

Play, active recreation and sport in the Green Setting

COVID-19 Protection Framework
December 2021

1. Introduction

Your Setting will depend on where you are in New Zealand. The current Setting for your region can be found on the [COVID-19 website](#).

At **Green**, COVID-19 is across New Zealand, including occasional imported cases. Community transmission is limited, and COVID-19 hospitalisations will be at a manageable level. The health system will be ready to respond, including primary care, public health, and hospitals.

Contact tracing, good hygiene and sanitation, and home isolation will continue as key tools to minimise the spread of the virus. Face masks are encouraged.

Localised lockdowns may be considered if there is a rapid growth in cases.

Mandatory activities at Green

- Record keeping and COVID-19 Tracer App scanning is required to ensure that contact tracing can take place. This includes indoor and outdoor locations.
- Face masks are mandatory on flights, public transport, in taxis, retail and public venues (like council-owned facilities). Face masks are encouraged elsewhere.
- As always, you should stay home if you are unwell and call your doctor or Healthline on 0800 358 5433 for advice about getting tested.

Key aspects for sport, recreation and play at Green

School sport is subject to the rules for Events and Gatherings when it does not take place in school hours and on school grounds. School sport that does take place both in school hours and on school grounds is not subject to any capacity limits. Where school sport takes place off the school site, students who are enrolled at a registered school are to be treated as if they have a My Vaccine Pass and cannot be asked to prove their vaccination status, when they visit a venue or Event to represent their school. For more guidance on school sport at Green see our detailed guidance here. Multiple gatherings of sport and recreation can take place at the same location if the groups always remain separated. For example, there can be multiple games of touch rugby on a field if each of the gatherings remain separated within their owned defined spaces.

- A defined space indoors is: a single space divided from other spaces by walls (temporary or permanent that does not share direct airflow with another indoor space)
- A defined space outdoors is: a single space divided from other spaces by walls (temporary or permanent) OR a space where all people are separated by at least two metres from other people outside that space.

For outdoor locations and venues, it may be easy for spectators to be contained as a separate gathering away from players, coaches and participants.

There are no requirements for physical distancing while playing, participating or spectating at any level of the Covid-19 Protection Framework – Green, Orange and Red. This means that contact sports can take place and you do not need to wear a mask when taking part.

At **Green**, public facilities (like council-owned swimming pools and indoor recreation centres) can open with no capacity limits. However, if the council-owned swimming pool or recreation centre is hired for exclusive use, then they must follow the rules for Events and Gatherings, which are subject to capacity limits based on allowing 1 m² per person and up to 100 people when vaccine passes are not checked. Local councils can set policies to require vaccination passes at their premises if they wish, however they must not ask students enrolled at a registered school to prove their vaccination status when they visit to represent their school. More information about Gatherings and the capacity limits are provided below. More information about public facilities can be found on MBIE's [website](#).

It is okay for multiple gatherings in defined spaces to use the same entrances and share toilets/changing facilities so long as the risks of intermingling groups is limited as far as possible. Organisations will need to communicate this with visitors or users of their facilities. Queuing or congregating should not take place in common areas. Masks should be worn in common areas or facilities accessed by gatherings (like shared toilets).

Key principles of COVID-19 Vaccination Passes

- Businesses and organisations can choose to legally require visitors or customers, participants and supporters to show a valid My Vaccine Pass. This will allow them to operate more freely.
- Requiring vaccine passes does not remove the need for contact tracing.
- If a business, event or organisation does not wish to request proof of vaccination, they will have to operate inside more strict limits on capacity and space requirements.
- Groups of people that may contain vaccinated and unvaccinated people should be treated as if all participants were unvaccinated. Capacity limits include children under the age of 12, whether or not they are vaccinated, and those who are unable to be vaccinated, but excludes workers. Children under the age of 12 are to be treated as if they had a vaccine pass and their presence does not trigger capacity limits where My Vaccine Passes are not checked.
- Businesses and services may switch between operating under vaccination pass required/not required, provided that the premise/space is cleaned between groups.
- Where applicable, based on if vaccine passes are checked at a gathering:
 - Organisers should seek confirmation from individual participants or team managers that they have a current pass wherever practicable.
 - Spectators entering a space where vaccine passes are mandated should receive clear communication that vaccine passes are required, with checking taking place as best as is practical.

