of Education's *Ministry Bulletin for School Leaders* dated 26 August 2021[[10]](#footnote-10) under the section titled *"****Teachers and principals' personal views on vaccinations****"* stated

*"... although a discussion about different perspectives on vaccination may be valid in some contexts, an attempt to influence a learner’s decision about vaccination is likely to breach various aspects of the Cod* *e of Professional Responsibility."*

That does not mean that a teacher cannot talk about Covid 19 or vaccination, they can discuss it factually – they can just not share their personal views.

Examples of what a teacher should not do is:

* Tell students of the class they are off for their Jab
* Congratulate other students for getting or not getting the Jab

**Whose decision is it?**

Discussions around Covid-19 and the decision to vaccinate like any other private medical decision is outside any role teachers are to play. It is a decision for the student and their family in their family environment. Any attempt by a teacher to press upon or impose their views on a learner should not occur and is in clear breach of the Code.

Teachers have a clear syllabus to teach and a Code by which it is to be taught. With all of the upheaval created by Covid 19 and its management, it is now more important than ever to maintain as regular and consistent routine for our children as possible without creating unnecessary fear or pressure.

Possible letter to school

**Name of school / principal and teacher**

**Address**

**Address**

Date

FOR: Board of Trustees / Principal / Teacher

**DISCUSSIONS REGARDING COVID-19 AND VACCINATION**

I/We have learned from my child/ren that recently there have been some discussions regarding Covid-19 and vaccinations by their teacher/s. I/We understand that this is what happened [set out what was discussed, who said it and when and why you are concerned about that nature of the discussion – either to be vaccinated or not].

I am/We are aware that the threat that Covid-19 poses generally has been exaggerated by media and influential people worldwide. Globally, Covid-19 mortality is less than 1% of the world's population[[11]](#footnote-11), with most mortality in those who are in high-risk categories, principally those aged over 70 and/or with serious underlying health conditions[[12]](#footnote-12). On the whole, children are at no risk from Covid-19 of any variant[[13]](#footnote-13). Most children do not even know if they have come into contact with the virus and fought it off.

In addition, there remains significant uncertainty as to the safety of the Pfizer mRNA vaccine. Although the Pfizer vaccine has already been administered to millions of people worldwide, the vaccine has yet to complete its human trials, with completion expected to occur in 2023. Further, the clinical trials that have been undertaken did not address long-term effects that, if serious, would be borne by children/adolescents for potentially decades[[14]](#footnote-14).

In these circumstances it is not possible for medical professionals to advise people about the full risks associated with the vaccine so that they are able to give fully ‘informed consent’, let alone their children. Given the short time that these novel vaccines have been administered and the urgency with which they have been rolled out, it is impossible to determine now whether or not the vaccine has any longer term medical ramifications for personal health. This limitation is acknowledged by Pfizer[[15]](#footnote-15).

You should be aware that there have already been significant adverse events reported globally and locally following people receiving the Pfizer vaccine. These include death, anaphylaxis, blood clots and related complications, Bell’s palsy, leaky blood vessels and related complications, heart problems (myocarditis and pericarditis), neurological disorders, autoimmune disorders, other chronic and inflammatory conditions, blindness and deafness, infertility, foetal damage, miscarriage and stillbirth, and Covid-19. Many of these are acknowledged by Pfizer as known risks, but many have not yet been studied sufficiently by Pfizer (owing to the limited and ongoing trials I have already mentioned).[[16]](#footnote-16)

Discussions around Covid-19 and the decision to vaccinate, like any other private medical decision, is outside any role teachers are to play. It is a decision for the student and their caregivers in their home environment based on people's personal medical situation.

Teachers are valued and trusted members of our society and therefore have considerable influence on their learners. That is why teachers are governed by the Code of Professional Responsibility (**Code**) which sets out and maintains these high standards for ethical behaviour with respect to their students and society. It follows that an attempt by a teacher to press upon or impose their personal medical views on a learner at such a critical time and regarding such a critical matter should not occur and is a clear breach of the Code.

The above has been confirmed directly by the Ministry of Education in the *Ministry Bulletin for School Leaders* dated 26 August 2021[[17]](#footnote-17) under the section titled *"****Teachers and principals' personal views on vaccinations****"* which states *"... although a discussion about different perspectives on vaccination may be valid in some contexts, an attempt to influence a learner’s decision about vaccination is likely to breach various aspects of the Code of Professional Responsibility."*

As [name of child or children]’s teacher I/we value your work in his/her learning. I/we do not think it is appropriate for these discussions about Covid-19 (which would foster an environment of undue fear, pressure, confusion, and bullying among the students) and should ever take place in the classroom or at school.

