

**Vermont Board of Medical Practice**  
**Position Statement on Unprofessional Conduct and COVID-19**  
*(adopted November 3, 2021)*

In recent months, much attention has been focused on unprofessional conduct related to the discussion, prevention, and treatment of COVID-19. State medical boards have disciplined licensees for such conduct, and state medical regulators, national professional organizations, and medical specialty certifying boards have published position statements. The Vermont Board of Medical Practice (BMP) makes this statement to inform Vermont licensees and the public of its expectations for professional conduct in circumstances that may arise in the prevention and treatment of COVID-19, and in discourse about prevention and treatment of COVID-19.

The BMP supports the Federation of State Medical Boards [position statement \(July 29, 2021\) regarding COVID-19 vaccine misinformation](#). Licensees who generate or promote misinformation or disinformation about COVID-19 erode public trust in the medical profession and endanger the health of their patients and the public. The Board recognizes the expertise of the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and the Vermont Department of Health. The positions of those agencies, grounded in science, guide the Board as it executes its duty to investigate complaints and regulate the professions it oversees.

This BMP position statement is not limited to vaccine misinformation and applies to all forms of unprofessional conduct, as defined by Vermont law. Vermont law prohibits unprofessional conduct by BMP licensees, including conduct such as willful misstatements in practice and failure to meet the standard of care. Such conduct is unprofessional whether it occurs during the prevention or treatment of COVID-19 or any other condition. The Board investigates all complaints of unprofessional conduct and, when unprofessional conduct is found, imposes discipline to protect public health, safety, and welfare.

Members of the public and medical professionals are encouraged to contact the Board when they believe unprofessional conduct may have occurred. More information and the complaint form are [available on the BMP website](#).

