

School Sport and Recreation Information



Effective from 26 March 2022

This advice applies to non-curriculum sport and recreation.

For advice and guidance on curriculum related sport and recreation please see here - [COVID-19 Protection Framework for schools and kura – Education in New Zealand](#).

All primary and secondary students can participate in school sport and recreation regardless of their vaccination status. This includes intra and inter school sport and those representing their school in a club or community competition on and off the school site.

Most sport and recreation activities are classified as **Gatherings**. For information on Gatherings click [here](#). Gathering examples in your setting include sport that takes place outside of school hours or off school sites; a netball training after school or a First XV fixture between two schools on a Saturday.

For specific guidance about sport and recreation **Events** (including how to work out if your activity meets the criteria of an Event under the CPF), see [Sport NZ's specific guidance](#). Event examples in your setting may include School Sport NZ Tournament Week events, a multi-school athletics competition at a Council venue or a regional kapa haka competition.

From 26 March changes to the **Red** setting of the CPF apply to this guidance:

- There are no capacity limits for outdoor sport and recreation Gatherings, when vaccine passes are required.
- Indoors Gatherings have a capacity limit of 200 people per defined space when vaccine passes are required.
- Capacity limits for non MVP Gatherings remain at 25, however as students involved in school sport are treated as if they are vaccinated this situation is unlikely to arise.
- You do not need to wear face masks outdoors but need to continue wearing them in most indoor settings.

When parts of New Zealand enter into the **Orange** setting of the CPF, there will be no capacity limits for indoor and outdoor sport and recreation Gatherings.

From 4 April My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required, and the education vaccination mandate ends (i.e. there will be no requirement for those working in and for schools to be vaccinated).

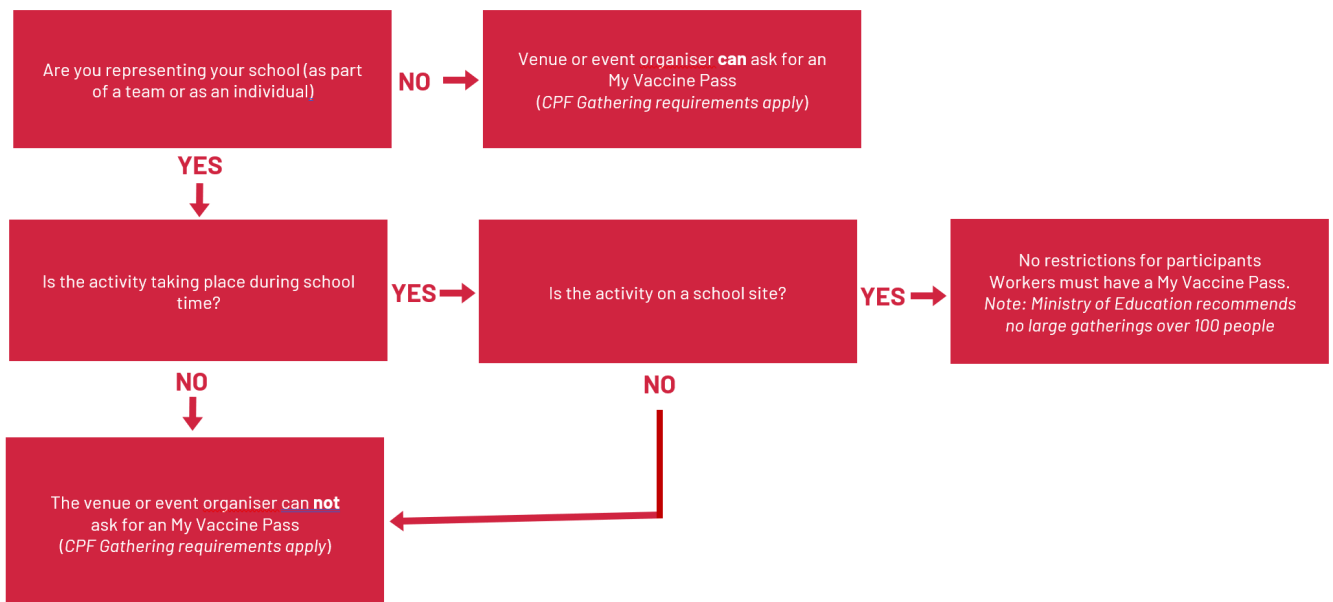
The delivery of Sport, Active Recreation and Play opportunities typically involves multiple agencies with different expectations and policies about the application of the CPF – these include event organisers, venue and facility owners/operators (including schools/kura) and sport and recreation organisations. These expectations, and roles and responsibilities, should be negotiated between the parties and represented in a Health and Safety Plan or similar agreement ([Health and Safety Guidance for School Sport](#)).