We/I look forward to your confirmation by reply that you will ensure that any discussion or any further about Covid-19 or the vaccination will not take place within the school environment.

Yours sincerely,

[Sign your name/s]

[Type your name/s]

Email: [insert e-mail address]

1. [Children and young people remain at low risk of COVID-19 mortality - The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642%2821%2900066-3/fulltext);

[Assessing the age specificity of infection fatality rates for COVID-19: systematic review, meta-analysis, and public policy implications - PubMed (nih.gov)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33289900/);

[COVID-19: the green book, chapter 14a - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-the-green-book-chapter-14a). [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. [Assessing the age specificity of infection fatality rates for COVID-19: systematic review, meta-analysis, and public policy implications - PubMed (nih.gov)](https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/33289900/);

[Sharing a household with children and risk of COVID-19: a study of over 300 000 adults living in healthcare worker households in Scotland (bmj.com)](https://adc.bmj.com/content/archdischild/early/2021/03/17/archdischild-2021-321604.full.pdf);

[To what extent do children transmit SARS‐CoV‐2 virus? - Isaacs - 2020 - Journal of Paediatrics and Child Health - Wiley Online Library](https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/full/10.1111/jpc.14937);

[Transmission of SARS-CoV-2 in Australian educational settings: a prospective cohort study - The Lancet Child & Adolescent Health](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lanchi/article/PIIS2352-4642%2820%2930251-0/fulltext);

<https://pediatrics.aappublications.org/content/pediatrics/early/2021/01/06/peds.2020-048090.full.pdf>

[Eurosurveillance | Minimal transmission of SARS-CoV-2 from paediatric COVID-19 cases in primary schools, Norway, August to November 2020](https://www.eurosurveillance.org/content/10.2807/1560-7917.ES.2020.26.1.2002011). [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. [Types of vaccines for COVID-19 | British Society for Immunology](https://www.immunology.org/coronavirus/connect-coronavirus-public-engagement-resources/types-vaccines-for-covid-19). [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. [About Our Landmark Trial | Pfizer](https://www.pfizer.com/science/coronavirus/vaccine/about-our-landmark-trial). [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
5. <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp> [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
6. [Coronavirus (COVID-19) vaccine adverse reactions - GOV.UK (www.gov.uk)](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-vaccine-adverse-reactions) [↑](#footnote-ref-6)
7. [Welcome (openvaers.com)](https://openvaers.com/index.php) [↑](#footnote-ref-7)
8. [European database of suspected adverse drug reaction reports (adrreports.eu)](https://www.adrreports.eu/en/index.html);

<https://dap.ema.europa.eu/analytics/saw.dll?PortalPages&PortalPath=%2Fshared%2FPHV%20DAP%2F_portal%2FDAP&Action=Navigate&P0=1&P1=eq&P2=%22Line%20Listing%20Objects%22.%22Substance%20High%20Level%20Code%22&P3=1+42325700> [↑](#footnote-ref-8)
9. [Safety Report #28 – 11 September 2021 (medsafe.govt.nz)](https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/safety-report-28.asp) [↑](#footnote-ref-9)
10. <https://mailchi.mp/education/covid-19-update-26-august> [↑](#footnote-ref-10)
11. <https://ourworldindata.org/mortality-risk-covid> [↑](#footnote-ref-11)
12. <https://covid19.govt.nz/health-and-wellbeing/about-covid-19/people-at-higher-risk-of-severe-illness-from-covid-19/> [↑](#footnote-ref-12)
13. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S221475002100161X> [↑](#footnote-ref-13)
14. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S221475002100161X> [↑](#footnote-ref-14)
15. August 23, 2021 Summary Basis for Regulatory Action – Pfizer Comirnaty <https://www.fda.gov/media/151733/download> [↑](#footnote-ref-15)
16. <https://www.fda.gov/media/151733/download> [↑](#footnote-ref-16)
17. <https://www.medsafe.govt.nz/COVID-19/vaccine-report-overview.asp>

 <https://mailchi.mp/education/covid-19-update-26-august> [↑](#footnote-ref-17)