

COVID-19 FAQs

Vaccination policy and certificates

Who does the Rimutaka Gymsports COVID-19 Vaccination policy apply to?

This policy applies to Rimutaka Gymsports (the Club's) employees, contractors and volunteers, as well as anyone wanting to access the Club's facility and activities – including participants, coaches, officials, managers and parents (for participants under 18 years).

Why has this policy been developed?

The Government has introduced the new [COVID-19 Protection Framework](#) which will come into effect on 3 December 2021. It is made up of a 3-level 'traffic-light' approach to managing COVID-19 and involve the use of vaccine certificates.

So the Club has the best chance of being able to comply with its health and safety obligations, reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19, and operate safely and optimally at all levels of the COVID-19 Protection Framework, we will be requiring all employees, contractors, volunteers and members (including coaches, officials, athletes, parents/caregivers and other visitors) to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our facility and activities. Children under the age of 12 years and 3 months are currently unable to be vaccinated and are therefore considered to hold a valid vaccination pass.

The majority of our membership is children under the age of 12. We have a duty of care to these children who are unable to be vaccinated to provide them with a safe environment to come and enjoy their sport. We are an indoor facility, and the nature of the sport means that close contact and sharing of equipment happens frequently and for extended periods of time. We do enforce other public health measures such as cleaning, hand sanitiser use, contact tracing etc. This is another tool to try and keep our young people and coaches safe.

What steps have been taken to develop this policy?

Our committee has carried out a risk assessment for employees and volunteers.

We also considered what stance we adopt when it comes to members and volunteers, including coaches, officials, athletes, parents/caregivers and other visitors.

The committee then developed a draft policy. This draft policy was then circulated to staff to provide an opportunity to feedback. All feedback was considered by the committee before the policy was finalised and shared back to members.

Will Rimutaka Gymsports require people to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

Yes, as the Government has made digital vaccination certificates available and the COVID-19 Protection Framework has gone live in our region, we will require all people to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our facility and activities. For our Club this will be from Tuesday 7 December 2021.

What evidence of vaccination will Rimutaka Gymsports require?

Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates are available through the Ministry of Health's My COVID Record. A valid My Vaccine Pass will be required as proof of vaccination.

What if I have an exemption to being vaccinated?

Once the new COVID-19 Protection Framework is in place we may consider official Ministry of Health exceptions consistent with Government guidance regarding implementation of vaccination certificates.

How will Rimutaka Gymsports record that I am vaccinated against COVID-19?

Our athlete management system (Friendly Manager) is able to hold this information securely. You will be able to log-in to your account and upload your certificate information. Alternatively, you may email it confidentially to our office where we can log it against your profile, or scan it on entry. We are compliant with government regulations and the Privacy Act as the My Vaccine Pass, nor any personal medical information is stored in our system. Friendly Manager uses authentication technology to ensure the QR code on the My Vaccine Pass is valid.

What information will Rimutaka Gymsports hold about my vaccination record?

We will collect and maintain details of your vaccination status for the purposes of our health and safety management planning, and for implementing this policy. We will hold this information in accordance with [the Privacy Act](#).

Your membership

What does this mean for my membership agreement?

We will be updating our General Terms (as incorporated into your membership agreement) to include the following requirement for members aged 12 years (and 3 months) or older to have proof (or an official Ministry of Health exemption) of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our Club's facilities / activities.

What if I don't want to be vaccinated?

If you do not wish to be vaccinated against COVID-19, you don't have to give up your membership. It's important to note that children under the age of 12 years and 3 months are currently unable to be vaccinated and are therefore considered to hold a valid My Vaccination Pass. However, as their parent/caregiver if you do not wish to be vaccinated you will not be able to enter our buildings (including for competitions, festivals, prizegivings etc). If you want to cancel your membership as a result of your choice to not be vaccinated against COVID-19, please contact us at office@rimutakagymsports.nz

Does Rimutaka Gymsports support people getting vaccinated?

Yes, we support the Government's vaccination programme to protect yourself, your whānau and our community. This is because the vaccine is currently the best possible tool we have to ensure our facilities and activities can continue to operate safely. If you're looking for how to book your vaccination, [BookMyVaccine](#) is the place to start.

Employees

Does Rimutaka Gymsports require its workers to be vaccinated?

Yes. To ensure we can comply with our health and safety obligations, as well as ensuring we can operate at all levels of the COVID-19 Protection Framework, Rimutaka Gymsports will be implementing a vaccination certificate entry requirement for workers as well.