Additional Information

These guidelines should be read in conjunction with advice from Sport NZ and the Ministry of Education about the application of the CPF. If you have any questions or need an area clarified, please email us at covid19response@sportnz.org.nz.

- **COVID-19 Protection Framework – Sport NZ**
[COVID-19 CPF One Pager | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa](#)
- **CPF Detail**
[COVID-19 Protection Framework Overview | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa \(sportnz.org.nz\)](#)
- **Frequently Asked Questions**
[COVID-19 CPF FAQs | Sport New Zealand - Ihi Aotearoa](#)
- **COVID-19 Protection Framework – Ministry of Education**
[Covid-19-protection-framework-advice-for-schools-and-kura/](#)

Guidance for schools on My Vaccine Pass and Gathering requirements (Until 4 April 2022)



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Is school sport and recreation subject to the requirements set by the Ministry of Education, or the requirements set by Sport NZ?

The Ministry of Education advice is based on the requirements in the COVID-19 Health Response (Protection Framework) Order and advice from Public Health. It applies to curriculum-related activity (e.g Physical Education classes).

Sport NZ's advice through the CPF settings applies to the provision of Play, Active Recreation and Sport outside the curriculum (e.g. after-school badminton practice).

Do students have to be vaccinated to participate in school sport and recreation?

No.

Activity organisers and venues must not require students enrolled at a registered school to be vaccinated when they are representing their schools for inter and intra school sport and recreation, or as a school team/group that is participating in a club or regional event or competition, whether it is held on or off school grounds, and in or out of school hours.

What does representing your school mean?

To represent their school, individuals and teams will need to be signed off or entered into competition and other activities by the principal (or assigned person such as the Head of PE, Sports Coordinator, Deputy Principal etc) of the school.

If a school accepts responsibility for their students as a school representative team then it does not matter whether the team's name is different to that of the school.

School representatives for the purposes of the MVP exemption only include those competing or participating on the field or court – it does not include student coaches, officials or other supporting roles. These people are classed as “workers” and will still be subject to the MVP requirement of the venue and/or activity provider.

What guidance do I follow for lunchtime trainings?

You should follow guidance for gatherings.

Each school will have a policy or approach to providing physical activity opportunities during the school day under different CPF settings, and you should ensure you align with these requirements - make sure you check with your senior management before planning an activity.

Can I run intra-school sport and recreation activities and what guidance do I follow?

Each school will have a policy or approach to providing physical activity opportunities during the school day under different CPF settings, and you should ensure you align with these requirements - make sure you check with your senior management before planning an activity.

Subject to these school requirements, intra-school sport and recreation activities (such as House competitions or whole-school athletics sports) held indoors or outdoors, on and off school sites, are permitted and should follow gathering rules.

Can anyone other than those participating attend intra-school sport and recreation during school hours?

Support workers, such as teaching staff, coaches or officials can be included providing they are fully vaccinated and comply with other school requirements (such as wearing masks).

The school will decide if spectators, parents or anyone else not directly supporting teams, can be present. However, public health advice for schools is that only essential visitors should be onsite at Red.

What about PE classes?

Physical Education classes (indoor and outdoor) are able to go ahead at all settings of the CPF. Further guidance about holding PE classes under the Red CPF setting can be found here: [Physical Education NZ advice](#).

