

Guidance – Advice for licensed early childhood services

Please note: this guidance contains information that is subject to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Protection Framework) Order 2021

The COVID-19 Protection Framework means we will be freer to move and live with less disruption, and offers the stability businesses need to plan for the future.

How you can operate under the COVID-19 Protection Framework

GREEN: At **Green** there is almost 'normal' social and economic activity while continuing to build health system capability.

ORANGE: At **Orange**, actions aim to avoid exponential growth in case numbers with moderate controls in place.

RED: At **Red**, action will need to be taken to protect both at-risk people and protect our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.

Mitigations at all settings of the framework

This guidance provides a range of mitigations at all settings of the framework. There are others you may want to or need to implement, depending on your risks. For example, you may be in a population that has a lower vaccination rate, and therefore the risk of spread of COVID-19 is greater, than it would be for a highly vaccinated community.

The framework allows your service to make decisions based on the needs of your community. To do this you need to consider how to operate in a way that reduces the risk of transmission of COVID-19.

You will be very familiar with all these health measures, as will your community.

Unite against COVID-19: What is the CPF? <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/covid-19-protection/>

We acknowledge this guidance does not reflect differences in philosophy and learning settings which exist across the sector, however, the public health measures apply to all services and playgroups.

As this guidance applies to all licensed early learning settings our language for referring to teachers, educators, kaiako, or adults has been standardised to staff, adults or educators, so think about how the guidance applies to your setting. This guidance applies all licensed early learning settings including playcentres, kindergartens, kōhanga reo, education and care centres, and home-based services. There is also separate guidance for certified playgroups.

Public health measures and recommendations across all CPF settings

If you are sick – stay home and get tested	If people are sick, they should stay home (phone Healthline on 0800 358 5453 or their GP and get tested if they have flu-like symptoms) Get tested for COVID-19 COVID-19 symptoms
Basic Hygiene	Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face. Hand washing after going to the toilet, playing outside and before eating. Regular cleaning, particularly of high touch surfaces.

Case management	If there is a case at your service the Medical Officer of Health / public health officials will support you with what to do. Staff or children and whānau at your service may be required to isolate. If this is the case public health officials will advise what you need to do.
Ventilation	Indoor spaces are well ventilated. Well ventilated indoor spaces support positive engagement and minimise the transmission of illnesses. Open windows, doors and vents to promote cross flow of air and avoid stagnant air during the day as practicable and when children are playing in the outside space.
Contact tracing	Early learning services are required to display QR Code posters for the NZ COVID Tracer App and have means for providing contact tracing for those not able to use the QR code.
Travel	Ministry staff undertaking licensing activity and children/teachers attending/working across boundaries. All travel is allowed within and between green, orange and red settings for Targeted local lockdowns, if initiated, may restrict movement across boundaries. (For services in Auckland travel across the boundary is restricted until 15 November, eg. from Red to Orange)
Face coverings	Face coverings are not required in early learning services for staff and children.
Physical distancing	Physical distancing is not required in early learning settings. Distancing between staff and other adults is encouraged. Staggered drop-off and pick-ups will help with physical distancing and avoiding people congregating. Drops-offs and pick-ups should be outside as much as possible.
Children with complex medical needs	Parents of children/tamariki with complex medical needs will need to consider whether it is appropriate for their child to attend early learning. Parents may seek advice from their health professional.
Distance learning	Consider how you will support children if they are not physically attending, for example distance learning. Your local curriculum should set out what this looks like. You should communicate with your parents and whānau about what they can expect.
Vaccine registers	Vaccine registers are required to be kept and maintained for workers and those aged 12 and over in home-based who reside in the home.

	Green	Orange	Red
	<p>At Green there is almost ‘normal’ social and economic activity while continuing to build health system capability.</p> <p>Early learning services are open with staff and children on site for education and care.</p> <p>Services are prohibited from requiring parents, caregivers and whānau to be vaccinated to access <u>licensed</u> early childhood services. (unless covered by the vaccine mandate)</p>	<p>At Orange, actions aim to avoid exponential growth in case numbers with moderate controls in place.</p> <p>Early learning services are open with staff and children on site for education and care.</p> <p>Services are prohibited from requiring parents, caregivers and whānau to be vaccinated to access <u>licensed</u> early childhood services. (unless covered by the vaccine mandate)</p>	<p>At Red, action will need to be taken to protect both at-risk people and protect our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalisations.</p> <p>Early learning services are open with staff and children on site for education and care. There are greater risks so extra public health precautions are necessary to protect our children and staff.</p> <p>Services are prohibited from requiring parents, caregivers and whānau to be vaccinated to access <u>licensed</u> early childhood services (unless covered by the vaccine mandate)</p>
Operation of services	<p>All licensed early childhood services are open for on site education and care, with public health measures in place.</p> <p>Home-based services can open for children from multiple homes (including fully vaccinated nannies going into multiple homes).</p>	<p>All licensed early childhood services are open for on site education and care, with public health measures in place.</p> <p>Home-based services can open for children from multiple homes (including fully vaccinated nannies going into multiple homes).</p>	<p>All licensed early childhood services are open for on site education and care with public health measures in place.</p> <p>Parents/caregivers who can supervise their children at home should do so. This doesn’t prevent parent led services from opening. If required services will be able to make choices about their capacity to manage attendance.</p> <p>Children can attend more than one service, but parents/caregivers are encouraged to consider minimising the number of children and other adults their children are interacting with.</p>

