

## COVID19 – COVID PROTECTION FRAMEWORK - UPDATE

14 February 2022

Tēnā koutou

In this update, I refer to previous memos and advice which [can be found here](#).

In late December 2021 the Govt COVID-19 Protection Framework – Guidelines for places of worship was released. On 9 February 2022, an updated set of guidelines was circulated. This can be [found here](#).

I have also attached it with this email.

I draw attention to the following areas where the various guidelines have been updated - or to where reflection on these guidelines, especially by your church council appointed Health and Safety Officer – should be focused if you have infections in your community:

### **Face mask Requirements – this is an additional section**

1. A mask has to be an actual mask attached by loops etc.
2. Everyone must wear one for the entire time, except if:
  - a) attendees are at a gathering where your church has exclusive use of the venue (that being a *service for this group of people only* in the week)
  - b) serving food and drink afterwards if not an exclusive venue
  - c) the gathering is in a private venue
  - d) you are the speaking or performing and are at least 2m away from other attendees.
3. All workers legally mandated to be vaccinated must wear a medical grade mask while working in public facing roles – these include the widely available blue medical-grade masks.

### **Operating multiple activities at the same time**

1. A 'vaccine only' and a 'no vaccine pass required' activity can be held in another space in the same venue at the same time.
2. Workers who are required to be vaccinated can move between the events.
3. A defined space is:
  - a) an indoor area that has no direct airflow to another indoor area
  - b) an outdoor area separated from another outdoor area by 2 metres
  - c) no intermingling between groups including when entering or exiting.
4. People need to make sure that there is no mixing of groups.

### **The record keeping register should be safe and secure to protect people's privacy.**

People could fill in a form and place it in a collection box rather than signing in on a sheet on a clipboard

### **Serving food and drink**

If you are operating as a gathering, you can serve food and drink at green, orange or red. At both gatherings and events, workers and volunteers must wear a face covering when serving and handling food.

### **Hygiene and Safety**

Performers are not required to wear a face covering whilst performing, provided they are 2m apart from others.

### **Cases of COVID-19 and your place of worship**

\*With growing numbers of positive PCR tests in the community - it might be helpful to reflect again on these guidelines, especially your church council appointed Health and Safety Officer who would have a role to play should there be an infection.

### **Vaccine mandates for staff and volunteers**

There are two additional clauses:

Workers at gatherings where they must be vaccinated are required to meet the same vaccination timeframes as My Vaccine Pass holders. And secondly - information about the quality of the masks worn

### **Education vaccine mandate**

The definition of who this applies to and the definition of an affected education service being:

- a licensed early childhood service
- a registered school
- a hostel (which are boarding establishments used mainly or solely for the accommodation of students enrolled at a registered school).

### **Questions and Answers**

This is an additional section that should help you as you interpret things in your context.

A reminder that there are **capacity limits** under traffic light red for worship gatherings – for both vaccine pass required and without vaccine pass. These are where a **vaccine pass is required**: - up to **100 people** based on the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1 metre apart. And **without a vaccine pass** - up to **25 people**, based on the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1 metre apart.

Capacity limits do not include workers or volunteers (paid and unpaid) but do include all other people (adults and children) within the 'defined space'.

As we continue to continue to navigate these uncertain times – let us be reminded of these words:

‘Kaua e wehi; kei a koe nei hoki ahau; kaua ano e tirotiro; ko ahau nei hoki tou Atua: maku koe e whakakaha, ae ra, maku koe e awhina, ka tautokona ake ano koe e te ringa matau o toku tika.’ ‘So do not fear, for I am with you; do not be dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you and help you; I will uphold you with my righteous right hand.’ (Isaiah 40:10)

**Wayne Matheson**

Assembly Executive Secretary