Whether onsite or offsite, activities held indoors, especially those involving physical exertion remain a higher risk for spread of COVID-19. Current public health advice is that wherever possible, these activities should be held outdoors.

What are the rules for school camps or Learn to Swim?

Education Outside the Classroom (EOTC) providers can choose to offer curriculum-related activities (such as school camps or Learn to Swim) to schools and in doing so, cannot prevent students who are not vaccinated from participating. Providers can therefore treat all students as vaccinated.

EOTC providers will need to meet a number of conditions, including

- Working with a registered school to deliver curriculum-related activities
- Staff delivering the service must be vaccinated and teachers or parent volunteers can be asked to present their My Vaccine Passes to meet this requirement.

Please refer to the Ministry of Education's advice regarding EOTC [here](#), and the advice from Education Outdoors NZ (EONZ) [here](#).

What about an activity that is held off-site?

Activities held off-site need to follow the capacity guidelines for that venue/site. However, if it is an inter or intra school activity, or a school team/group is participating in a club or regional event or competition, then students are not required to have My Vaccine Passes.

Gathering capacity limits still apply, however students are treated as if they are vaccinated so the capacity limits that apply are those for vaccinated persons; for example at Red up to 200 people can gather per defined space indoors, and no capacity limits apply outdoors.

What do I need to do if I am a venue hosting school sport?

Venue operators should continue with their normal processes, however, you must not deny entry to school students from a registered school on the basis of their vaccination status, when they visit your venue to represent their school. This means that even if your venue normally requires My Vaccine Passes, you cannot ask students to prove their vaccination status. Students are to be treated as if they are vaccinated so the capacity limits for vaccinated people apply.

[Workers](#), including coaches, managers and parent volunteers will still need to show a valid My Vaccine Pass if your venue requires them. This includes student coaches and officials.

Can our school participate in inter-school sport activities?

Yes.

However, it is important that you work with your school management to discuss their approach to minimising risk as this will vary between schools. Regularly engaging with facility operators and event providers will be necessary to ensure the least possible risk to your students if they are to participate outside the school gates.

Where an inter-school sport and recreation activity (such as competitions or festivals with other schools or clubs) is to be held on a school site during school hours you can proceed following the Ministry of Education guidance. This will include avoiding large gatherings of students and staff.

Support workers, such as teaching staff, coaches or officials can be included providing they are fully vaccinated and comply with other school requirements (such as wearing masks). The school will decide if spectators, parents or anyone else not directly supporting teams, can be present. However, public health advice for schools is that only essential visitors should be onsite at Red.

Where inter-school activities are held offsite, or outside school hours, students are to be treated as if they are vaccinated by venues or event operators, who cannot restrict access based on vaccination status.

If we have selected or trialed teams under previous CPF guidance that exclude those that are not vaccinated, do we now have to include them?

Changes to the MVP requirement for school representative teams took effect from Sunday 13 March, and changes to gathering numbers comes into effect from Saturday 26 March. Sport NZ recommends event organisers take a pragmatic approach to the introduction of these changes – where it is possible to incorporate participants that may have been previously excluded due to the legislation in place at that time, you should. Where this might present significant disruption to competitions we recommend proceeding with already selected teams or squads.

For summer sports that are currently ending their seasons introducing these changes may be difficult to accommodate. Where children become unavailable to play due to covid-19 isolation requirements however, you may take this opportunity to incorporate

previously not-included children and young people into your teams. Selection processes for winter sports should adopt the new guidelines and include all students in your selection processes given the lead-in time to these activities.

Will spectators be expected to be vaccinated?

Where parents are spectating at a curriculum-related activity on school grounds, are permitted to attend that activity, and have no other role in the delivery of that activity (such as coaching or supervising) they are not required to be vaccinated.

Any curriculum-related activities held off school grounds will need to adhere to the MVP requirements of that venue, including parents and caregivers who are spectators. Where a facility operator or event organiser requires vaccination then all coaches, managers, school staff and volunteers need to be vaccinated.

Event organisers can require spectators to have a My Vaccine Pass.

