



TEU

TERTIARY EDUCATION UNION
TE HAUTŪ KAHURANGI

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Minister Chris Hipkins
NZ Parliament

By email

21 October 2021

Kia ora Minister,

The tertiary education sector has been substantially impacted on by the COVID-19 pandemic. Much of the impact is due to the inability to continue fully with face-to-face teaching and student support.

TEU's vaccination position paper states that COVID-19 must be dealt with as a health and safety issue. The union bases its actions on the expert science and health advice; encouraging members to get vaccinated and follow all precautions of masking, distancing, and hand hygiene. However, we support all staff and will ensure anyone whose job may be affected is treated fairly and given options, including redeployment or alternative duties.

We urge you to work rapidly on an agreed [with TEU] risk assessment process for the tertiary education sector, and if necessary, put in place a Public Health Order mandating vaccinations as staff and learners need consistency and certainty as an essential part of education. If vaccines are mandated for staff only, we ask that a risk analysis with regard to students, contractors, and other visitors is carried out with a view to requiring masks/face coverings to be worn when on a TEI site.

New Zealand needs a strong, public tertiary education sector both during this human and social crisis and beyond if our country is to build a better future.

Ngā mihi

Tina Smith
National President

Sandra Grey
National Secretary