

We've moved to the next stage of our COVID-19 response.

The framework will continue to protect New Zealanders, while also providing more certainty and new opportunities. It minimises the impact and provides protection from COVID-19 through three settings - Green, Orange and Red.

Minimisation means we are aiming to keep the spread of COVID-19 and hospitalisations at as low a level as possible. Outbreaks will be contained and controlled, and if practical, stamped out. There will likely be some level of cases in the community on an ongoing basis.

Protection means that we will protect people from the virus, with vaccination, infection prevention and control, and general public health measures (e.g. contact tracing, case management and testing). Response will also focus on minimising significant health impacts through treatment and support. We will also protect people's health, by ensuring we are not letting cases go to the point where the impacts have flow-on effects to impact other health services.

The framework is intended to give as much certainty and stability as possible for people and businesses, reducing the need for widespread lockdowns.

RED

Life at Red

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
Gatherings – at home or private residence e.g. friends and family visiting a house, hosting a party or gathering.	Required. (Not required if everyone 12 and over at the gathering can identify each other for the purposes of contact tracing).	Required for workers and volunteers if present, encouraged for others.	If My Vaccine Pass is used, up to 100 people allowed . If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 25 people allowed .	
Gatherings e.g. weddings, funerals, tangihanga, and community and social sport. Most marae and faith based services are also treated as gatherings.	Required. (Not required if everyone 12 and over at the gathering can identify each other for the purposes of contact tracing).	Required for workers and volunteers (excluding performers and formal speakers), encouraged for others.	If My Vaccine Pass is used, up to 100 people allowed, based on 1m distancing . If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 25 people allowed, based on 1m distancing .	
Outdoor community gatherings e.g. community fairs or events with uncontrolled access such as a public parade.	Required.	Required for workers and volunteers (excluding performers and formal speakers), encouraged for others.	If My Vaccine Pass is used, up to 100 people allowed, based on 1m distancing . If My Vaccine Pass is not used and there is uncontrolled access, up to 25 people allowed, based on 1m distancing .	
Events e.g. cinemas, stadiums, concerts venues, conferences, auctions, commercial recreational activities, sporting events and private galleries.	Required.	Strongly encouraged for all workers (excluding performers and formal speakers) and others.	If My Vaccine Pass is used, up to 100 people allowed, based on 1m distancing . If My Vaccine Pass is not used, events are not allowed .	If food and drink is provided at the event, people must be seated and separated while eating and drinking. Public facing workers at food and drink businesses must wear face coverings.

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)



Life at Red continued

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
Retail e.g. shops, banks, outdoor markets, takeaway only businesses. Everyone will be able to access basic needs like food (dairies, convenience stores, supermarket), petrol stations, and pharmacies.	Required.	Required for staff and customers.	Some retail businesses can choose to require My Vaccine Pass; this will not affect their capacity limits. Basic needs providers are prohibited from stopping access to people without My Vaccine Pass.	Capacity limits based on 1m distancing apply.
Hospitality e.g. cafes, restaurants, and bars (excludes takeaway only businesses).	Required.	Required for public facing staff, encouraged for others (when not eating and drinking).	If My Vaccine Pass is used, hospitality venues are limited to 100 people based on 1m distancing and seated and separated. Contactless only if My Vaccine Pass is not used.	Food and drink takeaway only businesses can follow retail rules.
Gyms Gyms including membership-based business or services e.g. dance or martial arts studios.	Required.	Encouraged.	With My Vaccine Pass, up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing. Without My Vaccine Pass, gyms must close.	
Accommodation e.g. hotel, motel, cabin, backpackers, (excludes private residence).	Encouraged.	Encouraged.	Some accommodation may choose to require My Vaccine Pass.	Customer-facing food and beverage services, other than room service, must follow the hospitality rules. Events hosted at accommodation to follow events rules. Gatherings rules (e.g. for a wedding, or for hosting a group of friends) apply at accommodation places.
Close-proximity businesses e.g. hairdressers, beauty therapy, massage.	Required.	Required for public-facing staff, encouraged for others.	Open if My Vaccine Pass is used, but public health requirements must be in place, including face coverings for staff. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, close-proximity businesses must close.	Note: These restrictions may apply within other settings. Professional and semi-professional sports; and specified social services are not considered to be close-proximity businesses.
Public facilities These are premises owned or managed by central or local government e.g. libraries, museums, public pools.	Required.	Required for staff and customers (except at pools).	Open at Red with a capacity limit based on 1 m distancing. Some public facilities may choose to require My Vaccine Pass. Check public facility requirements before you go.	

