

Update of the New Covid-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System)

New Zealand moves to the Traffic Light system at 11.59pm Thursday 2nd December 2021.

The framework consists of three settings – **Red**, **Orange** and **Green**.

PUBLIC HEALTH MEASURES

Testing, contact tracing and isolation will continue as key tools to minimise any spread of the virus.

Localised lockdowns will still be an option if there is a rapid growth in cases. There may still be a need to use wider lockdowns, similar to the measures in Alert Level 3 or 4.

To shift between levels, the following will be considered:

- ✔ Vaccination coverage
- ✔ Capacity of the health and disability system
- ✔ Testing, contact tracing and case management capacity, and
- ✔ The transmission of Covid-19 within the community, including its impact on key populations.

More information will be released in late November.

VACCINATION CERTIFICATE REQUIREMENTS

Requiring a vaccination certificate will be optional for many locations. There will be some higher-risk settings where they will be a requirement to open to the public.

At all levels, businesses, retail, and public facilities will generally be able to remain open for vaccinated people.

Businesses, events, organisations, community, and a range of sectors may legally choose to implement a vaccination entry requirement for customers.

If a business, organisation or service does not wish to request proof of vaccine, they will have to operate with strict limits on capacity and space requirements. They may need to close in Orange and/or Red levels.

RED

Used when the virus is spreading in a way which requires action to be taken to protect at-risk people and our health system.

- ✔ Record keeping and scanning will be required.

- ✔ Face coverings will be mandatory on flights, public transport, in taxis, retail, public venues, recommended whenever leaving the house

Where we can go at Red:

- ✔ Public facilities — open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing
- ✔ Retail — open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing
- ✔ Workplaces — open with working from home appropriate for some staff
- ✔ ECEs, schools, and kura are open with public health measures

Places with vaccination certificate requirements.

There will be restrictions if vaccination certificates are used.

These places will be able to open with up to 100 people, based on 1m physical distancing:

- ✔ Hospitality
- ✔ Gatherings (for example weddings, funerals, tangihanga, places of worship, marae)
- ✔ Events (indoor/outdoor)
- ✔ Outdoor community events (for example fairs)
- ✔ Gyms
- ✔ Gatherings at home can have up to 100 people.

These places will be able to open with other requirements:

- ✔ Close-proximity businesses (for example hairdressers) with public health requirements in place
- ✔ Tertiary education — vaccines required for onsite delivery, with capacity based on 1m distancing

Places where vaccination certificates are not used.

If a business, organisation or service, does not request proof of vaccine, restrictions will apply:

- ✔ Hospitality — contactless only
- ✔ Gatherings (for example weddings, funerals, tangihanga, places of worship, marae) — up to 25 people based on 1m physical distancing
- ✔ Outdoor community events (for example fairs) — up to 25 people based on 1m physical distancing
- ✔ Tertiary education — distance learning only
- ✔ Gatherings at home can have up to 25 people.

These places will not be able to operate without a vaccination certificate requirement:

- ✔ Events (indoor and outdoor)

- ✔ Close-proximity businesses (for example hairdressers)
- ✔ Gyms

ORANGE

There will be increasing community transmission that is putting pressure on the health system. The whole of health system will focus its resources, but can continue to manage primary care, public health, and hospitals. There may also be an increasing risk for at-risk people.

How we stay safe at Orange:

- ✔ Record keeping and scanning will be required
- ✔ Face coverings will be mandatory on flights, public transport, in taxis, retail, public venues, and encouraged elsewhere

Where we can go at Orange:

- ✔ Public facilities will be open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing
- ✔ Retail, including farmers' markets will be open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing
- ✔ Education facilities will be open with public health measures in place
- ✔ Workplaces

Places with vaccination certificate requirements.

