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27th January 2022

Covid Advisory No 24

A number of Clubs have asked for guidance on the wearing of face masks. Government and all epidemiologists strongly recommend the use of face masks in just about all settings. Unfortunately, there is some ambiguity when looking at the Government guidelines as they apply to private gatherings.

Whilst it is appropriate to follow the guidelines in practice it comes down to common sense and a simple test- can we live with our conscience if a member becomes sick or dies because we have adopted a light touch approach to the use of face masks.

In making your decision on the use of face masks it is useful to consider the demographic of your membership.

1. Age.
2. Health- co-morbidities, such as heart disease, diabetes, chronic lung disease, kidney and liver disease, cancer, and immuno-suppressed.

Also, you are not immune to Covid because you are vaccinated. Vaccinations are all about minimising the impact of Covid to the individual and to the health system.

The latest update (dated 25 January) says:

1. A face covering will need to be an actual mask and attached to the head by loops around the ears or head
2. You will need to wear a mask at food and drink businesses, close-proximity businesses, and **events and gatherings.**

The changes come into force at 11.59pm Thursday 3 February.

The Covid-19 website is quite clear that the wearing of face masks is required when attending or participating in a gathering.

We have also been asked to clarify what numbers are permitted under the red traffic light.

1. If proof of vaccination is required (My Vaccine Pass), you can have up to 100 players provided there is 1 metre separation.

We know the 1 metre separation is confusing. The metre separation is a tool to control numbers. It does not mean you have to have 1 metre physical separation. What it means if you have 100sqm you can have up to 100 people. If you have 200sqm you are limited to 100 people. If you only have 80sqm you are limited to no more than 80 people.

2. If My Vaccine Passes are not being used you are limited to 25 people. Again, subject to the same 1 metre separation rule.
If you have 100sqm you are limited to a maximum of 25 people. If you have 80sqm you are limited to 20 people.

Finally In our newsletter last week we mentioned we were going to conduct an online survey of Clubs regarding "Online Bridge"
Given the current circumstances we have decided to postpone that and will seek information from you at a later date.

Allan Morris
Chair- NZ Bridge Inc