



# **Guidance for New Zealand Dance Businesses and Facilities operating under the COVID-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System)**

*Reflecting New Zealand Government COVID-19 Protection Framework provisions  
effective 14 April 2022*

**Produced for New Zealand dance sector use by Dance Aotearoa New Zealand (DANZ)  
in consultation with Exercise New Zealand and WorkSafe New Zealand.**

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This document is provided as a service to both members of DANZ and to the wider dance sector of New Zealand. It will be updated in accordance with any further government guidance issued and as additional sector specific information becomes available.

## 1. Introduction

The **COVID-19 Protection Framework** (otherwise known as the **Traffic Light System**) is currently in force in New Zealand, and seeks to contain the ongoing nationwide impact of COVID-19 through three settings – Red, Orange and Green. The traffic light settings enable hospitals and the health system to be protected while allowing businesses, events and facilities to open and operate with maximum flexibility under set conditions.

Variable geographical restrictions may be designated from time to time to further restrict community transmission and extend greater protection to the vulnerable. Regional settings are set out in the [Traffic Lights Map](#). Effective from 11.59pm Wednesday 13 April 2022, the **Orange** Setting applies to the whole of Aotearoa New Zealand. The Orange setting is applicable “where there is community transmission of COVID-19 with increasing risks to vulnerable communities and pressure on the health system”.

These guidelines detail the application of COVID-19 Protection Framework provisions as they apply to dance related businesses, services and facilities operating within the Traffic Light system. General COVID-19 risk containment advice provided through the official [New Zealand Government COVID-19 Website](#) continues to be relevant and should also be followed.

## 2. Objectives

The intent of this document is:

1. To provide guidance that promotes a safe operating environment for dance businesses and facilities in New Zealand that complies with New Zealand Government COVID-19 protection provisions, as well as international dance industry good practice.
2. To provide “Trust and Confidence” to both the Government and the New Zealand public, that the dance sector takes COVID-19 safety seriously and is taking all reasonable steps towards risk containment.
3. Provide supporting guidance to those operating business and community dance facilities in New Zealand on rules applicable at the three traffic light levels (Red, Orange and Green) of the COVID-19 Protection Framework.
4. To provide guidance to dance activity providers opting to retain/use *My Vaccine Pass* for entry to their premises, as well as to those not doing so. Note that mandated use of vaccine passes ceased on 4 April 2022.

### 3. General Guidance and Definitions

#### Standard Protocols

Key COVID-19 risk management and public health protocols remain unchanged under the traffic light system, namely:

1. Anyone who is sick should stay home (staff, contractors, clients/customers and attendees);
2. Anyone with cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms should have a COVID-19 test and stay home until they get a negative result;
3. Isolate for 7 days if you are COVID-19 positive or are a household contact;
4. Face coverings required in specified locations/settings, and encouraged when out and about;
5. Regular hand washing/sanitising;
6. Regular disinfecting of shared surfaces;
7. Optimum ventilation in indoor settings;
8. Physical distancing while out and about to help minimise community spread;
9. Being up-to-date with vaccinations.

[Keeping up healthy habits](#) will slow community spread.

#### Definition of “Gym” Includes Dance

The traffic light system uses the term “Gym” in many places as an umbrella label for venues conducting **structured indoor physical activity including dance**. This covers most indoor physical activity providers including gyms, studios (dance, yoga, private trainers/teachers etc,) and most settings where the public enters and gathers for physical activity and/or exercise indoors.

Also included are owned or hired studios and spaces, even if very small and only offering 1:1 services.

#### Definition of “Workers”

Under the COVID-19 Protection Framework “workers” covers all staff and contractors regardless of how they are engaged and who engages/pays them. In a dance studio setting for example this would mean all management, administrative, technical and artistic staff, teachers, tutors, choreographers, musical accompanists, cleaners, and any other person working in the facility. Within this document the terms “workers” and “staff” may be used interchangeably.

#### Protocols if Staff or Attendees Test Positive for COVID-19

Any person testing [positive for COVID-19](#) must immediately self-isolate for at least 7 days. All household contacts must also self-isolate for 7 days. This could mean multiple staff/attendees may be unable to return to work/class for a week or more.