2. Events at Green

- Sport and recreation organisations will need to determine if their activity fits into a ‘Gathering’ or an ‘Event’ category. For the majority of circumstances, it will be clear whether something is an Event or a Gathering and you can move forward on this basis.
- Indoor and outdoor sporting and recreational events at **Green** that check vaccine passes are subject to no participant or spectator limits.
- Indoor and outdoor sporting and recreational events at **Green** that don’t check vaccine passes can go ahead with up to 100 people per defined space based on allowing them 1 metre of space each in the facility/venue. Food and drink service must ensure that all customers are seated and separated. Multiple groups of up to 100 people in separate defined spaces can attend events with out MVP at Green, however no intermingling can occur between groups and each group of 100 needs to stay as is for the entire duration of the Event. This means that no new groups of 100 can be formed, such as participants moving to compete against new teams from another group of 100 where 2 metres distance cannot be maintained. Each group needs to have its own bathroom, first aid, and food and drink facilities. Entry and exit ways should not be shared unless phased entry and exiting is used.
- Further guidance about Events can be found on Sport New Zealand’s [website](#) and MBIE’s [website](#).

For key definitions see: [Glossary](#)

- For a full list of definitions, see the [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Protection Framework\) Order 2021](#).

3. Community sport at Green

For the purposes of this guidance, sport can be a team sport or individual sport, contact or close-proximity activity, or non-contact activity.

Indoor community sport

- Most indoor community sport should follow the rules for Gatherings.
- Indoor community sport that takes place at a public recreation centre should follow the rules for Public Facilities in most cases (see below).
- There are no requirements for physical distancing while playing indoor community sport.
- Multiple groups can operate simultaneously if they remain separated within defined spaces. The capacity limits for these defined spaces depends on whether the indoor facility checks vaccine passes or not to enable entry.
- All parts of an indoor facility can open, but may need to follow different rules, such as the rules for cafes or swimming pools.
- Note: capacity limits are different for public facilities if they are not hired for exclusive use. See page 2.

Indoor community sport at a private venue

Where <u>vaccine passes</u> are checked	Where <u>no vaccine passes</u> checked (or not everyone you are with are vaccinated)
• If the indoor facility you are using to play community sport has opted to check vaccine passes, then there are no limits to how many people can attend your activity. • Checking of vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Attendees, including spectators, do not have to physically distance. • Children under the age of 12, and students in school representative teams who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass.	• While the maximum number of people allowed to meet is 100 people, indoor facility capacity limits are also determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility, this is calculated by allowing for 1 metre of space per person. For example, if the space is 30m², then you could host up to 30 people. • The maximum number of people allowed to meet (per group) is 100 people. • Multiple groups (of up to 100 each) can participate in community sport at an indoor facility if they can be separated by defined spaces. • Capacity limits include children • Capacity limits do not include workers of the indoor facility. • Attendees, including spectators, do not have to physically distance.

Indoor community sport at a public recreation centre

- There are no capacity limits at public recreation centres at **Green**.
- Attendees do not have to physically distance.
- Children under the age of 12 who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass.
- Public recreation centres can choose to check vaccines, but this does not increase the number of people allowed in the facility.
- Students enrolled at a registered school who visit public facilities to represent their school must not be asked to prove their vaccination status. Supporting staff will still need to be vaccinated.
- Note, capacity limits are different for public facilities if they are not hired for exclusive use. If the venue is hired for exclusive use, they must follow the rules for Gatherings listed above (see Indoors community sport at a private venue).

Outdoor community sport

- All outdoor community sport should follow the rules for Gatherings.
- There are no requirements for physical distancing while playing outdoor community sport.
- Multiple groups can operate simultaneously if they remain separated within defined spaces. The limit for these defined spaces depends on whether vaccine passes are checked.
- All parts of an indoor facility that is linked to an outdoor sport can open (for example, the bar at a bowls club), but may need to follow different rules, such as retail or hospitality.

Where <u>vaccine passes</u> are checked	Where <u>no vaccine passes</u> checked (or not everyone you are with are vaccinated)
• If vaccine passes are checked, then there are no capacity limits. • Checking of vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Attendees, including spectators, do not have to physically distance but defined gatherings do need to remain distanced outdoors. • Children under the age of 12, and students in school representative teams who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass.	• If vaccine passes are not checked, or not everyone you are with is vaccinated, then the capacity limit is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility allowing 1 metre of space per person. For example, if the facility is 30m², then you could host up to 30 people. • The maximum number of people allowed to meet is 100 people. • Multiple groups (of up to 100 each) can participate in outdoor community sport if they can be separated by defined spaces. This might include the players being one gathering, and having spectators and coaches separated as other gatherings. • Capacity limits include children

- Capacity limits do not include workers of the outdoor venue.
- Attendees, including spectators, do not have to physically distance but defined gatherings do need to remain distanced outdoors.

4. Active recreation at Green

Active recreation includes walking, rock climbing, swimming laps at the pool or going to the gym.

At **Green**, allowable active recreation depends on whether the activity is inside or outside.