There will be no limits if vaccination certificates are used at:

- ✔ Hospitality
- ✔ Gatherings (for example weddings, funerals, tangihanga, places of worship, marae, social sports)
- ✔ Gatherings at home
- ✔ Events (indoor/outdoor)
- ✔ Outdoor community events (for example fairs)
- ✔ Close-proximity businesses (for example hairdressers)
- ✔ Gyms

Places where vaccination certificates are not used:

- ✔ Hospitality — contactless only
- ✔ Gatherings (for example weddings, funerals, tangihanga, places of worship, marae) — up to 50 people, based on 1m distancing
- ✔ Gatherings at home — up to 50 people
- ✔ Outdoor community events (for example fairs) — up to 50 people, based on 1m distancing

These places will not be able to operate without a vaccine certificate requirement:

- ✔ Events (indoor/outdoor)
- ✔ Gyms
- ✔ Close-proximity businesses (for example hairdressers)

GREEN

Used when there are some Covid-19 cases in the community, and sporadic imported cases. Community transmission will be limited, and Covid-19 hospitalisations will be at a manageable level. The health system will be ready to respond, including primary care, public health, and hospitals.

How we stay safe at Green:

- ✔ Record keeping and scanning will be required
- ✔ Face coverings are mandatory on flights and encouraged indoors

Where we can go at Green:

- ✔ Public facilities
- ✔ Retail including farmers' markets
- ✔ Workplaces
- ✔ ECEs, schools, kura and tertiary providers

Places with vaccination certificate requirements.

There will be no limits if vaccination certificates are used for:

- ✔ Hospitality
- ✔ Gatherings (for example weddings, funerals, tangihanga, places of worship, marae, social sports)
- ✔ Gatherings at home
- ✔ Events (indoor/outdoor)
- ✔ Outdoor community events (for example fairs)
- ✔ Close-proximity businesses (for example hairdressers)
- ✔ Gyms

Places where vaccination certificates are not used.

If a business, organisation or service, does not request proof of vaccine, restrictions will apply:

- ✔ Hospitality — up to 100 people, based on 1m physical distancing, seated and separated
- ✔ Gatherings (for example weddings, funerals, tangihanga, places of worship, marae, social sports) — up to 100 people, based on 1m physical distancing
- ✔ Events (indoor/outdoor) — up to 100 people, based on 1m physical distancing, seated and separated.
- ✔ Outdoor community events (for example a public parade) up to 100 people based on 1m physical distancing

- ✔ Close-proximity businesses (for example hairdressers) — face coverings for staff, 1m distancing between customers
- ✔ Gyms — up to 100 people, based on 1m physical distancing

WHAT IT MEANS FOR BUSINESS

Businesses must display posters advertising if they require people entering to have a My Vaccine Pass. You must sight the pass and it is strongly recommended that you verify it.

- ✔ You may switch between operating under My Vaccine Pass is required/not required, as long as your premises are cleaned between groups. For example, a conference venue can host a conference for a small group of people under the unvaccinated rules, clean, and they can then do a larger gathering for vaccinated. You must clearly communicate what settings you are operating under and display any required signage.
- ✔ The capacity limits apply to the premises or a defined space. Limits include all attendees, but not workers.
 - A defined space is an indoor area that has no direct airflow to another indoor area that is being used; or an outdoor area that is separated from other outdoor areas by 2 metres. Separate spaces must be managed so that, so far as is reasonably practicable, groups do not mix entering, leaving, or using the premises.
 - Some capacity limits are based on 1 metre distancing. This means the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1 metre apart. People do not need to stand 1 metre apart.
 - There is one exception to how capacity limits are applied. If you are holding a gathering at a private dwelling or house you only need to adhere to the maximum number limit, regardless of the size of the house.
 - For some types of businesses there are lower capacity limits for if they do not require a My Vaccine Pass, than if they do. If you have a group of people that has both people with My Vaccine Pass, and people without (excluding children), you must adhere to the lower capacity limit.
 - Workers include anyone required to operate the business or service, and therefore includes paid and unpaid.

NOTE: This information is correct at the time of writing. Information has been sourced from:

<https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-protection-framework/>

<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/covid-19-protection-framework/>

More specific guidance for different industries is available at:

<https://www.business.govt.nz/covid-19/covid-19-protection-framework/>

Information may change once the COVID-19 Protection Framework Order is issued.