

PRELIMINARY ADVICE COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK – A GUIDE FOR RESIDENTS AND FAMILIES

This advice has been prepared based on the information on the Business New Zealand website and we have not yet had the opportunity to check that this information is consistent with the Public Health Order released on Wednesday 1 December 2021. We are reviewing the PHO now.

The Government has developed a “traffic light” framework to protect communities as we move out of the alert levels to a longer-term regime. The new Protection Framework has three settings –



RED

RED - action is required to protect the health system which faces unsustainable numbers of hospitalisations.



ORANGE

ORANGE – there’s increasing community transmission with increasing pressure on the health system and an increasing risk of infection for the wider community.



GREEN

GREEN – there is Covid-19 in the community across the country as a whole, but there’s limited community transmission, hospitalisations are at a manageable level, and the health system is ready to respond as required.

These guidelines are intended for residents and their families about what to expect around the village while we’re under the traffic light Protection Framework. As we may be under this regime for a long time, it’s useful to understand what is and isn’t going to be permitted.

The basic principle is that villages operate within the same restrictions as the wider community where they’re based. This means that if your city or region is in Red, your village must also operate in line with the Red requirements.

If your village has an aged care facility on the campus, there may be a need to operate with higher restrictions. This means that we are not able to recommend “one rule for all” and residents will need to be flexible, just as you were in the earlier alert levels.

There will be greater freedoms for people who have a double vaccination and a supporting My Vaccine Pass. While the adoption of the vaccine pass system will be optional for some activities and locations within your village, there are higher-risk settings where the vaccine pass system must be used if you want to access certain facilities and services. If the operator does not want to require proof of vaccine, there will be greater restrictions on the right to open and stricter limits on capacity and space.

You have the right to access any health service in the village regardless of your vaccine status.

Unite
against
COVID-19

Getting the vaccine pass

Proof of vaccination is obtained by obtaining My Vaccine Pass. We are aware that it may not be easy for some residents to access the internet and download their vaccine pass.

There are three ways to request a vaccine pass:

- Online using **My COVID Record**
- Through the call centre **0800 222 478**
- Visiting a **COVID 19 Vaccinating Pharmacy**

If you can't use the online option, you can use the call centre or go into a vaccinating pharmacy. If you're using the call centre or going to a pharmacy, please note that

verbal identification checks will be required and you will be asked to identify your first name, last name, date of birth, and if you have it, your NHI. You may also be asked for your address.

If you need additional assistance, the village manager can act on your behalf to request a My Vaccine Pass. The village manager will be required to identify themselves and will be asked if they have your permission before proceeding.

If you agree, the village can record your vaccine status in their records.

Checking proof of vaccination

Residents' and visitors' vaccination passes must be checked before they enter any part of the village's community facilities that are operating under the vaccine pass rules. You can expect your village to sight it and they may also use a verifier app to scan the QR code that is embedded into a pass. It lets the operator know if the pass is valid or not.

Everyone must present only their own My Vaccine Pass. Operators are not required to check ID, but they may ask to see it.

The operator will also keep an eye on the number of people in the facility so that maximum numbers are not exceeded.

What's covered by the vaccination pass.

In line with the wider community, the village café, bar, restaurant, the hairdresser and other close personal contact services, gym, and any gathering or event of more than 25 people will require a vaccine pass to access or use. The operator may choose to operate a contactless service in the café and restaurant for unvaccinated residents and visitors.

It is possible that due to the design of the community building the operator may need to restrict entry to parts other than the café, etc. Please be aware of that possibility.

An operator can arrange gatherings of people who are vaccinated or unvaccinated, provided the premises are cleaned between groups. For example, they can host a gathering for a small group of people under the unvaccinated rules, clean the room, and then host a larger gathering for vaccinated people.

The operator must clearly communicate what settings they are operating under and display any required signs.



Photo credit: Archer Foundation

Your ORA and the regime

All residents have an Occupation Right Agreement or ORA that gives them access to the village's community facilities, subject to any controls or limits set out in the ORA. Equally, you and the operator must comply with the law which imposes certain restrictions on that access.

Children in the village

Any children over the age of 12 years and three months will need to comply with the same visitor rules in place for the community facilities and show their My Vaccine Pass where required. Depending on the village's risk assessment process, children under the age of 12 years and three months may or may not be permitted to access the community amenities.

Children under 12 years and three months will generally be welcome to visit you in your unit, but they may face restrictions on their access to the rest of the village. If you're in an apartment, especially one that shares a building with an aged care facility, the operator may have different rules for children under 12 years for visiting you.

RED STATUS

At Red, action will need to be taken to protect both at-risk people and protect our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.

HOW THE VILLAGE STAYS SAFE AT RED

Record keeping and scanning will be required. The village manager will make sure all visitors, including all contractors and home-based support providers, scan in and complete a health declaration. The declaration requires them to declare they have no flu-like symptoms, that they haven't been in self-isolation within the previous 14 days and haven't been in contact with anyone who has been in self-isolation in the last 14 days.

Make sure you're wearing your mask whenever you leave your unit, including in the village's community facilities and the grounds.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES WITH A VACCINE PASS

Hospitality services such as the café, bar, and restaurant may have up to 100 people or the maximum number possible with 1 metre distancing to provide food and beverages. You must be seated and separated. You will need to show your vaccine pass.

Hairdressing and other close contact services can operate as normal. You must show your pass when entering.

Indoor activities such as the cinema, swimming pool, bowls, billiards, the library, card games – there can be up to 100 people in the room (subject to capacity limits). You must show your pass.

Outdoor activities such as bowls, petanque, croquet, walks, etc have a maximum limit of 100 people or the number based on 1 m distancing per defined space (the bowling green, outdoor swimming pool, etc). You must show your vaccine pass.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES WITHOUT A VACCINE PASS

Hospitality services will be restricted to contactless collection only. You will not be able to use the gym, a hairdresser or other close contact services..