- If you are participating in active recreation with others then follow the rules for Gatherings.
- If you are participating in active recreation at a council-owned facility, follow the rules for Public facilities.
- These rules may be particularly important for public facilities run by local government (such as swimming pools or indoor recreation centres), who are able to elect to check vaccine passes to allow entry to their facilities. Note: capacity limits are different for public facilities if they are not hired for exclusive use. See below.
- More detailed guidance for swimming pools – indoor and outdoor – is provided in the tables below.
- More detailed guidance for gyms is provided in the tables below.
- You can use playground equipment and benches in public spaces for active recreation and exercise.
- There are no requirements for physical distancing from other people within your gathering while doing active recreation indoors or outdoors.
- Multiple groups can operate simultaneously if they remain separated within defined spaces. The capacity limits for these defined spaces depends on whether vaccine passes are checked to enable entry.
- All parts of an indoor facility can open (for example, a café or shop), but may need to follow different rules, such as retail or hospitality. See MBIE's [website](#) for more information.
- You are able to drive outside your region for active recreation as long as there are no relevant regional boundary restrictions currently in place.

Indoor active recreation at a private facility or venue

Where <u>vaccine passes</u> are checked	Where <u>no vaccine passes</u> checked (or not everyone you are with are vaccinated)
• There are no limits to how many people can attend the indoor facility for active recreation. • Checking vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Children under the age of 12, and students in school representative teams who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass. • Attendees do not have to physically distance.	• The capacity limit is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility allowing 1 metre of space per person. • The maximum number of people allowed to meet (per group) is 100 people. • Multiple groups (of up to 100 each) can participate in indoor active recreation if they can be separated by defined spaces. • Capacity limits includes children.

- Capacity limits do not include workers of the indoor facility.
- Attendees do not have to physically distance.

Indoor active recreation at a public recreation centre

- There are no capacity limits at public recreation centres at **Green**.
- Attendees do not have to physically distance.
- Public recreation centres can choose to check vaccines, but this does not increase the number of people allowed in the facility.
- Students enrolled at a registered school who visit public facilities to represent their school must not be asked to prove their vaccination status. Supporting staff will still need to be vaccinated.
- Note, capacity limits are different for public facilities if they are not hired for exclusive use. If the venue is hired for exclusive use, they must follow the rules for Gatherings listed above (see Indoor active recreation at a private facility or venue).

Outdoor active recreation

Where <u>vaccine passes</u> are checked	Where <u>no vaccine passes</u> checked (or not everyone you are with are vaccinated)
• If vaccine passes are checked, then there are no limits to how many people can attend. • Checking of vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Attendees do not have to physically distance. • Children under the age of 12, and students in school representative teams who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass.	• If vaccine passes are not checked, or not everyone you are with is vaccinated, then the capacity limit is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility allowing 1 metre of space per person. • The maximum number of people allowed to meet is 100 people. • Multiple groups (of up to 100 each) can participate in outdoor active recreation if they can be separated by defined spaces. • Capacity limits include children. • Capacity limits do not include workers at the outdoor venue. • Attendees do not have to physically distance.

Active recreation at an Indoor or outdoor swimming pool

- If you are undertaking pool-based active recreation at a public swimming pool (indoor and outdoor), then you should follow the rules for Public facilities. A public swimming pool can open at **Green** without limits.
- Guidance for private swimming pools (indoor and outdoor) is that at **Green**, if vaccine passes

are used, the private pool can operate with no capacity limits. Private pools can open at **Green** without using vaccine passes and have up to 100 people based on the size of the facility and allowing 1 metre of space per person.

- Attendees do not have to physically distance.
- All parts of the swimming pool can open, but may need to follow different rules, such as the rules for cafes or gyms. See MBIE's [website](#) for more information about businesses.

Active recreation and exercising at a gym

- If you are doing active recreation inside a gym, then you need to follow the specific rules for Gyms, which vary depending on whether vaccine passes are checked or not.
- Any gym that checks vaccine passes can open at **Green** with no limits.
- Any gym that does not check vaccine passes can open at **Green**, but there is a limit of up to 100 people based on 1 metre distancing. The capacity limit is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility.
- Council-owned gyms also must follow these rules for Gyms.
- The capacity limit applies to each 'defined space', so you can have multiple gatherings if they can remain separate. The limit for these defined spaces depends on whether the gym checks vaccine passes or not.
- The rules are the same for a standalone gym or a gym inside another facility (e.g. a part of a swimming pool). These rules also include other parts of the gyms like saunas.
- All parts of the gym can open, but may need to follow different rules, such as cafes or swimming pools.

Where <u>vaccine passes</u> are checked	Where <u>no vaccine passes</u> checked (or not everyone you are with are vaccinated)
• If the gym checks vaccine passes, then there are no limits to how many people can attend. • Checking of vaccination passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Attendees do not have to physically distance. • Children under the age of 12, and students in school representative teams who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass.	• The ultimate capacity limit for the gym is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility allowing 1 metre of space per person. For example, if the facility is 30m², then you could host up to 30 people. • The maximum number of people allowed to meet is 100 people. • Multiple groups (of up to 100 each) can exercise in the gym if they can be separated by defined spaces. • Capacity limits include children • Capacity limit do not include workers at the gym. • Attendees do not have to physically distance.

