



**SPORT
NEW ZEALAND
IHI AOTEAROA**

Play, active recreation and sport in the Red 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 **Red**, action is needed to protect at-risk people and protect our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.

Good hygiene and sanitation, and home isolation will continue as key tools to minimise the spread of the virus. Face masks are required in most indoor settings.

Mandatory activities at Red

- You need to wear a face mask when indoors, including on flights, public transport, in taxis, retail and hospitality, some education settings, and public facilities (but not swimming pools), at indoor Events and Gatherings, and at close-proximity businesses. If your Gathering has exclusive use of the indoor venue or defined space then you do not need to wear a face mask.
- You do not need to wear a face mask at outdoors Gatherings or Events, or at the Gym; however, it is still encouraged.
- Face masks must be an actual mask that attaches around your head or ears—scarves, bandannas and t-shirts should not be used. **You do not need to wear a mask while you are exercising, eating or drinking.**
- Workers who covered by the Vaccination mandate need to wear medical grade masks i.e. Type IIR/Level 2 masks or above.

Key aspects for sport, recreation and play at Red

My Vaccine Passes are no longer mandated in certain settings or required and there are no restrictions for outdoor sport and recreation activities.

Indoor sport and recreation gatherings are limited to 200 people per defined space.

See our FAQs here for definitions of outdoor and indoor spaces and further detail on defined spaces is below:

- 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.

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 **Red**, public facilities (like council-owned swimming pools and indoor recreation centres) have their own set of rules and can open with capacity limits. The capacity limit is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility and allowing 1 m² per person. They can choose to check vaccine passes but are not required to. If a public facility chooses to check vaccine passes, they must not ask students enrolled at a registered school to prove their vaccination status when they visit to represent their school.

If a public facility is hired for exclusive use, then the rules that generally apply to public facilities no longer apply. They must instead follow the rules for Events and Gatherings, which are subject to capacity limits based on allowing 1 m² per person and a total number of people. Local councils are able to set policies to require vaccination passes at their premises if they wish, however this should be considered carefully. More information about the rules that specifically apply to 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

My Vaccine Passes are no longer required by those that chose to implement them. 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 and their use should be carefully considered.

- It is unlikely that many sport and recreation organisations would be able to determine through their risk assessment process that workers and participants that vaccination will be required for access.
- There may be some specific roles within a sport and recreation setting where vaccination is needed to provide the greatest level of protection for those most vulnerable – an example of this maybe where staff work in close contact with an immunocompromised person.

Further advice around assessing if specific work requires a vaccination is available from [MBIE and Employment New Zealand](#).

2. Events at Red

- Outdoor Events do not have any capacity limits. At indoor Events at Red, multiple groups of up to 200 people in separate defined spaces can attend, however no intermingling can occur between groups and each group of 200 needs to stay as is for the entire duration of the Event. This means that no new groups of 200 can be formed, such as participants moving to compete against new teams from another group of 200 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.

- It is important to consider that while you *can* run your Event in this way in Red, it may not be in the best interests of the public and your participants' health. Alongside your usual health and safety planning you should consider whether your Event can genuinely be run safely with multiple groups. Some sports will lend themselves to running events in this way but ultimately this is a decision for organisers and Boards to make.
- 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 Red

- For the purposes of this guidance, sport can be a team sport or individual sport, contact or close-proximity activity, or non-contact activity. Most community sport should follow the rules for Gatherings.
- Outdoors community sport is not subject to any capacity limits. Indoors community sport can have up to 200 people meet, based on allowing for 1 metre of space per person.
- This is different for indoor community sport that takes place at a public recreation centre, which should follow the rules for Public Facilities in most cases (see below for more detailed guidance on indoors community sport at public recreation centres).
- There are no requirements for physical distancing while playing indoor community sport.
- Multiple groups can operate simultaneously if they remain separated within defined spaces.
- All parts of an indoor facility can open, but may need to follow different rules, such as cafes or swimming pools.
- Note: capacity limits are different for indoor public facilities like recreation centres if they are not hired for exclusive use. See below.

Community sport at a private venue

Indoor	Outdoor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity limit of up to 200 people per defined space, based on based on the size of the venue and allowing 1 metre of space per person. For example, if the facility 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No capacity limit at outdoor Gatherings • Attendees do not have to physically distance from others in their group.

is 50m², then you could host up to 50 people.

- The maximum number of people allowed to meet is 200 people.
- Multiple groups (of up to 200 each) can participate in indoor active recreation if they can be separated by defined spaces.
- Capacity limits do not include workers of the indoor facility.
- Attendees do not have to physically distance.

Indoor community sport at a public recreation centre

- The capacity of a public recreation centre is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility with an allowance of 1 metre of space per person. There is no maximum number of people allowed.
- This capacity limit does not include workers.
- 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.
- 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 community sport at a private venue).

4. Active recreation at Red

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

At **Red**, the rules managing active recreation depend on whether the activity is inside or outside and what facilities are allowed to open:

- If you are participating in active recreation with others follow the rules for Gatherings.
- If you are participating in active recreation at a council-owned recreation centre, follow the rules for Public facilities.
- Guidance for activities in swimming pools – indoor and outdoor – is provided in the tables below.
- Guidance for accessing gyms is provided 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.

- 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. Note: capacity limits are different for indoor public facilities like recreation centres if they are not hired for exclusive use. See below.
- Multiple groups can operate simultaneously indoors if they remain separated within defined spaces.
- All parts of an indoor facility can open (for example, a café or shop), but may need to follow different rules, such as those relating to 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 in place.

Active recreation at a private facility or venue

Indoor	Outdoor
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Capacity limit of up to 200 people per defined space, based on the size of the venue and allowing 1 metre of space per person. For example, if the facility is 50m², then you could host up to 50 people. The maximum number of people allowed to meet is 200 people. • Multiple groups (of up to 200 each) can participate in indoor active recreation if they can be separated by defined spaces. • Capacity limits do not include workers of the indoor facility. • Attendees do not have to physically distance. • 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No capacity limit at outdoor Gatherings • Attendees do not have to physically distance from others in their group.

Indoor active recreation at a public recreation centre

- The capacity of a public recreation centre is determined by how many people can fit based on the size of the facility with an allowance of 1 metre of space per person. There is no maximum number of people allowed.
- This capacity limit does not include workers of the public recreation centre.
- 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.

- 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).

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. Public swimming pools can open at **Red** with no capacity limits, but the number of people allowed is based on giving 1 metre of space per person.
- Guidance for private swimming pools, is that at Red, outdoors there are no capacity limits. Indoors a private pool can have up to 200 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 a swimming pool can open, but may need to follow different rules, such as 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 or other indoor exercise facility, then you need to follow the specific rules for Gyms.
- Gyms can open at **Red** with up to 200 people. The capacity limit applies to each 'defined space', so you can have multiple gatherings if they can remain separate.
- Council-owned gyms also must follow these rules for Gyms.
- 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.

5. Outdoor water-based activities at Red

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.
- There is no capacity limit for outdoors water-based activities. Participants do not need to maintain physical distancing while playing or participating.

6. Play at Red

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

At the **Red** 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 outdoors Gatherings. Indoors Gatherings can have up to 200 people based on allowing 1 metre of space per person. Multiple Gatherings must remain in a defined space while playing.
- 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.

7. Commercial activities at Red

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

At **Red**, 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 capacity limits based on allowing each person 1 metre of space.
- Working from home may be appropriate for some staff.
- Individual businesses should follow [MBIE](#) and [WorkSafe NZ](#) advice.

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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.