



**SPORT
NEW ZEALAND
IHI AOTEAROA**

Play, active recreation and sport in the **Green Setting**

—
COVID-19 Protection Framework
March 2022

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.

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

Mandatory activities at Green

- 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

At GREEN, there are no capacity limits, and face masks are not required.

There are no indoor or outdoor capacity limits.

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.

At **Green**, private indoor facilities (like indoor recreation centres or pools) can open with no capacity limits.

Key principles of COVID-19 Vaccination Passes

My Vaccine Passes are not required. Businesses and Gathering and Event's organisers can still require vaccination as a condition of entry but requiring vaccination will not allow for increased capacity limits or freedoms.

For key definitions see: [Glossary](#)

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

2. 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 and outdoor community sport

- Most community sport should follow the rules for Gatherings.
- There are no capacity limits for outdoor and indoor Gatherings, and no requirements for physical distancing while playing sport.

Indoor community sport at a public recreation centre

- Attendees do not have to physically distance.
- Public recreation centres can choose to check vaccine passes.
- If vaccine passes are required for entry, students enrolled at a registered school who visit public facilities to represent their school must not be asked to prove their vaccination status.

3. Active recreation at Green

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

- If you are participating in active recreation with others, then follow the rules for Gatherings. There are no capacity limits for indoor or outdoor active recreation.
- Note if you are participating in active recreation at a council-owned facility, follow the rules for public facilities. See below.
- 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 use vaccine passes to allow entry to their facilities.
- 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.
- 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 regional boundary restrictions.

Indoor active recreation at a public recreation centre

- Attendees do not have to physically distance.
- Public recreation centres can choose to check vaccine passes.

- Where vaccine passes are required for entry, students enrolled at a registered school who visit public facilities to represent their school must not be asked to prove their vaccination status.

4. 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.
- There are no capacity limits for Gatherings, and no requirement to maintain physical distancing while playing or participating.

5. Play at Green

This advice covers informal play in homes, neighborhoods 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.

- There are no capacity limits for Gatherings, and no requirements to maintain physical distancing.
- All 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 regional boundary restrictions.

6. 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 and other workplaces can open with no limits.
- Individual businesses should follow [MBIE](#) and [WorkSafe NZ](#) advice.

7. 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.