



Briefing

COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK SETTINGS

To: COVID-19 Ministers

Date	20/10/2021	Priority	Urgent
Deadline	21/10/2021	Briefing Number	DPMC-2021/22-621

Purpose


This briefing seeks your agreement to settings for the COVID-19 Protection Framework that have been updated to reflect feedback you provided on 19 and 20 October 2021.

Recommendations

- Note** on Monday 18 October 2021 Cabinet agreed a draft COVID-19 Protection Framework for New Zealand's domestic response to COVID-19, and authorised COVID-19 Ministers to have Power to Act to approve any final changes and edits to the framework [CAB-21-MIN-0421 refers].
- Agree** to the settings for the COVID-19 Protection Framework as set out in Attachment A to this briefing.
- Note** the settings in recommendation 2 are deliberately high-level and that there is further work to be completed by sector agencies to develop the detail and guidance to sit beneath them.

YES / NO

4. **Agree** to review the vaccination targets on 29 November 2021 as part of the report back to Cabinet on the progress report on transition plans. **YES / NO**

 Ruth Fairhall Head of Strategy & Policy COVID-19 Group, DPMC
20 / 10 / 2021

Rt Hon Jacinda Ardern Prime Minister
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Hon Grant Robertson Deputy Prime Minister
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Hon Kelvin Davis Minister for Māori Crown Relations: Te Arawhiti
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Hon Chris Hipkins
Minister for COVID-19 Response

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Hon Andrew Little
Minister of Health

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Hon Kris Faafoi
Minister of Justice

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Hon Peeni Henare
Associate Minister of Health (Māori Health)

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Hon Dr Ayesha Verrall Associate Minister of Health
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Hon Aupito William Sio Associate Minister of Health (Pacific Peoples)
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Contact for telephone discussion if required:

Name	Position	Telephone	1st contact
Ruth Fairhall	Head of Policy & Strategy, COVID-19 Group	s9(2)(a)	✓
Ashlee Bowles	Senior Policy Advisor, Strategy & Policy, COVID-19 Group	s9(2)(a)	

Minister's office comments:

- Noted
- Seen
- Approved
- Needs change
- Withdrawn
- Not seen by Minister
- Overtaken by events
- Referred to

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COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK SETTINGS

Background

1. On Monday 18 October 2021 Cabinet considered a draft COVID-19 Protection Framework for New Zealand's domestic response to COVID-19. Cabinet noted that officials would continue to finalise the detailed settings of the framework for implementation and COVID-19 Ministers were authorised to have Power to Act to approve any final changes and edits to the framework [CAB-21-MIN-0421 refers].
2. Ministers have subsequently met to discuss the settings in the framework. Feedback was provided to officials, which has been incorporated, as set out in Attachment A.
3. The most significant changes are:
 - Greater use of COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates at Green (extending them beyond high risk event facilities and gatherings as agreed by Cabinet on Monday to hospitality, close proximity businesses, and gyms);
 - Closing some settings at Orange to unvaccinated people (e.g. events, close proximity businesses and services, and gyms); and
 - Permitting tertiary education organisations to open at Red with a vaccination requirement for on-site delivery and other public health controls including capacity limits.
4. Advice from the Ministry of Health supports vaccination requirements at Green given the ongoing risk of COVID-19 in the community and the potential for a vaccinated person, who is infected at an event, to transmit the virus to non-vaccinated community members outside that environment.
5. Your approval of the attached framework is required to support the Prime Minister's public announcement of the framework and strategy on Friday 22 October.

COVID-19 Protection Framework settings will continue to evolve

6. The COVID-19 Protection Framework settings are deliberately high-level to enable further refinement. There are details still to be worked through such as how to treat different outdoor events and activities such as community sport, faith-based gatherings and events such as school fairs and protests. Following Friday's announcement, officials will continue to work through this detail and provide further advice to Ministers as required. The settings will also be underpinned by detailed guidance to be developed by sector agencies and approved by the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.
7. Following the framework coming into effect, the settings will continue to be iterated to reflect the changing COVID-19 risk in New Zealand. This is the approach taken to Alert Level settings; and will help ensure the settings remain fit for purpose, coherent as a whole, and achieve the strategic goals of minimisation and protection. As signalled to Cabinet on Monday 4 October, the Government should move cautiously when making

future changes to the framework informed by lessons learned from our first steps and from international counterparts who have begun this transition.