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)



Life at Red continued

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
Workplaces 	Encouraged.	Required for public facing staff, encouraged for others. Required for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> veterinary services and animal health and welfare services courts and tribunals specified social services public area of premises operated by NZ Post Limited premises operated by a central government agency, a local authority, or NZ Police workers at a food and drink business or service health services in some situations. 	Some workplaces may be covered by vaccine mandates. In addition, some workplaces may undertake an assessment to decide whether work must be undertaken by vaccinated people and if My Vaccine Pass is required for entry.	Workplaces are open. Working from home may be appropriate for some staff.
Transport e.g. airlines (domestic), public transport, Cook Strait ferries, taxis, trains.	Transport operators are required to support contact tracing, such as displaying QR codes in vehicles and assets (e.g. terminals and bus stations).	Required on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> domestic air transport services public transport arrival and departure points of public transport services. (Not required when in designated carriage on specified Kiwirail services)	Public transport, including buses, trains and taxis are prohibited from asking customers for My Vaccine Pass. Flights, Cook Strait Ferries and specified Kiwirail services may have My Vaccine Pass or testing requirements.	There are no physical distancing requirements on services or in transport environments like terminals, airports or bus stops.
Education - early childhood services, kōhanga reo Open with public health measures in place.	Required for certified playgroups, encouraged elsewhere.	Parents/caregivers and visitors are required to wear face coverings when indoors.	Licensed early childhood services are prohibited from asking children and parents for My Vaccine Pass. Teachers and staff are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Certified playgroups can only open with My Vaccine Pass.	Parents/caregivers who can supervise their children at home should do so. If required, educators will make choices about their capacity to manage attendance. Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to maintain 1m distancing from other adults while on site e.g., to settle their child, or to view a service. Visiting teachers in home-based services can consider providing support remotely to some educators and children.
Education - schools, kura Open with public health measures in place. Where confirmed cases occur within a school or kura, it may be necessary to limit the number of Year 0-8 students/ākonga.	Encouraged.	Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> for all students/ākonga Years 4 and up when indoors or in close contact with others for staff working to provide or support the provisions of education for Years 4 and up on school transport for all students/ākonga aged 12 and up. 	Teachers and staff, volunteers and workers are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Schools are prohibited from requiring students/ākonga, and their parents and caregivers (unless they are a volunteer or worker at the premises) to be vaccinated to access education. Schools may require people to have vaccine passes to attend events held on school premises.	Visiting teachers in home-based services can consider providing support remotely to some educators and children. Essential and learning support services and agencies may be on site. Minimise attendance on site for non-essential services. No non-essential visitors on site.
Tertiary Education Operating with increased public health measures in place.	Encouraged.	Required indoors.	Staff (including volunteers and contractors) and students/ākonga can be onsite if they are vaccinated or alternatively can work and learn remotely. Alternative learning options if My Vaccine Pass is not used. Providers may choose to require that residents or staff in student accommodation be vaccinated.	Capacity limits based on 1m distancing apply. Where possible, tertiary education operators are encouraged to make remote learning options available for those who are unable or unwilling to attend classes being held onsite.

ORANGE

Life at Orange

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
Gatherings – at home or private residence e.g. friends and family visiting a house, hosting a party or gathering.	Required. (Not required if everyone 12 and over at the gathering can identify each other for the purposes of contact tracing).	Required for workers and volunteers if present, encouraged for others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 50 people allowed.	
Gatherings e.g. weddings, funerals, tangihanga, and community and social sport. Most marae and faith based services are also treated as gatherings.	Required. (Not required if everyone 12 and over at the gathering can identify each other for the purposes of contact tracing).	Required for workers and volunteers (excluding performers and formal speakers), encouraged for others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 50 people allowed, based on 1m distancing.	
Outdoor community gatherings e.g. community fairs or events with uncontrolled access such as a public parade.	Required.	Required for workers and volunteers (excluding performers and formal speakers), encouraged for others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 50 people allowed, based on 1m distancing.	
Events e.g. cinemas, stadiums, concerts venues, conferences, auctions, commercial recreational activities, sporting events and private galleries.	Required.	Strongly encouraged for all workers (excluding performers and formal speakers) and others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, events are not allowed.	
Retail e.g. shops, banks, outdoor markets, takeaway only businesses. Everyone will be able to access basic needs like food (dairies, convenience stores, supermarket), petrol stations, and pharmacies.	Required.	Required for staff and customers.	Some retail businesses can choose to require My Vaccine Pass; this will not affect their capacity limits. Basic needs providers are prohibited from stopping access to people without My Vaccine Pass.	Capacity limits based on 1m distancing apply.
Hospitality e.g. cafes, restaurants, and bars (excludes takeaway only businesses).	Required.	Required for public facing staff, encouraged for others when not eating and drinking.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. Contactless only if My Vaccine Pass is not used.	Food and drink takeaway only businesses can follow retail rules.
Gyms Gyms including membership-based business or services e.g. dance or martial arts studios.	Required.	Encouraged.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. Without My Vaccine Pass, gyms must close.	

