

Privacy and Covid-19 – what can be disclosed?

Daily updates on coronavirus cases have become normal in the media, yet the Privacy Commissioner is urging employers and business owners that common sense is key. Employers must remember their obligations and consider discretion when distributing information, as every employee has the right to expect that their health information will be kept confidential from other employees.

The Privacy Commissioner recently released FAQs on their blog about an employer's responsibilities around disclosure and privacy when dealing with cases of corona virus and self-isolation among staff.

Keeping discretion in mind, the FAQs go into detail on the exceptions to the disclosure rule such as where it is necessary to prevent or lessen the risk of a serious threat to others. They also advise the scenarios where health authorities should take the lead on whether or not notification is deemed necessary.

The blog and FAQs can be accessed here: <https://privacy.org.nz/blog/faqs-on-privacy-and-covid-19/>

Main resource:

Covid-19 and privacy FAQs <<https://privacy.org.nz/blog/faqs-on-privacy-and-covid-19/>>

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