- 8. Officials will review the vaccination certification settings in early 2022. This review will help to ensure the restrictions are fit for purpose and proportionate to the level of transmission risk present in the community at that time. The efficacy of these restrictions, and the framework as a whole, will depend on vaccination rates.

Next Steps

- 9. Pending decisions on this briefing, the detailed settings within the framework at Attachment A will be used to inform Friday's announcement of this framework and strategy.
- 10. We understand that you have confirmed the vaccination targets that were agreed in principle at Cabinet on Monday ie 90% in each DHB in Auckland before Auckland moves to the new framework, and 90% in each DHB outside Auckland before the rest of the country moves. We propose that the targets be reviewed by Cabinet on Monday 29 November (at the same time as officials expect to report on readiness for implementation of the new framework in Auckland).

Consultation

- 11. The Ministry of Health and Crown Law Office were consulted in relation to the settings proposed in this briefing.

Attachments:	
Attachment A:	COVID-19 Protection Framework settings



Attachment A – COVID-19 Protection Framework settings

<p>Be prepared for COVID-19 in your community</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • COVID-19 across New Zealand, including sporadic imported cases • Limited community transmission • COVID-19 hospitalisations are at a manageable level • Whole of health system is ready to respond – primary care, public health, and hospitals 	<p>Vaccination certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality - no restrictions • Events - no restrictions • Gatherings (e.g. church/marae)- no restrictions • Close proximity businesses - no restrictions • Gyms - no restrictions 	<p>No vaccination certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing), seated and separated • Events - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing), seated and separated • Gatherings (e.g. church/marae)- 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing) • Close proximity - face coverings for staff, 1m distancing between customers • Gyms - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing)
	<p>Everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record keeping required • Face coverings - mandatory on flights, encouraged indoors • Public facilities - open • Retail - open • Workplaces - open • Education - open • Specified outdoor community events 	
<p>Be active in stopping the spread of the virus</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing community 	<p>Vaccination certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality - no restrictions • Events - no restrictions • Gatherings (e.g church/marae) - no restrictions • Close proximity businesses - no restrictions • Gyms - no restrictions 	<p>No vaccination certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality - contactless only • Gatherings (e.g. church/marae) - 50 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing) • Events/Close Proximity/Gyms – closed

<p>transmission with increasing pressure on health system.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Whole of health system is focusing resources but can manage – primary care, public health and hospitals • Increasing risk to at risk populations 	<p>Everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record keeping required • Face coverings - mandatory at settings equivalent to Alert Level 2, encouraged indoors • Public facilities - open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing • Retail - open with capacity limits based on 1m distancing • Workplaces - open • Education - open with public health measures in place • Specified outdoor community events 	
<p>Be safe, take actions that stop you, your friends and your whānau from getting COVID-19</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Action needed to protect health system – system facing unsustainable number of hospitalisations. • Action needed to protect at risk populations 	<p>Vaccination certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing) • Events - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing) • Gatherings (e.g church/marae) - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing) • Close proximity businesses - open, public health requirements • Gyms - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing) • Tertiary education (vaccination requirement for onsite deliver) – capacity based on 1m distancing 	<p>No vaccination certificates</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality - contactless only • Gatherings (e.g church/marae) - 10 cap • Events/close proximity/gyms - closed • Tertiary education- closed
	<p>Everyone</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Record keeping required • Face coverings - mandatory at AL2 settings, recommended whenever leaving the house • Public facilities - 100 cap (or lesser based on 1m distancing) • Retail - capacity based on 1 m distancing • Workplaces - working from home encouraged • Education - Schools and ECE open with public health measures and controls • Specified outdoor community events - open with capacity limits 	