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)



Life at Orange continued

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
Accommodation e.g. hotel, motel, cabin, backpackers, (excludes private residence).	Encouraged.	Encouraged.	Some accommodation may choose to require My Vaccine Pass.	Customer-facing food and beverage services, other than room service, must follow the food and beverage rules. Events hosted at accommodation to follow events rules. Gatherings rules (e.g. for a wedding, or for hosting a group of friends) apply at accommodation places.
Close-proximity businesses e.g. hairdressers, beauty therapy, massage.	Required.	Required for public-facing staff, encouraged for others.	Open if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used close-proximity businesses must close.	Note: These restrictions may apply within other settings. Professional and semi-professional sports; and specified social services are not considered to be close-proximity businesses.
Public facilities These are premises owned or managed by central or local government (e.g. libraries, museums, public pools).	Required.	Required for staff and customers (except at pools).	Open with a capacity limit based on 1 m distancing. Some public facilities may choose to require My Vaccine Pass. Check public facility requirements before you go.	
Workplaces	Encouraged.	Required for public facing staff, encouraged for others. Required for: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> veterinary services and animal health and welfare services courts and tribunals specified social services public area of premises operated by NZ Post Limited premises operated by a central government agency, a local authority, or NZ Police workers at a food and drink business or service health services in some situations. 	Some workplaces may be covered by vaccine mandates. In addition, some workplaces may undertake an assessment to decide whether work must be undertaken by vaccinated people and if My Vaccine Pass is required for entry.	Workplaces are open.
Transport e.g. airlines (domestic), public transport, Cook Strait ferries, taxis, trains.	Transport operators are required to support contact tracing, such as displaying QR codes in their vehicles and assets (e.g. terminals and bus stations).	Required: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> on domestic air transport services public transport arrival and departure points of public transport services. 	Public transport, including buses, trains and taxis are prohibited from asking customers for My Vaccine Pass. Flights, Cook Strait Ferries and specified Kiwirail services may have My Vaccine Pass or testing requirements.	There are no physical distancing requirements on services or in transport environments like terminals, airports or bus stops.
Education - early childhood services, kōhanga reo Open with public health measures in place.	Encouraged.	Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to wear face coverings when on site.	Teachers and staff are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Licenced early childhood services are prohibited from asking children and parents for My Vaccine Pass. Certified playgroups can open with My Vaccine Pass and following close-proximity business measures.	Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to maintain 1m distancing from other adults while on site e.g. to settle their child, or to view a service.

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)



Life at Orange continued

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
<p>Education - schools, kura</p> <p>Open with public health measures in place.</p> <p>Where confirmed cases occur within a school or kura it may be necessary to limit the number of Year 0–8 students/ākonga.</p>	Encouraged.	<p>Required on school transport for students/ākonga aged 12 and up.</p> <p>Encouraged on site.</p>	<p>Teachers and staff, volunteers and workers are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning.</p> <p>Schools are prohibited from requiring students/ākonga, and their parents and caregivers (unless they are a volunteer or worker at the premises) to be vaccinated to access education. Schools may require people to have vaccine passes to attend events held on school premises.</p>	All schools/kura will move to traffic lights from 1 January 2022.
<p>Tertiary Education</p> <p>Open with public health measures in place.</p>	Encouraged.	Encouraged on site.	Some tertiary providers may choose to require My Vaccine Pass.	