Safety

What else is Rimutaka Gymsports doing to protect people, apart from this policy?

While the vaccination policy is a critical tool in minimising risks associated with COVID-19, we will also maintain a range of appropriate and complementary measures in our facilities / activities. These are outlined in the Club's *COVID-19 safety plan* that is currently in place, and include measures such as physical distancing, contact tracing, mask wearing when appropriate, intensive hand hygiene and health monitoring. We will continue to monitor the situation and introduce new measures as and when appropriate.

What safety protocols and guidelines does Rimutaka Gymsports follow?

We are following the [guidelines](#) for keeping people safe at all times, which have been developed by Sport New Zealand using the Ministry of Health's protocols.

What specifically will Rimutaka Gymsports do to keep me safe?

Everything we can. We have in place processes and protocols to mitigate risks with the aim of looking after you, including some or all of the following, subject to the framework "colour" at given times:

- Physical distancing of 1m (at Red level only)
- Sanitisation available throughout the facilities
- Further equipment cleaning
- COVID-19 Conditions of Entry to the facility
- COVID-19 area-specific signage
- And some of our staff will be wearing masks

What hygiene etiquette does everyone have to follow?

We ask that every person takes responsibility for their personal hygiene and also respects the space of others. That means wearing a mask at all times except when being active, washing / sanitising hands, covering coughs and sneezes, keeping a distance between you and the next person, bringing your own drink bottle, and not sharing or touching anything that you don't have to.

Do I need to wear a mask?

All persons over the age of 12 must wear a mask except when being active, so masks must be worn when entering the facility. This follows protocols based on the Government's guidelines. We strongly encourage you to wear a mask while watching and moving around the facility. Masks are available on request.

Is it okay if I just use a bandana or scarf or a towel as a face covering?

No as these no longer meet the recommended guidance. Masks and face coverings that are suitable are either reusable fabric masks or disposable non-medical masks. Here are the [Ministry of Health guidelines](#).

I have a 'mask exemption', do I still need to wear a mask when not being active?

No, however you will need to present your Mask Exemption Card or letter from your doctor prior to entering the facility or engaging in the activities. We know that some people have a disability or health condition where they may not be able to wear a face mask safely or comfortably. Mask Exemption Cards are issued by the Disabled Persons Assembly NZ (DPA). While at the facility please carry your Mask Exemption Card with you in case you are questioned by concerned members or staff. If you have an exemption from wearing a mask, we will still need to determine whether we can continue to operate safely, and whether appropriate accommodations can be made for you to enter the facilities and engage in activities.

Version 1.2
As at 5 December 2021

What about physical distancing?

At the Red level, we will be following the 1m distance rule in our Club's facility.

Are there limits at the Red level?

Yes, there are restrictions on group numbers at 100 people maximum and a 1m physical distancing limit.

Coming to the facility / taking part in activities

Once Rimutaka Gymsports opens using the COVID-19 Protection Framework, do I need to do anything before coming to the facility or taking part in activities?

Yes, please read these Conditions of Entry and COVID-19 health questions.

The Conditions of Entry are:

- Stay home if unwell
- You must have produced evidence that you are fully vaccinated to gain access to our facilities
- You must wear a mask at all times except when being active
- Wash or sanitise hands before entering the facility/activities and when moving through different areas
- Scan your QR code every time you enter facility or at activities
- You must abide by any distancing requirements that apply e.g. 1m at Red level

The COVID-19 Health questions are:

- You do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, sneezing/runny nose or loss of sense of smell)
- You are fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- You do not have COVID-19 nor are you awaiting the results from being tested for COVID-19
- You have not been in contact with any known or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- You have not returned, or been in contact with anyone else who has returned, from overseas in the past 14 days

I've recovered from COVID-19 – can I come back to the Rimutaka Gymsports facility / activities?

If you have been diagnosed as having COVID-19 and have recovered, we will require medical clearance for you, as well as evidence of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19. You can then return to the Club's facility and activities as long as you follow all COVID-19 processes and protocols including personal hygiene expectations.

How will you let people know about any restrictions?

Even before you enter the Rimutaka Gymsports facility or areas of activity you will see COVID-19 signage. There will be visual reminders (signage, collateral etc) throughout the buildings. Sanitisation bottles will be visible. We will also inform you via email, Facebook, and our website.