			<p>Fully vaccinated staff can work at more than one service.</p> <p>Home-based services can open for children from multiple homes (including fully vaccinated nannies going into multiple homes).</p>
Access on site	<p>No restrictions on access – all staff, volunteers, parents and visitors can be on site.</p> <p>Face coverings are encouraged for parents/caregivers and visitors when on site.eg. drop-off and pick up, to settle a child, or to view a service.</p> <p>Visiting teachers can visit homes in person.</p> <p>Home-based service providers can assess new homes.</p> <p>Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to maintain 1m distancing from other adults if they are going on site.</p>	<p>No restrictions on access – all staff, volunteers, parents and visitors can be on site.</p> <p>Face coverings are encouraged for parents/caregivers and visitors when on site.eg. drop-off and pick up, to settle a child, or to view a service.</p> <p>Visiting teachers can visit homes in person.</p> <p>Home-based service providers can assess new homes.</p> <p>Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to maintain 1m distancing from other adults if they are going on site.</p> <p>Consider limiting events.</p> <p>Consider limiting non-essential visitors on site</p>	<p>All staff, volunteers, and parents can be on site.</p> <p>Face coverings are required for parents/caregivers and visitors when on site.eg. drop-off and pick up, to settle a child, or to view a service.</p> <p>Visiting teachers can visit homes in person, but consider whether remote visits are appropriate in some cases.</p> <p>Home-based service providers can assess new homes.</p> <p>Parents/caregivers and visitors are encouraged to maintain 1m distancing from other adults if they are going on site.</p> <p>Limit events to prevent further transmission. Any events must meet wider public health measures.</p> <p>No non-essential visitors.</p>
Food	<p>Shared platters can be used and food can be supplied in accordance with standard good hygiene practices.</p>	<p>Children/tamariki should have separate food containers and should not give or take food to/from each other. Food can be supplied in accordance with standard good hygiene practices.</p>	<p>Children/tamariki should have separate food containers and should not give or take food to/from each other. Food can be supplied in accordance with standard good hygiene practices.</p>

Excursions	<p>Excursions can resume as normal.</p> <p>As normal a risk assessment must be undertaken ahead of the excursion being approved by the person responsible.</p>	<p>Any excursions will need to meet the wider public health measures.</p> <p>As normal a risk assessment must be undertaken ahead of the excursion being approved by the person responsible.</p>	<p>Any excursions will need to meet the wider public health measures.</p> <p>As normal a risk assessment must be undertaken ahead of the excursion being approved by the person responsible.</p>
Vans	<p>Vans can be used as normal but should be regularly cleaned.</p>	<p>Vans can be used as normal but should be regularly cleaned.</p> <p>Encourage physical distancing of 1m between all adults involved in the pick-up/drop off</p> <p>Face coverings are encouraged to be worn by adults in the van.</p>	<p>Vans can be used as normal but should be regularly cleaned.</p> <p>Encourage physical distancing of 1m between all adults involved in the pick-up/drop</p> <p>Face coverings are encouraged to be worn by adults in the van.</p>
Cleaning	<p>You should have a cleaning schedule for regular cleaning of high touch surfaces, linen and sleep furniture, toys and resources.</p>	<p>You should have a cleaning schedule for regular cleaning of high touch surfaces, linen and sleep furniture, toys and resources.</p>	<p>You should have a cleaning schedule for regular cleaning of high touch surfaces, linen and sleep furniture, toys and resources.</p> <p>Toys and resources that cannot be easily wiped down should be put away.</p>
Ministry licensing activity	<p>Any required on site licensing activity can take place.</p> <p>Face coverings should be worn by Ministry staff and 1m distance should be kept from other adults. Only fully vaccinated Ministry staff will be able to go on site.</p>	<p>Any required on site licensing activity can take place.</p> <p>Face coverings should be worn by Ministry staff and 1m distance should be kept from other adults Only fully vaccinated Ministry staff will be able to go on site.</p>	<p>Any required on site licensing activity can take place. Desk-based assessments made where appropriate.</p> <p>Face coverings are required to be worn by Ministry staff and 1m distance should be kept from other adults. Only fully vaccinated Ministry staff will be able to go on site.</p>

<p>Support services and agencies on site - including Ministry of Education, Education Review Office, Health staff Police, Fire etc</p>	<p>There are no restrictions, but staff must be captured in a visitor register or other system, to support contact tracing.</p> <p>They must also meet any other health requirements applicable at the time.</p> <p>Learning support services continue.</p>	<p>There are no restrictions, but staff must be captured in a visitor register or other system, to support contact tracing.</p> <p>They must also meet any other health requirements applicable at the time.</p> <p>Learning support services continue.</p>	<p>Minimise attendance on site for non-essential services as much as possible.</p> <p>Those on site must be captured in a visitor register or other system, to support contact tracing and must meet any other health requirements applicable at the time.</p> <p>Learning support services continue.</p>
<p>Funding</p> <p>Funding settings under the new traffic light system – Education in New Zealand</p>	<p>Funding rules will apply largely as usual, and have been adapted to support services to operate under the new framework.</p>	<p>Funding rules will apply largely as usual, and have been adapted to support services to operate under the new framework.</p>	<p>Funding rules will apply largely as usual, and have been adapted to support services to operate under the new framework.</p>