## Masks

1. Masks are compulsory for all workers engaging with attendees/participants except when the worker is dancing/exercising. Masks must be a medical grade or higher (Type IIR/Level 2 or KN95, N95).
2. Masks should be made available for all staff to use.
3. It is recommended (but not compulsory) for attendees/participants to wear a mask at all times except when exercising. This includes when entering the facility, changing and moving between rooms.
4. Masks are required when interacting with a physiotherapist or other allied health professional within a dance/exercise facility.

## Interpreting 1m Distancing, 200 Capacity Limit and “Defined Space”

At various times the term “defined space” is used in the context of capacity limits. Dance venues can potentially have multiple “defined spaces” subject to the rules below:

1. A **defined space** is an indoor area that has no direct airflow to another indoor area being used. It may also be an outdoor area that is separated from other outdoor areas by 2 metres. Separate defined spaces must be managed so that, so far as is reasonably practicable, groups do not mix entering, leaving, or using the premises.
2. Whenever the 1 metre rule applies to indoor spaces, then the 1 metre should be used to work out capacity i.e. how many attendees can fit into the space with 1 metre distancing. This creates a hard upper limit for the space, or 200 people, whichever is the **lower** number. It does not mean that participants must at all times be 1 metre apart, but they should use best endeavours to be so. The limit includes all attendees but excludes workers.
3. For outdoor activities there are no longer any capacity limits.

## Fines

Fines for breaches of rules related to COVID-19 have recently been increased and apply to a range of situations. They are now up to \$15,000 for a business, and \$4,000 for an individual.

## Signage

Businesses and facilities opting to require people entering to have a *My Vaccine Pass* must display posters notifying attendees to that effect.

## 4. Vaccine Passes and Certificates

The Government no longer requires *My Vaccine Pass* to be used to access businesses, events and services. **Business operators may, however, still choose to require *My Vaccine Pass* as a condition of entry if they consider there are sufficient health and safety reasons for doing so.**

Some workers are still required to be vaccinated including **health and disability** sector workers including **aged care** workers. This may be relevant for dance sector workers interacting with clients within those groups.

### Terminology

The Ministry of Health has used the terms ***My Vaccine Pass*** and ***Covid Pass*** interchangeably to refer to the QR code people may show to prove vaccination status within New Zealand. The ***International Travel Vaccination Certificate*** is used to show proof of vaccination status when travelling overseas. Both the pass and the certificate are generated from the same place – <https://mycovidrecord.health.nz/>  
Some people may use the term “certificate” to mean “pass”.

### Use of My Vaccine Pass and NZ Verifier App

New Zealand businesses and facilities are only able to scan ***My Vaccine Pass*** using the ***NZ Pass Verifier*** <https://www.health.govt.nz/our-work/diseases-and-conditions/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-vaccines/my-covid-record-proof-vaccination-status/nz-pass-verifier#download>

Full details of how to verify *My Vaccine Pass* are available at <https://www.business.govt.nz/news/requiring-my-vaccine-passes-for-entry/>

## 5. COVID-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System): Key Requirements for Dance Businesses & Facilities

TOPIC	RED	ORANGE	GREEN
<b>CAN THE VENUE OPEN?</b>	Yes. Capacity limit 1 metre distancing <b>or</b> 200 people per defined indoor space (whichever is lesser). No outdoor limits.	Yes – no restrictions indoors or outdoors.	Yes – no restrictions indoors or outdoors.
<b>MASK REQUIREMENT</b>	Recommended indoors for participants. Compulsory for public facing staff unless exercising or exempt.	Recommended indoors for participants. Compulsory for public facing staff unless exercising or exempt.	Encouraged indoors
<b>DANCING/REHEARSING OUTDOORS</b>	No restrictions	No restrictions	No restrictions
<b>WATER COOLERS</b>	Can be used	Can be used	Can be used
<b>CONTACT ACTIVITIES (E.G. CLIENT/TEACHER CONTACT)</b>	Allowed	Allowed	Allowed
<b>UNVACCINATED STAFF</b>	Permitted	Permitted	Permitted
<b>GROUP ACTIVITY</b>	Capacity limit 1 metre distancing or 200 people.	No restrictions	No restrictions
<b>FANS / AIR CIRCULATION</b>	Maximum ventilation and fresh airflow encouraged.	Maximum ventilation and fresh airflow encouraged.	Maximum ventilation and fresh airflow encouraged.
<b>ACCESS TO PREMISES BY UNVACCINATED INDIVIDUALS</b>	Yes but can opt to require vaccine pass.	Yes but can opt to require vaccine pass.	Yes but can opt to require vaccine pass.