




# Guidance for places of worship

**This guidance is to support places of worship to operate safely under the COVID-19 Protection Framework.**

It is correct as at 10 March 2022.

<b>How places of worship can operate safely?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stick to capacity limits which do not include workers or volunteers but do include everyone else; including children. These are based on 1m distancing (the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1m apart). People do not need to stand 1m apart.</li><li>• Encourage physical distancing and consider online services.</li><li>• Encourage people who are unwell to stay home and seek advice about getting tested.</li><li>• Clean and sanitise surfaces thoroughly before and after use, and have soap and water readily available.</li><li>• Minimise contact with others, especially those working or volunteering as they will interact with lots of people.</li><li>• Activities like singing can go ahead.</li><li>• Encourage contactless donations instead of a cash collection box.</li><li>• Ensure that spaces are well ventilated.</li><li>• Consider additional safety measures that suit your community.</li></ul>
<b>Can we have one service directly after another?</b>	<p>A place of worship can switch between activities operating with and without My Vaccine Passes if:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• spaces are cleaned between groups;</li><li>• there is no intermingling of the two groups;</li><li>• spaces being used are ventilated;</li><li>• it is made clear to everyone (attendees/staff/volunteers) which activities are using My Vaccine Pass and which are not.</li></ul>
<b>Can we hold two services at the same time?</b>	<p>If you have multiple defined spaces in a venue, you can operate multiple activities at once with different My Vaccine Pass requirements. Workers can move between the gatherings if the worker vaccine requirements are met. A defined space is:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• an indoor area that has no direct airflow to another indoor area that is being used; or</li><li>• an outdoor area that is separated from other outdoor areas by 2 metres; and</li><li>• there are systems in place to ensure that people using one space do not mix with others (e.g., separate entrances for shared areas, staggered start times, different bathrooms or service counters etc.).</li></ul>
<b>What are the face mask requirements?</b>	<p>Face masks are required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• to be attached by loops around the ears or head;</li><li>• to be worn by workers, including volunteers at gatherings at orange and red (unless they meet the criteria below);</li><li>• by workers when serving and handling food at orange and red;</li><li>• to be medical grade for workers in public facing roles;</li></ul> <p>Face masks are not required:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• at gatherings in private dwellings e.g. bible study in a private home;</li><li>• for performers and formal speakers, such as a person leading a service, provided they are 2m apart from the audience or other attendees.</li></ul>
<b>What if we are serving food and drink?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If your place of worship operates a café, hospitality rules need to be followed unless you have exclusive use of the venue. The person responsible for the gathering needs to consider whether or not the defined space the service is held in is being used exclusively by that service/group.</li><li>• If you are operating as an event there are different requirements relating to food and drink at green, orange and red, see the table on the reverse side.</li></ul>
<b>What happens if we have a COVID-19 case?</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• The place of worship needs to be cleaned and disinfected as soon as possible, including door handles, light switches, computers, horizontal surfaces including tables and counter tops, phones, EFTPOS machines, touch screens, and workplace amenities. This can be done with the same products that are usually used for cleaning and disinfecting.</li><li>• Ensure people know what to do if they start to show symptoms. Go to: <a href="http://www.Covid19.govt.nz">www.Covid19.govt.nz</a></li></ul>

CPF setting	With My Vaccine Pass	Without My Vaccine Pass
 <p><b>Red</b></p>	<p>Record keeping/scanning required.</p> <p>Face masks are required at gatherings by everyone. However, a face mask does not need to be worn at a gathering where you have the exclusive use of the venue. Performers and formal speakers, such as a person leading a service, provided they are 2m apart from the audience and other attendees, do not need to wear a face mask.</p>	
	<p>Gatherings at a place of worship (e.g. weddings, funerals) up to 100 people based on the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1 metre apart.</p> <p>Events – up to 100 people based on 1m distancing, seated and separated for service of food and drink.</p>	<p>Gatherings at a place of worship (e.g. weddings, funerals) up to 25 people, based on the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1 metre apart.</p> <p>Events cannot operate.</p>
 <p><b>Orange</b></p>	<p>Record keeping/scanning required.</p> <p>Face coverings are required for workers and volunteers at gatherings (excluding performers and formal speakers, such as a person leading a service, provided they are 2m apart from others), and encouraged for others.</p>	
	<p>Gatherings at a place of worship (e.g. weddings, funerals) no limits.</p> <p>Events no limits.</p> <p>Workers and volunteers must wear a face covering when serving and handling food.</p>	<p>Gatherings at a place of worship (e.g. weddings, funerals) up to 50 people, based on the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was 1 metre apart.</p> <p>Events cannot operate.</p>
 <p><b>Green</b></p>	<p>Record keeping/scanning required</p> <p>Face coverings are encouraged.</p>	
	<p>Gatherings at a place of worship (e.g. weddings, funerals) no limits.</p> <p>Events no limits.</p> <p>If operating as an event, can serve food and drink without additional requirements. Workers and volunteers must wear a face covering when serving and handling food.</p>	<p>Gatherings at a place of worship (e.g. weddings, funerals) up to 100 people based 1m distancing.</p> <p>Events (indoor/outdoor) – up to 100 people based on 1m distancing, seated and separated for service of food and drink.</p>



**Information if you have COVID-19:**

[www.Covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/if-you-have-covid-19](http://www.Covid19.govt.nz/isolation-and-care/if-you-have-covid-19)

**Information for Household and Close Contacts:**

[www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-information-household-and-close-contacts](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-information-household-and-close-contacts)

**Information on the use of masks and face coverings:**

[www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community](http://www.health.govt.nz/covid-19-novel-coronavirus/covid-19-health-advice-public/covid-19-use-face-masks-community)