GREEN

Life at Green

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
Gatherings – at home or private residence e.g. friends and family visiting a house, hosting a party or gathering.	Required. (Not required if everyone 12 and over at the gathering can identify each other for the purposes of contact tracing).	Required for workers and volunteers if present, encouraged for others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 100 people allowed.	
Gatherings e.g. weddings, funerals, tangihanga, and community and social sport. Most marae and faith based services are also treated as gatherings.	Required. (Not required if everyone 12 and over at the gathering can identify each other for the purposes of contact tracing).	Required for workers and volunteers (excluding performers and formal speakers), encouraged for others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 100 people allowed, based on 1m distancing.	
Outdoor community gatherings e.g. community fairs or events with uncontrolled access such as a public parade.	Required.	Required for workers and volunteers (excluding performers and formal speakers), encouraged for others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 100 people allowed, based on 1m distancing.	
Events e.g. cinemas, stadiums, concerts venues, conferences, auctions, commercial recreational activities, sporting events and private galleries.	Required.	Strongly encouraged for all workers (excluding performers and formal speakers) and others.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. If My Vaccine Pass is not used, up to 100 people allowed, based on 1m distancing, seated and separated for service of food and drink.	
Retail e.g. shops, banks, outdoor markets, takeaway only businesses. Everyone will be able to access basic needs like food (dairies, convenience stores, supermarket), petrol stations, and pharmacies.	Encouraged.	Encouraged.	Some retail businesses can choose to require My Vaccine Pass. Basic needs providers are prohibited from stopping access to people without My Vaccine Pass.	
Hospitality e.g. cafes, restaurants, and bars (excludes takeaway only businesses).	Required.	Encouraged.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. Without My Vaccine Pass, up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing, seated and separated.	Food and drink takeaway only businesses can follow retail rules.
Gyms Gyms including membership-based business or services e.g. dance or martial arts studios.	Required.	Encouraged.	No limits if My Vaccine Pass is used. Without My Vaccine Pass, up to 100 people, based on 1 m distancing.	

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)



Life at Green continued

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
Accommodation e.g. hotel, motel, cabin, backpackers, (excludes private residence).	Encouraged.	Encouraged.	Some accommodation may choose to require My Vaccine Pass.	Customer-facing food and beverage services, other than room service, must follow the food and beverage rules. Events hosted at accommodation to follow events rules. Gatherings rules (e.g. for a wedding, or for hosting a group of friends) apply at accommodation places.
Close-proximity businesses e.g. hairdressers, beauty therapy, massage.	Required.	Required for public-facing staff, encouraged for others (when no My Vaccine Pass is used).	Open if My Vaccine Pass is used. Without My Vaccine Pass, there must be 1 metre physical distancing between customers .	Note: These restrictions may apply within other settings. Professional and semi-professional sports; and specified social services are not considered to be close-proximity businesses.
Public facilities These are premises owned or managed by central or local government (e.g. libraries, museums, public pools).	Required.	Encouraged.	Some public facilities may choose to require My Vaccine Pass. Check public facility requirements before you go.	
Workplaces	Encouraged.	Some workplaces may be covered by vaccine mandates. In addition, some businesses may use the vaccination assessment tool to decide whether they can require work at their business to be done by vaccinated people.	Some workplaces may be covered by vaccine mandates. In addition, some workplaces may undertake an assessment to decide whether work must be undertaken by vaccinated people and if My Vaccine Pass is required for entry.	Workplaces are open.
Transport e.g. airlines (domestic), public transport, Cook Strait ferries, taxis, trains.	Transport operators are required to support contact tracing, such as displaying QR codes in their vehicles and assets (e.g. terminals and bus stations).	Required on domestic air transport services.	Public transport, including buses, trains and taxis are prohibited from asking customers for My Vaccine Pass. Flights, Cook Strait Ferries and specified Kiwirail services may have My Vaccine Pass or testing requirements.	There are no physical distancing requirements on services or in transport environments like terminals, airports or bus stops.
Education - early childhood services, kōhanga reo Open.	Encouraged.	Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to wear face coverings when on site.	Teachers and staff are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Licenced early childhood services are prohibited from asking children and parents for My Vaccine Pass. Certified playgroups can open with My Vaccine Pass or close-proximity business measures.	Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to maintain 1m distancing from other adults while on site e.g. to settle their child, or to view a service.
Education - schools, kura Open. Where confirmed cases occur within a school or kura it may be necessary to limit the number of Year 0–8 students/ākonga.	Encouraged.	Encouraged but not required indoors at school.	Teachers and staff, volunteers and workers are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Schools are prohibited from requiring students/ākonga, and their parents and caregivers (unless they are a volunteer or worker at the premises) to be vaccinated to access education. Schools may require people to have vaccine passes to attend events held on school premises.	Visiting teachers in home-based services can consider providing support remotely to some educators and children.
Tertiary Education Open.	Encouraged.	Encouraged but not required indoors on site.	Some tertiary providers may choose to require My Vaccine Pass.	

