

9th November 2021

To Club Secretaries
CC Regions

Covid 19- Advisory No 20

Developing strategies for managing our response to Covid-19 has been anything but easy. I regularly receive emails calling for NZBridge to adopt an uncompromising position on vaccinations- all players to be doubly vaccinated. We understand the benefit of vaccination, but our policy has been to follow the direction of Government and the Ministry of Health.

We know the Government has had to set aside its idealistic policy of eliminating Covid-19 and is now focused on a vaccination strategy which is about managing the health system.

We have been in touch with the Ministry of Health to secure a better understanding of where bridge clubs and players sit under the proposed “Covid-19 Protection Framework” (the traffic light system), which is being introduced when 90% of eligible New Zealanders are fully vaccinated.

As they say the framework is about bringing us a world where we are freer to move and live with less disruption. The following general information is available on the Ministries website.

The Framework

Public Health Measures

Testing, contact tracing and isolation will continue. Localised lockdowns will continue as an option.

Vaccination Certificate Requirements

These will be optional for many locations. There will be some higher risk settings where a vaccination certificate will be a requirement.

At all levels, businesses, retail, and public facilities will generally be able to remain open for vaccinated people.

Businesses, events, organisations, community, and a range of sectors may legally choose to implement a vaccination entry requirement for customers.

If a business, organisation or service does not wish to request proof of vaccine they will have to operate with strict limits on capacity and space requirements. They may need to close in orange and/or red levels.

Traffic Light

<p>Green Is where there are some Covid-19 cases in the community. Community transmission limited and hospitalisations manageable.</p>	<p>Record keeping and scanning required. Face coverings encouraged indoors.</p>	<p>No limits if vaccination certificates used</p>	<p>Where a business, organisation or service does not request proof of vaccine, restrictions will apply. For events (indoor/outdoor)- up to 100 people, based on 1 metre physical distancing, seated and separated.</p>
<p>Orange Increased community transmission that puts pressure on the health system</p>	<p>Record keeping and scanning required. Face coverings mandated in certain settings and encouraged elsewhere.</p>	<p>No limits if vaccination certificates used.</p>	<p>Where a business, organisation or service does not request proof of vaccine then events (indoor/outdoor) will not be able to operate without a vaccine certificate.</p>
<p>Red Action required to protect both at risk people and the health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.</p>	<p>Record keeping and scanning required. Face coverings mandated in certain settings and encouraged elsewhere.</p>	<p>There will be restrictions if vaccination certificates are used. Events (indoor/outdoor) will be able to open with up to 100 people, based on 1 metre physical distancing.</p>	<p>A business, organisation or service will not be able to operate without a vaccine certificate</p>

Further information is expected late November, which hopefully will provide greater clarity. For example, we all know the vaccination has a limited life. Overtime the value of the vaccination diminishes. There is an expectation that a booster will be required after 6 months. What happens if people decline the booster? Another example is- does a bridge club session constitute an event? Is Congress an event? We have asked the Ministry of Health to clarify these questions. It usually takes about 10 days for a response to be forthcoming. At this stage it is a wait and see.

The best and simplest way forward for us to continue to enjoy our sport is to get vaccinated. Being vaccinated opens the door to live as normal.

Stay well, stay safe

Cheers Allan