



COVID-19 Protection Framework

The COVID-19 Protection Framework lays out our domestic response measures for a highly vaccinated population

It supports the next steps of New Zealand's reconnection with the world.

Minimise and Protect

Minimisation means that we are aiming to keep the spread of COVID-19 at as low a level as possible. It means containing and controlling any outbreaks, and if practical to do so, stamping it out.



Maximise vaccination – including ensuring good coverage across geographic areas, age range, and ethnicity to prevent outbreaks



Maintain effective testing, tracing and isolating of cases and contacts when they do arise



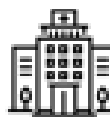
Control transmission of the virus through sustainable public health measures



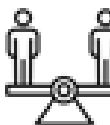
Give as much certainty and stability as possible for people, and businesses, including by removing the need for Alert Level 3 and 4 lockdowns



Catch cases at the border, but work towards removing the bottlenecks, and being more open



Ensure our hospitals and public health system are well equipped to care for cases if and when they do arise



Maintain equity in health and economic outcomes

New Zealand COVID-19 Protection Framework

Factors for considering a shift between levels: 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.

Localised lockdowns: will be used as part of the public health response in the new framework across all levels, and there may still be a need to use wider lockdowns (similar to the measures in Alert Level 3 or 4).

Vaccination certificates: Requiring vaccination certificates will be optional for many locations. There are some higher-risk settings where they will be a requirement in order to open to the public. Some places won't be able to introduce vaccination requirements, to ensure everyone can access basic services, including supermarkets and pharmacies.

<p>GREEN</p>	<p>COVID-19 across New Zealand, including sporadic imported cases.</p> <p>Limited community transmission.</p> <p>COVID-19 hospitalisations are at a manageable level.</p> <p>Whole of health system is ready to respond – primary care, public health, and hospitals.</p>	<p>General settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record keeping/scanning required Face coverings mandatory on flights, encouraged indoors Public facilities – open Retail – open Workplaces – open Education (schools, ECE, tertiary) – open Specified outdoor community events – allowed <p>No limits if vaccination certificates are used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality Gatherings (e.g. weddings, places of worship, marae) Events (indoor/outdoor) Close contact businesses Gyms <p>If vaccination certificates are not used, the following restrictions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality – up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing, seated and separated Gatherings (e.g. weddings, places of worship, marae) – up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing Events (indoor/outdoor) – up to 100 people based on 1m distancing, seated and separated Close contact businesses – face coverings for staff, 1m distancing between customers Gyms – up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing
<p>ORANGE</p>	<p>Increasing community transmission with increasing pressure on health system.</p> <p>Whole of health system is focusing resources but can manage – primary care, public health, and hospitals.</p> <p>Increasing risk to at risk populations.</p>	<p>General settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record keeping/scanning required Face coverings mandatory on flights, public transport, taxis, retail, public venues, encouraged elsewhere Public facilities – open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing Retail – open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing Workplaces – open Education – open with public health measures in place Specified outdoor community events – allowed <p>No limits if vaccination certificates are used for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality Gatherings (e.g. weddings, places of worship, marae) Events (indoor/outdoor) Close contact businesses Gyms <p>If vaccination certificates are not used, the following restrictions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality – contactless only Gatherings (e.g. weddings, places of worship, marae) – up to 50 people, based on 1m distancing Close contact businesses, events (indoor/outdoor) and gyms are not able to operate
<p>RED</p>	<p>Action needed to protect health system – system facing unsustainable number of hospitalisations.</p> <p>Action needed to protect at-risk populations.</p>	<p>General settings</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record keeping/scanning required Face coverings mandatory on flights, public transport, taxis, retail, public venues, recommended whenever leaving the house Public facilities – open with up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing Retail – open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing Workplaces – working from home encouraged Education – schools and ECE open with public health measures and controls Specified outdoor community events – allowed with capacity limits <p>With vaccination certificates, the following restrictions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality – up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing, seated and separated Gatherings (e.g. weddings, places of worship, marae) – up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing Events (indoor/outdoor) – up to 100 people based on 1m distancing, seated and separated Close contact businesses – public health requirements in place Gyms – up to 100 people, based on 1m distancing Tertiary education – vaccinations required for onsite delivery, with capacity based on 1m distancing <p>If vaccination certificates are not used, the following restrictions apply:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hospitality – contactless only Gatherings (e.g. weddings, places of worship, marae) – up to 10 people Close contact businesses, events (indoor/outdoor) and gyms are not able to operate Tertiary education – distance learning only

Trigger for the transition

- Vaccination coverage across the overall population and equity of vaccination coverage
 - Auckland to move into the new framework when 90 percent of eligible population in each of the three DHBs are fully vaccinated.
 - 90 percent fully vaccinated target set across each DHB region before rest of the country moves into new system.
 - Once the South Island reaches a 90% vaccination rate in all areas there is the potential to transition to the new system.
 - Each option will be considered closer to the time.

Other supporting tools

- The capacity of the health and disability system to manage COVID-19 cases (including across public health, primary health care, community services and secondary care).
- Testing, contact tracing and case management capacity.
- The transmission of COVID-19 within the community, including its impact on key populations.

Next steps

- **Late-October:** Further details provided on the implementation of COVID-19 Vaccination certificates, including any primary legislation to enable CVCs to be used as anticipated.
- **Mid-November:** Further details developed on progress for the transition plan for Auckland and the rest of NZ.
- **Throughout November:**
 - Further advice developed on new testing, tracing and isolation strategies.
 - Further advice developed on potential new approach to economic supports.
 - Further work on a revised approach to welfare and community-based supports, including food and other essential wellbeing provisions.
- **Ongoing:** Work continues in operational readiness for a switch to the new approach and its new implementation.