Indoor and outdoor activities and gatherings will have a maximum of 25 people per defined space (as above).

If someone hires the entire space for a family birthday party or a similar event, the same limits above apply. If there's a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people, the lower limits apply.

ORANGE STATUS

At Orange, there will be increasing community transmission that is putting pressure on our health system. The whole of health system will focus its resources, but can continue to manage primary care, public health, and hospitals. There may also be an increasing risk for at-risk people.

HOW THE VILLAGE STAYS SAFE AT ORANGE

Record keeping and scanning will be required. Make sure all your visitors, including family, friends and home-based support providers, have scanned in and completed a health declaration. The declaration requires them to declare they have no flu-like symptoms, that they haven't been in self-isolation within the previous 14 days and haven't been in contact with anyone who has been in self-isolation in the last 14 days.

We strongly recommend that you wear your face covering whenever leaving your unit, including throughout the village's community facilities and the grounds.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES WITH A VACCINE PASS

Hospitality services such as the café, bar, and restaurant can open with no limits on numbers (other than the usual capacity limits of the amenity), or seating. You must show your pass when entering.

Hairdressing and other close contact services can operate as normal. You must show your pass when entering.

Indoor activities such as the cinema, swimming pool, bowls, billiards, the library, card games have no limits, subject to capacity, on the numbers permitted. You must show your pass when entering.

Outdoor activities such as bowls, petanque, croquet, walks, etc have no maximum number limits. You must show your vaccine pass.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES WITHOUT A VACCINE PASS

Hospitality services will be restricted to collect only. You will not be able to use the gym, a hairdresser or other close contact services.

Indoor and outdoor activities and gatherings will have a maximum of 50 people per defined space (as above).

If someone hires the entire space for a family birthday party or a similar event, the same limits above apply. If there's a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people, the lower limits apply.

GREEN STATUS

Green is when there are some COVID-19 cases in the community, and sporadic imported cases. Community transmission will be 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.

In Green, similar freedoms for people who are vaccinated exist as they did in Orange. Unvaccinated people are able to enjoy a slightly less restricted life with larger gatherings up to 100 people with 1 metre physical distance.

HOW THE VILLAGE STAYS SAFE AT GREEN

Record keeping and scanning will be required. Make sure all your visitors, including family, friends and home-based support providers, scan in and complete a health declaration. The declaration requires them to declare they have no flu-like symptoms, that they haven't been in self-isolation within the previous 14 days and haven't been contact with anyone who has been in self-isolation in the last 14 days.

Face coverings are recommended whenever leaving your unit. Masks are encouraged to be used but are not mandatory.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES WITH A VACCINE PASS

Hospitality services such as the café, bar, and restaurant can open with no limits on numbers other than the usual capacity limits of the amenity. You must show your pass when entering.

Hairdressing and other close contact services can operate as normal. You must show your pass when entering.

Indoor activities such as the cinema, swimming pool, bowls, billiards, the library, card games have no limits, subject to capacity limits, on the numbers permitted. You must show your pass when entering.

Outdoor activities such as bowls, petanque, croquet, walks, etc have no maximum number limits. You must show your vaccine pass.

RESIDENT ACTIVITIES WITHOUT A VACCINE PASS

Hospitality services will be restricted to seated and service only, with a maximum of 100 people, based on 1 metre distancing. You will be able to use the gym, a hairdresser or other close contact services, but the staff must wear a face covering and keep 1 metre distancing between customers.

Indoor and outdoor activities and gatherings will have a maximum of 100 people per defined space.

If someone hires the entire space for a family birthday party or a similar event, the same limits above apply. If there's a mix of vaccinated and unvaccinated people, the lower limits apply.

General observations

- Continue to regularly disinfect surfaces regardless of the "light" we are in.
- Wash and dry your hands thoroughly and regularly
- Stay home if you are sick, and make sure your friends and family also stay home if they are sick.
- Wear a mask over your nose and mouth whenever you are outside or where it's difficult to remain physically distanced from others.

- Get tested for COVID-19 if you have flu-like symptoms – call your GP or Healthline
- Continue to seek primary medical care if necessary.

We know we have been conservative throughout these guidelines, and we know it has been hard at times. If the restrictions are causing hardship for you or your family, please do not hesitate to let your village manager know.

If there's an outbreak in the village

The village will be directed by the local DHB if there's an outbreak in the village. They will be able to access a number of documents and guides from the RVA's website as well as from the Ministry of Health. If you're self-isolating, the village manager will have support and advice for you.

But there are a few things you can do in case you need to self-isolate.

- Check your food and medicine supplies. Do you have enough to last a few days?
- Do you have a plan about who to contact if you get sick? Identify someone outside the village who can step up if you're isolating.

- Talk to your carer, if you have one, about what will happen if you need to self-isolate.
- Talk to any outside groups – church, Probus Club, other organisations – to see what support they might be able to offer. Make sure they (and you) have a process to keep a record of their members if anyone gets sick.
- Make a list of your family details – names, contacts, National Health Number (if known) - and the doctor, medical centre, pharmacy, and other support agencies such as Age Concern. Make sure you stay connected whether you are sick or not – you never know when you'll need them. Or they will need you!

In conclusion

We know we have been conservative throughout these guidelines, and we know it has been hard at times. If the restrictions are causing hardship for you or your family, please do not hesitate to let your village manager know.

We hope that this information is useful. We know that it's only a matter of time before there's a possible covid-19 case in the community. However, working together and observing the Framework's rules will help keep the village safe.

Contact Healthline if you feel unwell.

Free health advice
when you need it



Healthline

0800 611 116

www.healthline.govt.nz