

# COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic lights)

## 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](https://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.