Key components

Vaccination

A high vaccination rate is a key tool in protecting people and minimising the spread of COVID-19. Getting vaccinated reduces the likelihood of getting really sick, going to hospital or passing COVID-19 on to others. There are places where vaccination for workers is required, e.g. within the border, health, disability, education sectors, and at hospitality, events, gyms and close-proximity businesses. It is also required for businesses that are using My Vaccine Passes for their customers. The vaccination assessment tool is a legal framework to help businesses make decisions about vaccinations in the workplace.

Factors considered to shift traffic lights settings

Health factors include vaccination coverage, capacity of the health and disability system, testing, contact tracing and case management capacity and the transmission of COVID-19, including its impact on communities. Decisions will also include other factors, including economic and social impacts, and operational considerations.

My Vaccine Pass

- The official record of the COVID-19 vaccination status. Available at MyCovidRecord.health.nz for people who are fully vaccinated, or have a temporary medical exemption. It can be stored on a phone or paper copy carried.
- A business or facility may choose or require My Vaccine Pass to be verified on entry. Check with the business or facility before you go. Personal data can not be stored when it is verified. A negative test result is not a substitute.
- A vaccine pass can not be used to access basic needs services, including supermarkets, dairies, petrol stations, public transport (except for airlines and inter-island ferries), pharmacies and essential health care.
- Children under the age of 12 years and three months do not need to provide a vaccine pass, but they do count towards capacity limits. Business should exercise judgement when requesting vaccine passes from children, as they may find it hard to prove their age.
- If My Vaccine Pass is in place, the business should clearly signal that customers and staff will have to be vaccinated.
- As many vaccine passes as reasonably possible are to be checked when entering premises, e.g. at the door, or as a customer is seated. Photo ID may be requested alongside checking the pass.
- Businesses and services may switch between operating under vaccinated and unvaccinated settings. There must be a clear process in place, such as well-ventilated rooms and high-touch, surfaces cleaned between cohorts. Settings must be made clear to all involved (staff and attendees) and signage displayed to indicate if My Vaccine Pass is required.

Definition of gatherings and events

A **gathering** is defined as a group of people who are intermingling.

An **event** is defined as an activity where entry is controlled, e.g. through ticketing, fees, registration or other ways to control access. Events are held at commercial or private venues, or publicly owned premises hired for the purpose of the activity, and can be held indoors or outdoors. It also includes an activity held at an outdoor area where a group of customers and clients is accompanied or supervised by a worker providing services to that group (for example, a guided tour).

The normal operations of cinemas, theatres, stadiums, concert venues, conference venues, casinos, and private galleries are considered events.

The definition of what is an event excludes an activity that is held at a private dwelling (like your home).

If you meet the definition for an event, you should apply events rules to your activity. If you don't, and your activity involves an intermingling of people, you should follow gatherings rules (including at your home). You may also follow gatherings rules for things like funeral or tangihanga, faith-based services, weddings, and non-professional sport and recreation activities.

Capacity limits

Specified limits are based on 1 metre distancing, which means one metre square of space for each person (the number of people is limited by the space available). It does not mean people must maintain 1 metre physical distancing. Capacity limits include everyone in a defined space, excluding workers (paid and unpaid). A group of people that has people with and without My Vaccine Pass (excluding children), must follow the lower capacity limit specified for no My Vaccine Pass.

Record keeping

QR codes issued by the NZ Government legally must be displayed in workplaces and on public transport to enable use of the NZ COVID Tracer App for contact tracing. Certain businesses and event organisers legally must also have a way for customers and visitors to record entry their premises or attended a gathering or event (whether via the NZ COVID Tracer app or otherwise).

Record keeping is encouraged to help contact tracing go faster and the prevention of further spread of COVID-19.

Key components (continued)

Localised protections and lockdowns

Can be used to control high rates of transmission. The restrictions implemented will consider specific circumstances and the nature of the public health response. They could include:

- stay at home orders;
- closure of premises, e.g. schools and retail;
- restrictions on gatherings; and
- restrictions on movement in and out of the lockdown area.

Enforcement

A person who fails to comply with a COVID-19 Protection Health Order commits an offence and may be subject to penalties. Businesses and venue providers are responsible for record keeping, verifying vaccine passes, and following capacity limits. Breaking rules risk spreading the virus and puts communities at risk. Penalties may apply for any breach in the COVID-19 Order.

Additional guidance may apply

A business, service, or activity not captured in the framework must follow public health measures. If hosting an event or gathering, those rules apply (the rules follow the activity). If food and drink is available, hospitality rules must be followed, unless you are operating as part of a gathering. Additional requirements may apply for some workplaces; check relevant guidance.

Freight

No restrictions. All freight can be distributed and received. All freight can enter and leave the country.