



**Acupuncture
Foundation
Professional
Association**



**Acupuncture
Council of Ireland**

16/10/2020

Dear Members,

With the government moving Donegal, Cavan and Monaghan to Level 4 and the threat of further counties being moved into Level 4 or even possibly level 5 we understand that there is a lot of concern and unease amongst our members, over whether they may continue to practice or not.

The government have also updated their list of essential services (see link below)

<https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/c9158-essential-services-for-level-4/>

Unfortunately for our members they have now changed the wording under Human Health and Social Work Activities to:

“therapy services provided by a member of a designated profession within the meaning of section 3 of the Health and Social Care Professionals Act 2005 (No. 27 of 2005)”

We would like to express our dissatisfaction that acupuncture and other non-CORU registered health and social care professionals are not included in the above referenced act. As the Essential Services list is an inclusive list, acupuncture is therefore not considered by the government as an essential service.

We would like to remind our members that having valid insurance is a condition of membership. Although the AFPA and ACI do not have the authority to direct any member to open or close their practice, if a practitioner is in breach of government guidelines their insurance will not be valid. Based on the current government guidelines, it is the collective recommendation of both the AFPA and the ACI for members to suspend their practices during Level 4 or Level 5 restrictions.

We are committed to exploring ways our profession may be permitted to operate during Level 4 and 5 restrictions. We will continue to monitor the situation and revert to you with any updates as they arise.

We appreciate these are uncertain times, but we are hopeful that these restrictions will be temporary and we will be able to return to our new normal as soon as possible.

Stay safe

Shane
Shane McMunn
Chair AFPA

Juliane
Juliane Colleran
Chair ACI