5. Outdoor water-based activities at Green

This includes all water-based activities that do not take place at an indoor or outdoor swimming pool, such as sailing (per boat), or close-contact ocean swimming and kayaking in groups.

- All casual, unorganised, or organised water-based activities should follow the rules for Gatherings.
- Further guidance about Events is available [here](#). This will help you to decide whether your water-based activities are an Event or a Gathering. The number of people who can attend the gathering depends on whether vaccine passes are checked or not. However, you do not need to check vaccine passes of other groups who are also doing unorganised water-based activities near you. You should remain two metres away from all other gatherings of people to remain in defined spaces.
- Participants do not need to maintain physical distancing while playing or participating.

Where <u>vaccine passes</u> are checked	Where <u>no vaccine passes</u> checked (or not everyone you are with are vaccinated)
• If vaccine passes are checked, then there are no capacity limits to how many people can attend. • Checking of vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Attendees do not have to physically distance. • Children under the age of 12, and students in school representative teams who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass.	• If vaccine passes are not checked, or not everyone you are with is vaccinated, then you can meet up to 100 people. • This capacity limit includes children • Multiple groups (of up to 100 people) can participate in an outdoor water-based activity if the groups can remain separated by 2 metres at all times. • Attendees do not have to physically distance.

6. Play at Green

This advice covers informal play in homes, neighbourhoods and playgrounds.

At the **Green** setting, if you are meeting whānau, friends or others to play together at a home or public place then you should follow the rules for Gatherings.

- The number of people who attend the gathering depends on whether vaccine passes are checked or not. There can be multiple gatherings at one venue. Each gathering needs to remain in a defined space while playing.
- However, it is not expected that you need to check vaccine passes of other groups who are at the park or public place. You should remain two metres away from all other gatherings of people to remain in defined spaces.
- All streets, outdoor parks, fields and playgrounds are open for play.
- You are able to drive outside your region to play in a public space if there are no relevant regional boundary restrictions in place.

Where <u>vaccine passes</u> are checked	Where no vaccine passes checked (or not everyone you are with are vaccinated)
• If vaccine passes are checked, then there are no limits on the number of people that can play together. • Checking of vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Attendees do not have to physically distance. • Children under the age of 12, and students in school representative teams who are not vaccinated are treated as if they have a vaccine pass.	• If you don't check vaccine passes at this gathering, or not everyone you are with is vaccinated, then the capacity limit is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the location and allowing 1 metre of space per person. For example, if the facility is 30m², then you could host up to 30 people. • The maximum number of people allowed to meet is 100 people. • Multiple groups (of up to 100 each) can play outdoors if the groups can remain separated by 2 metres at all times. • Capacity limits include children • Attendees do not have to physically distance.

7. Commercial activities at Green

This includes facilities or venues that sell merchandise or run bar/café facilities.

At **Green**, sports and recreational facilities will need to consider all the relevant rules for the various activities that occur within the commercial premises that they run.

- Retail facilities can open with no capacity limits.
- Workplaces can open with no capacity limits.
- Individual businesses should follow [MBIE](#) and [WorkSafe NZ](#) advice.

8. Glossary of definitions

For a full list of definitions, see the [COVID-19 Public Health Response](#) (Protection Framework) Order 2021.

Setting	Definition
Gathering	Means people who are intermingling in a group but excludes people who remain at least 2 metres away from each other, so far as reasonably practicable. It includes gatherings to undertake voluntary or not-for-profit sporting, recreational, social or cultural activities.
Event	Means an activity organised by a business or service that is held at commercial premises or private premises, publicly owned premises for the purpose of the activity, or 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). Entry is controlled through ticketing, fees, registration or by any other means. It excludes any activities at a private home.
Defined space	Means any single indoor space or outdoor space. An indoor space is a single space if there are walls (permanent or temporary) that substantially divide each space, and the space does not share direct airflow with another indoor space. An outdoor space is a single space if there are walls (permanent or temporary) that substantially divide each space or all people in that space are separated by at least 2 metres from other people who are outside that space.
Public facility	Means premises that are owned or managed by central or local government, and used for recreational, social, community, or cultural activities and services, and are open to the public general (including premises where fees are charged for entry). They can be a mix of indoor or indoor and outdoor premises. Public facilities exclude premises used exclusively for an event or gathering and excludes recreation facilities that require membership to enter (for example, gyms).
Gym	Means an indoor exercise facility operated by a business or service for which access is either limited to members, or otherwise controlled by the facility (through ticketing, fees, registration, or other means). Gyms do not include exercise facilities that are available for use only by residents of a premises on which the exercise facility is located.