

Golf Club and Facility Guidance (COVID-19)

COVID-19 Protection Framework: Guidance for Golf updated 2 December 2021

All of New Zealand is under the COVID-19 Protection Framework (traffic light settings) from 11:59pm on 2 December.

Golf is a permitted activity under the **red**, **orange**, and **green** settings for both vaccinated and unvaccinated players subject to capacity and other restrictions. The number one priority should be the health, safety and wellbeing of your staff, members, golf participants and the wider community.

Summary for golf under the COVID-19 Protection Framework (CPF):

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CPF Green Setting*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality – can open, My Vaccine Pass required for customers and hospitality workers. • Retail – can open, My Vaccine Pass not required for customers or retail workers. • Course – can open, My Vaccine Pass not required for players or course workers.
CPF Orange Setting*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality – can open, My Vaccine Pass required for customers and hospitality workers. • Retail – can open, My Vaccine Pass not required for customers or retail workers, capacity capped based on space (1m² per person). • Course – can open, My Vaccine Pass not required for players or course workers.
CPF Red Setting*	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hospitality – can open, My Vaccine Pass required for customers and hospitality workers, capacity capped at 100 or less per defined area based on space (1m² per person). • Retail – can open, My Vaccine Pass not required for customers or retail workers, capacity capped based on space (1m² per person). • Course – can open, My Vaccine Pass not required for players or course workers.

*Detailed guidance at each CPF setting is provided below.

Guidance for Golf Under the COVID-19 Protection Framework

Under all colour settings:

- All outdoor golf activity should be considered a community sport gathering.
- Golf clubs must display NZ COVID Tracer app QR codes and are required to ensure that, as much as possible, record keeping is undertaken to ensure that contact tracing can take place.
- Face coverings are mandatory in retail settings and encouraged elsewhere.
- My Vaccine Pass is required for all workers in a hospitality area of a golf club and facility. More information on this can be found here: [Vaccines and the workplace » Employment New Zealand](#)

If My Vaccine Pass Verification is Used

<p><u>Clubhouse/Hospitality Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for hospitality areas is restricted to My Vaccine Pass holders only. • Checking of vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • Up to 100 people per defined gathering area is permitted (less if the size of the area does not allow 1m² per person). • Gathering limits include children but exclude workers. • Customers must be seated and separated. • Face coverings are encouraged while customers are not eating or drinking. • Multiple gatherings can be held if each defined area is separated by walls and has separate air flow. • Indoor gatherings held simultaneously must be separated by walls and cannot share direct airflow. • Facilities may switch between requiring vaccination passes for some activities and not for others, provided that the groups are kept separated from each other and the area/premise/space is cleaned between groups. 	<p><u>Clubhouse/Hospitality Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access for hospitality areas is restricted to My Vaccine Pass holders only. • Checking of vaccine passes is required as best as reasonably practicable. • There are no gathering limits or serving requirements. • Face coverings are encouraged while customers are not eating or drinking. 	<p><u>Clubhouse/Hospitality Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If access to hospitality areas is restricted to My Vaccine Pass holders, there are no gathering limits or serving requirements.
<p><u>Golf Course</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. • If My Vaccine Pass is used, there is no limit on the number of golfing groups that can play on a course. Each golfing group can be up to a limit of 100 people – in the golfing context of fourballs, there is no limit on the number of fourballs that can be on the course if each group is separated by 2 metres. • Multiple four ball groups can gather and congregate up to a total group size limit of 100 people. • On course facilities can be shared by vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. 	<p><u>Golf Course</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. • If My Vaccine Pass is used, there is no limit on the number of golfing groups that can play on a course or the size of each group. There are no distancing requirements. • On course facilities can be shared by vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. 	<p><u>Golf Course</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. • If My Vaccine Pass is used, there is no limit on the number of golfing groups that can play on a course or the size of each golfing group. There are no distancing requirements. • On course facilities can be shared by vaccinated and non-vaccinated players.
<p><u>Golf Retail/Pro Shops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated customers. • Capacity in each retail space is limited to each person having 1m² of space. 	<p><u>Golf Retail/Pro Shops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated customers. • Capacity in each retail space is limited to each person having 1m² of space. 	<p><u>Golf Retail/Pro Shops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated customers. • There are no capacity limits.
<p><u>Golf Coaching</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If My Vaccine Pass is used for coaches and participants, each coaching gathering is limited to 100 people. 	<p><u>Golf Coaching</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If My Vaccine Pass is used for coaches and participants, there are no limits on the size of each coaching gathering. 	<p><u>Golf Coaching</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If My Vaccine Pass is used for coaches and participants, there are no limits on the size of each coaching gathering.

