

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 by 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. Marae and places of worship 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, 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, 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, theatres, stadiums, concerts, conferences, casinos, and private galleries.	Required.	Strongly encouraged for all workers (excluding performers) 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, and outdoor markets. Everyone will be able to access basic needs like food (dairies, convenience stores, supermarket), petrol stations, and pharmacies.	Required.	Required for staff and customers.	Shops, outdoor markets and banks can choose to follow My Vaccine Pass requirements; this will not affect their capacity limits. Basic needs providers are prohibited from asking customers for My Vaccine Pass.	Capacity limits based on 1m distancing apply.
Hospitality e.g. cafes, restaurants, and bars.	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 drinks requirements may also apply in other settings.
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 .	
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 .	These restrictions may apply for other settings. Note: 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.	
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 govt 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 businesses may use the new vaccination assessment tool to decide whether the business or service must be done by vaccinated people.	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"> 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 and Cook Strait Ferries 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.

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)

RED Life at Red continued	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
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.	Licenced 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 are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Schools are prohibited from requiring students/ākonga to be vaccinated to access education. This includes parents, caregivers and whānau supporting students and their learning.	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. Auckland schools will continue to follow Alert Level 3, Step 2 for the remainder of the 2021 year. This means continuing with a mix of students learning from home and learning on site whether full-time or part-time. Schools outside of Auckland will follow Alert Level 2 for the remainder of the 2021 year. This means all students are on site and curriculum-related activities will continue to go ahead. All schools/kura will move to traffic lights from 1 January 2022.
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. Distance learning only 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. Tertiary education libraries follow the public facilities requirements. 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. Marae and places of worship 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, 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, 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, theatres, stadiums, concerts, conferences, casinos, and private galleries.	Required.	Strongly encouraged for all workers (excluding performers) 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, and outdoor markets. Everyone will be able to access basic needs like food (dairies, convenience stores, supermarket), petrol stations, and pharmacies.	Required.	Required for staff and customers.	Shops, outdoor markets and banks can choose to follow My Vaccine Pass requirements; this will not affect their capacity limits. Basic needs providers are prohibited from asking customers for My Vaccine Pass.	Capacity limits based on 1m distancing apply.
Hospitality e.g. cafes, restaurants, and bars.	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.	
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 .	Note: close-proximity business or service rules may also apply to some services within this setting.

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)



Life at Orange continued

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
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.	These restrictions may apply for other settings. Note: 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.	
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 govt 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 businesses may use the new vaccination assessment tool to decide whether the business or service must be done by vaccinated people.	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 and Cook Strait Ferries 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
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 on school transport for students/ākonga aged 12 and up. Encouraged on site.	Teachers and staff are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Schools are prohibited from requiring students/ākonga to be vaccinated to access education. This includes parents, caregiver and whānau supporting students and their learning.	Auckland schools will continue to follow Alert Level 3, Step 2 for the remainder of the 2021 year. This means continuing with a mix of students learning from home and learning on site whether full-time or part-time. Schools outside Auckland will follow Alert Level 2 for the remainder of the 2021 year. This means all students are on site and curriculum-related activities will continue to go ahead. All schools/kura will move to traffic lights from 1 January 2022.
Tertiary Education Open with public health measures in place.	Encouraged.	Encouraged on site.	Some tertiary providers may choose to require My Vaccine Pass.	Capacity limits based on 1m distancing apply. Tertiary education libraries follow the public facilities requirements.

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. Marae and places of worship 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, 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, encouraged for everyone else.	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, theatres, stadiums, concerts, conferences, casinos, and private galleries.	Required.	Strongly encouraged for all workers (excluding performers) 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, and outdoor markets. Everyone will be able to access basic needs like food (dairies, convenience stores, supermarket), petrol stations, and pharmacies.	Encouraged.	Encouraged.	Shops, outdoor markets and banks can choose to follow My Vaccine Pass requirements; this will not affect their capacity limits. Basic needs providers are prohibited from asking customers for My Vaccine Pass.	
Hospitality e.g. cafes, restaurants, and bars.	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 .	
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 .	Note: close-proximity business or service rules may also apply to some services within this setting.

COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)



Life at Green continued

	Record keeping/scanning	Face coverings	My Vaccine Pass	Other requirements
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, up to 100 people , based on 1m distancing between customers.	These restrictions may apply for other settings. Note: 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.	
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 businesses may use the new vaccination assessment tool to decide whether the business or service must be done by vaccinated people.	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 and Cook Strait Ferries 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.	Required on school transport for students/ākonga aged 12 and up. Encouraged but not required indoors at school.	Teachers and staff are required to be vaccinated for onsite delivery of teaching and learning. Schools are prohibited from requiring students/ākonga to be vaccinated to access education. This includes parents, caregivers and whānau supporting students and their learning.	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.	Tertiary education libraries follow the public facilities requirements.

Key components

Vaccination

High vaccination rates is a key tool in protecting people and minimising the spread of COVID-19. Getting vaccinated reduces the likeliness 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 your COVID-19 vaccination status. My Vaccine Pass can be accessed from 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.

- My Vaccine Pass may be required at places with vaccination requirements in place.
- A negative test result is not a substitute for My Vaccine Pass.
- You cannot be asked to provide your vaccine pass 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. Businesses 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, it should clearly signal that customers and staff will have to be vaccinated.
- My Vaccine Pass is to be checked when people enter premises – for example, 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.

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.

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 required. 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.