More information about managing spectators is included in Sport NZ's guidance about [Events](#).

How do we manage an activity that requires participants to be vaccinated but includes participants that are under 18 years?

Children under 18 years are treated as if they are vaccinated and are included in gathering and event numbers when they are participating in/for a school representative team. As these students are treated as if they are vaccinated the capacity limits for vaccinated activities apply. Other participants will be subject to the MVP requirements set by the event organiser or venue operator.

Are 5-11 year olds required to show a My Vaccine Pass?

Children aged 5-11 years old can now be vaccinated against COVID-19. They receive a children's dose of the Pfizer vaccine, which is a lower dose provided at a smaller volume than the adult vaccine.

While vaccination among this age group is encouraged, children under the age of 12 years and 3 months do not need a My Vaccine Pass, and cannot get one until aged 12. A child can get a My Vaccine Pass after they turn aged 12. It will be valid if they have had 2 doses of the children's version of the Pfizer vaccine

They are still counted toward the capacity limit of an event or gathering, but do not contribute to the vaccination status of an event or gathering. This means unvaccinated 5-11 year olds at a My Vaccine Pass event or gathering do not make that event or gathering non-My Vaccine Pass.

If you need more information about the COVID-19 vaccine for children, see the Ministry of Health's [website](#).

Do Secondary School students need to be vaccinated to work (e.g. coaching/officiating) both with their own school teams, and with others e.g. coaching primary school students from another school?

Whether an individual needs to be vaccinated to work depends on what activity they are undertaking. If an activity is curriculum related the education vaccine mandate will apply and all those coming into contact with children and young people must be vaccinated.

If the activity is not curriculum related the broader advice for events and gatherings will apply which may or may not require the individual to be vaccinated depending on what setting of the CPF we are in.

This means if students are coaching a school team at a venue off school grounds which requires My Vaccine Passes, they will need to be vaccinated. However, if students are coaching a club-based team and the venue or club organiser does not require vaccination then they do not need to be vaccinated.

The Education vaccine mandate applies **until 4 April** to everyone over the age of 12 who is carrying out work for a school (including as a volunteer or unpaid worker) when students are present and/or who may have contact with children or students when carrying out that work. **From 4 April the education mandate does not apply anymore.**

Can we mix activity that includes both vaccinated and unvaccinated students?

Yes.

All intra- and inter-school sport, whether on or off the school site does not require students to have a My Vaccine Pass.

If a sport and recreation organisation is hiring school facilities outside school hours, including gyms, fields or other facilities, do the participants and organisers need to be vaccinated?

The requirements for participants or organisations that access school facilities for activities including sport and recreation will be determined by each school, just as they would be for any other facility/venue operator. The rules for Gatherings and Events will apply so you should clarify the school's policy with them before making arrangements to run an activity on school facilities.

If there is a council facility on school grounds (artificial turf etc), does the Education vaccine mandate take priority?

The Education vaccine mandate applies to everyone over the age of 12 who is carrying out work for a school (including as a volunteer or unpaid worker) when students are present and/or who may have contact with children or students when carrying out their work. This requirement applies both on school sites and when offsite.- the sport and recreation guidance about Events and Gatherings, and Public Facilities, is relevant here.

Do our school weights and dance facilities have to follow the same restrictions as "gyms" in the CPF?

No. Gyms are defined in the CPF as indoor exercise facilities for which access is limited to members – this is typically not the case with school facilities. Follow the rules for Gatherings for any non-curriculum related activities.

Do parents/volunteers driving the school van, or providing car-pooling transport, need to be vaccinated?

Yes where the parents are performing a function for the school and likely to be in contact with children and young people. No for private transport, but it is strongly recommended that anyone supporting and working with young people is vaccinated.

What do I do if one of my sport and recreation participants returns a positive test, or is connected to someone who does?

The Ministry of Education has a comprehensive process for managing Covid-19 cases that involve school students and staff. You should follow their advice [here](#).

More guidance about who is considered a close contact can also be found on the Unite Against COVID-19 website [here](#).