



# COVID-19 Message Grid

## 23 March 2022

This contains the most up-to-date and approved messaging on key COVID-19 matters.

Information that changes or is added between grids will be highlighted. Please ensure you are using the most up to date version.

This version was current at 23/03/2022 2:53 pm.

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## Unite Against COVID-19

Topic	Key Message	Supporting Messages	Notes
Update on changes to COVID-19 settings in New Zealand	From 11:59pm on Friday 25 March 2022 the traffic light system is changing.	<p>New Zealand’s successful management of the Omicron outbreak and high rates of vaccination mean it’s now safe to ease the restrictions that have successfully prevented widespread health and economic damage.</p> <p>The focus now is to make life simpler and closer to normal but retain the things that are most effective at reducing the spread of COVID-19 and protecting people.</p> <p>From 11:59pm on Friday 25 March the traffic light settings will change. The COVID-19 Protection Framework will be simpler. It will help us manage life with Omicron while reducing the impact of future outbreaks.</p>	PM media stand-up 23 Mar and UAC website

<p>Changes to COVID-19 settings in New Zealand</p>	<p>Changes to the COVID-19 Protection Framework, known as the traffic light system, were announced today.</p>	<p>Changes to the COVID-19 Protection Framework will come into place from 11.59pm this Friday 25 March. Changes to different colour settings include:</p> <p><b>Red setting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There will be no limits for outdoor activities, such as gatherings and events, and food and drink businesses. My Vaccine Passes must be used until 11:59pm on 4 April.</li> <li>• 200-person limit for indoor gatherings and events with My Vaccine Pass</li> <li>• Masks still required in most indoor settings, but not outdoors.</li> <li>• No requirement to scan a QR code poster or have mandatory record keeping</li> </ul> <p><b>Orange setting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No limit for outdoor gatherings</li> <li>• No limit for indoor gatherings</li> <li>• Face masks required in most indoor settings, but not outdoors</li> <li>• No requirement to scan a QR code poster or have mandatory record keeping</li> </ul> <p><b>Green setting:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• No restrictions</li> <li>• People are encouraged to wear face masks and keep up good health behaviours</li> <li>• No requirement to scan a QR code poster or have mandatory record keeping</li> </ul>	<p>PM media stand-up 23 Mar and UAC website</p>
<p>Changes to COVID-19 settings in New Zealand</p>	<p>The COVID-19 Protection Framework is being kept in place</p>	<p>The COVID-19 Protection Framework – or traffic lights – remains in place in order to offer ongoing protections in the event of a new variant or in cases of future surges in cases.</p> <p>A review of the colour settings will take place on 4 April. All of New Zealand remains at Red.</p>	<p>Beehive media release, 23 Mar</p>
<p>Changes to COVID-19 settings in New Zealand</p>	<p>My Vaccine Pass will no longer be required</p>	<p>From 11.59pm Monday 4 April, My Vaccine Passes will no longer be required.</p> <p>There will be some businesses, events or venues which may still wish to use them, and they can do so if they wish.</p> <p>Should there be a new variant or a change in circumstances, they may be needed again.</p>	<p>PM media stand-up 23 Mar</p>

Changes to COVID-19 settings in New Zealand	QR codes and mandatory record keeping will no longer be required.	<p>From 11.59pm this Friday 25 March scanning will no longer be required.</p> <p>Businesses and locations will no longer need to display QR code posters or have mandatory record keeping systems and processes in place.</p> <p>People are encouraged not to remove the COVID-19 tracer app from their phone just yet.</p>	PM media stand-up 23 Mar
Changes to COVID-19 settings in New Zealand	From 11:59pm on 4 April 2022, some government vaccine mandates for workers will be removed.	<p>Workers that will still be covered by a government vaccine mandate include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• health and disability sector workers</li> <li>• prison staff</li> <li>• border and MIQ workers.</li> </ul> <p>Vaccine mandates remain in place for these sectors because workers in these areas have a high level of contact with people at risk of developing serious illness from COVID-19. For border workers, there is a high risk of exposure to new variants.</p> <p>Businesses will be able to voluntarily introduce workforce vaccination requirements if appropriate to the workforce.</p>	PM media stand-up 23 Mar
Health update	Hospitalisations, cases and testing	<p><b>Hospitalisations</b></p> <p>There are currently 960 people in hospitals across New Zealand.</p> <p>31 cases are in high dependency or intensive care units.</p> <p><b>Deaths</b></p> <p>A total of 11 deaths were reported today. These deaths take the total number of publicly reported COVID-19 related deaths to 210 and the 7-day rolling average of reported deaths to 9.</p> <p><b>Cases</b></p> <p>There are 19,649 new cases in the community and 43 new cases identified at the border.</p> <p><b>Testing</b></p>	MoH web, 23 March

438 cases were identified through PCR testing and 19,649 via RAT in the last 24 hours.

## Vaccinations

Topic	Key message	Supporting messages	Notes
Booster programme update	Yesterday 3,972 booster doses were administered in New Zealand	The total number of people who have received boosters – including those vaccinated overseas – is 2,559,899 boosted (72.8% of those eligible).	MoH web, 23 March
Vaccination progress	95.1% of eligible people in New Zealand have had two vaccine doses	Vaccines administered in New Zealand yesterday: 194 first doses; 388 second doses; 29 third primary doses. People vaccinated (including those vaccinated overseas): all Ethnicities (percentage of eligible people aged 12+): 4,054,234 first dose (96.3%); 4,001,315 second dose (95.1%), 2,559,899 boosted (72.8% of those eligible)	MoH web, 23 March
Paediatric vaccines	208 paediatric first doses and 4,028 paediatric second doses were administered yesterday	To date, 257,404 paediatric first doses and 48,185 paediatric second doses have been administered in New Zealand.	MoH web, 23 March