If My Vaccine Pass Verification is Not Used		
<p><u>Clubhouse/Hospitality Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to hospitality areas is restricted to My Vaccine Pass holders only. • Contactless/takeaway operation only. 	<p><u>Clubhouse/Hospitality Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to hospitality areas is restricted to My Vaccine Pass holders only. • Contactless/takeaway operation only. 	<p><u>Clubhouse/Hospitality Area</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If a golf club or facility venue chooses not to follow My Vaccine Pass requirements there can be up to 100 people, based on 1-metre distancing, in a single defined space at the venue at any time. They can be a mix of people with and without My Vaccine Pass. • The 100 person limit includes children, but not staff. • Customers need to be seated and separated from other groups and must remain seated unless you are entering or leaving the venue, using the bathroom, or paying. Dance floors are closed.
<p><u>Golf Course</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. • If My Vaccine Pass is not used, each golfing group can be up to a limit of 25 people. In the golfing context of fourballs, there is practically no limit on the number of fourballs that can be on the course if each group is separated by 2 metres. • Multiple four ball groups can gather and congregate up to a total group size limit of 25 people. 	<p><u>Golf Course</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. • If My Vaccine Pass is not used, each golfing group can be up to a limit of 50 people. In the golfing context of fourballs, there is practically no limit on the number of fourballs that can be on the course if each group is separated by 2 metres. • Multiple four ball groups can gather and congregate up to a total group size limit of 50 people. 	<p><u>Golf Course</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated players. • If My Vaccine Pass is not used, each golfing group can be up to a limit of 100 people. In the golfing context of fourballs, there is practically no limit on the number of fourballs that can be on the course if each group is separated by 2 metres. • Multiple four ball groups can gather and congregate up to a total group size limit of 100 people.
<p><u>Golf Retail/Pro Shops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated customers. • Capacity in each retail space is limited to each person having 1m² of space. 	<p><u>Golf Retail/Pro Shops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated customers. • Capacity in each retail space is limited to each person having 1m² of space. 	<p><u>Golf Retail/Pro Shops</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be open for vaccinated and non-vaccinated customers. • There are no capacity limits.
<p><u>Golf Coaching</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be undertaken by vaccinated and non-vaccinated coaches. • If My Vaccine Pass is not used for coaches and participants, each coaching gathering is limited to 25 people. 	<p><u>Golf Coaching</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be undertaken by vaccinated and non-vaccinated coaches. • If My Vaccine Pass is not used for coaches and participants, each coaching gathering is limited to 50 people. 	<p><u>Golf Coaching</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can be undertaken by vaccinated and non-vaccinated coaches. • If My Vaccine Pass is not used for coaches and participants, each coaching gatherings is limited to 100 people.

Please note: the government may update the rules and guidance for sport and recreation under the CPF at any stage.

Further Information

For official government information, visit: <https://covid19.govt.nz/>

For specific sport sector information, visit: <https://sportnz.org.nz/>

For food and drink service information, visit: www.business.govt.nz

For vaccines and the workplace information, visit: www.employment.govt.nz

Please be in touch with Golf New Zealand for any general queries:

Dean Murphy - dean.murphy@golfnz.org

Hana-Rae Seifert - Hana-Rae.seifert@golfnz.org

Frequently Asked Questions

Are unvaccinated people allowed to play Golf?

Yes. Golf can be played at red, orange and green by vaccinated and unvaccinated subject to capacity and other restrictions.

How many people are allowed on the course?

Under all settings and in the golfing context of fourballs, there is practically no limit on the number of fourballs that can be on the course if each group is separated by 2 metres. However, you need to be aware of congregation areas before and after play and ensure capacity limits are being adhered to depending on whether you are using My Vaccine Pass verification or not.

Can shared facilities (e.g. toilets on course) and equipment such as rakes, flags, rubbish bins and water fountains be used by both vaccinated and unvaccinated golfers?

Yes. Under all settings, shared facilities and equipment is allowed.

My green keeper doesn't want to get vaccinated what do I do?

The Government has mandated certain work that has to be done by vaccinated people, most relevant for golf this includes hospitality. So, the only legal requirement currently is for hospitality staff to be vaccinated. Retail and Greenkeepers do not have to be legally vaccinated however; clubs can conduct a risk assessment to decide if certain roles do need to be vaccinated. The risk assessment will be club specific and should consider factors such as the environment the role works in, how close and how long they interact with other people for and whether they provide services to vulnerable members of society.

Work Safe's expectation is that to decide whether work requires a vaccinated employee:

- You carry out an adequate risk assessment; and
- You engage effectively with workers and their representative

Where a business or service can demonstrate it has done this, Worksafe will not take prosecution action even if they disagree with the decisions made in your assessment. They will be taking an education first approach. More info here: <https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus-covid/how-to-decide-what-work-requires-a-vaccinated-employee/>

Can coaching be done by a volunteer who is unvaccinated?

Yes. Mask wearing is strongly recommended and capacity limits for unvaccinated gatherings must be adhered to. For example, if you are in red, a volunteer could coach a group up to 25 people.

Does the definition of "worker" include volunteers?

Yes. The definition for worker relates to paid and unpaid work. Workers do not count towards gathering limits.

Can I run a shot gun tournament?

Yes, however, you need to be aware of times where large groups will be congregating such as when they come off the course or at pre-tournament briefings. It will also be subject to whether you are using My Vaccine Pass verification or not.

Example: Under the red setting, and if you are using My Vaccine Pass verification, no more than 100 people can congregate in a gathering. However, you can have multiple Gatherings if they stay 2 meters apart in an outside setting. If you were NOT using My Vaccine Pass verification, the capacity limit is 25 and groups of 25 would need to stay 2 meters apart.

Some practical ways you could do this would be having two separate registrations or briefings in different areas or inform people what hole they are teeing off prior to the event and getting people to arrive in time slots and go straight to their designated hole. After the event, you would need to consider no prize giving or separate areas to ensure gathering limits are not exceeded.

Why is Golf New Zealand not giving us a national mandate for Vaccine Policies?

The decision on implementing any policies related to vaccinations and access to golf courses or facilities is entirely a matter for each individual golf club. Each golf club will solely make their own decision on this matter. We are providing the information provided to Golf New Zealand through Sport NZ and it is the same information to all Golf clubs however, due to the vast variety of sizes and nature of clubs and their memberships, there is not a one size fits all approach.

From a Golf New Zealand perspective, we do encourage inclusivity and for us this is providing support to all golf clubs and facilities regardless of their position on this matter.

I need help with my Vaccine Policy, where can I go?

Please see Golf New Zealand's sample policy [here](#).