

COVID-19 Protection Framework summary

Summary information for schools and kura about the COVID-19 Protection Framework (framework) and how to apply it in school settings.

Health measures common to all framework settings

Basic Hygiene

Includes good hand hygiene, cough, and sneeze etiquette, avoid touching your face, and regularly clean and disinfect surfaces. Use hand sanitiser at entrances to indoor spaces at Orange and Red.

[Maintain good hygiene | Unite against COVID-19](#)

If you are sick

Stay home and get tested. If you have cold, flu or COVID-19 symptoms, stay home. Call your doctor or Healthline on **0800 358 5453** for advice about getting tested.

Staff are to observe children on arrival, checking for symptoms. Those presenting as unwell will be asked to go home or arrange for parents or caregivers to come and pick up.

Case management

Cases of COVID-19 in a school will continue to be managed across the framework. Staff and students should follow public health guidance to identify who needs to self-isolate and get tested. Schools do not need to undertake contact tracing for their staff or students.

[Schools connected to a confirmed case | Te Mahau.](#)

Ventilation

Indoor spaces should be well ventilated, for example by opening windows, doors, and any vents. If mechanical ventilation is used, make sure the ventilation system is regularly maintained.

[Ventilating schools | Te Mahau](#)

Vaccination

The best way to reduce the risk of severe illness from COVID-19 is to be up to date with vaccinations.

[COVID-19 vaccination | Unite against COVID-19](#)

Health measures by framework setting

Measure	Green	Orange	Red
Face Masks	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are encouraged but not required, when inside at school • Nurses in schools and other health professionals will need to follow their own industry guidance for using PPE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks are strongly encouraged to be worn when indoors. • For all ākonga aged 12 years and above, masks are mandatory on school transport. • Nurses in schools and other health professionals will need to follow their own industry guidance for using PPE. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Masks must be worn when indoors by ākonga receiving education in Years 4 and above and any staff member working to provide, or support the provision of, that education. • Masks are not required to be worn in schools by staff or students, for Years 1 – 3. • For all ākonga Year 4 and upwards masks are mandatory on school transport. • Nurses in schools and other health professionals will need to follow their own industry guidance for using PPE.
Children with complex medical needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. • Parents, caregivers and students will need to work with the school to develop a plan to support attendance onsite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Encouraged to take additional precautions when leaving home. • Parents, caregivers and students will need to work with the school to develop a plan to support attendance onsite. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children with complex medical needs, can seek advice from their health professional about whether it is appropriate to come to school. • Support for offsite learning will be provided for those who are advised to remain at home.

Measure	Green	Orange	Red
Physical distancing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing is not a requirement. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing is strongly encouraged, particularly from people you don't know. In primary settings, if cases are proportionately higher in your community, consider whether classroom groupings are possible to minimise potential spread Activities with large numbers of students, if they are to go ahead, should take place in well-ventilated areas or outdoors. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Physical distancing and groupings should be observed where practicable. Consider assigned seating plans. Beyond classroom groupings physical distancing of 1 metre when indoors should be observed wherever practicable. Large groups of students meeting indoors should be avoided including assemblies, prize giving's and performances.
Physical and cultural activities on site / use of playgrounds	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds can be used (maintain good hand hygiene). Physical and cultural activities can go ahead on site (all other public health measures must be maintained including good hygiene practices). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds can be used (maintain good hand hygiene). Physical and cultural activities can go ahead on site (all other public health measures must be maintained including good hygiene practices). 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Playgrounds can be used (maintain good hand hygiene) but consider rostering use by different groups to minimise congestion. Exercising, singing and use of wind instruments should be held outside wherever practicable or in well ventilated indoor spaces – these are higher risk activities when held indoors. Physical education classes and break time activities can include access to sports equipment, but hygiene practices should be observed before and after playing with equipment. Physical distancing is not possible in some activities. In these situations, extra emphasis on handwashing and drying before and after activities.

Measure	Green	Orange	Red
Curriculum related activities - including technology centres, examinations, assemblies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You cannot require proof of vaccination. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You cannot require proof of vaccination. Activities with large numbers of students, if they are to go ahead, should take place in well-ventilated areas or outdoors. If Risk Assessment indicates higher risk for your community, consider how you might limit any large indoor gatherings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> You cannot require proof of vaccination. Activities with large numbers of students should not go ahead unless held outdoors. It is strongly recommended that assemblies do not go ahead at Red. Where other students are coming onsite for learning, 1m physical distancing should be applied where practicable. Examinations should have 1.5m physical distancing.
Non-curriculum related events and activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no specific requirements at Green. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Activities need to meet the requirements for events and gatherings under the framework when onsite and offsite. There are no indoor capacity limits. You are strongly encouraged to use allocated seating for large events (such as those with more than 500 people) or apply a maximum capacity limit based on the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person was one metre apart. Workers at indoor events and gatherings are required to wear masks. The same rules/guidance will also apply if you are hiring out your facilities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Events should be limited Activities with large numbers of students should not go ahead unless held outdoors. Activities need to meet the requirements for events and gatherings under the framework when onsite and offsite including workers at indoor events and gatherings are required to wear masks. These rules will also apply if you are hiring out your facilities.

Measure	Green	Orange	Red
External students onsite for inter-school activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from other schools are permitted to be on site and must follow all health measures. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Students from other schools are permitted to be on site and must follow all health measures. Large gatherings should be held outdoors or in well ventilated spaces For non-curriculum related activities, schools should follow any rules and guidance for events and gatherings. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No external students onsite for non-curriculum related inter-school activities. For curriculum related activities, if they do go ahead, physical distancing of 1 metre should be observed wherever practical.
Visitors	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no restrictions, on numbers of visitors on site, but they should be captured in a visitor register as is normal practice. They must also meet any other health requirements applicable at the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no restrictions, on numbers of visitors on site, but they should be captured in a visitor register as is normal practice. All visitors, including parents and caregivers, if they do come onsite, are strongly encouraged to wear a mask when indoors. They must also meet any other health requirements applicable at the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> No non-essential visitors on site. All visitors, including parents and caregivers, if they do come onsite are required to wear a mask when inside Consider how you might monitor entrances to minimise non-essential visitors from coming on site. One entry point may be the most practical way to manage visitors, coupled with staggered starts to reduce congestion.
Music, instruments, singing etc.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practices and rehearsals can go ahead – physical distancing of one metre is recommended where practicable especially for higher risk activities such as singing and using wind instruments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Practices and rehearsals can go ahead – physical distancing of one metre is recommended where practicable especially for higher risk activities such as singing and using wind instruments. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Singing or using wind instruments should be held outdoors where possible as are a higher risk for transmission. If holding these activities indoors, it must be in a well-ventilated space and participants should be 2 metres apart.

Measure	Green	Orange	Red
Support services and agencies on site Eg, Ministry of Education, Education Review Office, NZQA, Police, Fire, Mobile Dental units	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no restrictions, but they should be captured in a visitor register as is normal practice. They must also meet any other health requirements applicable at the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There are no restrictions, but they should be captured in a visitor register as is normal practice. They must also meet any other health requirements applicable at the time. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Essential services should continue onsite including learning support services and other essential Ministry functions Minimise attendance on site for non-essential services as much as possible. Those on site should be captured in a visitor register as is normal practice.
Teaching across schools and groups	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff can work across more than one group/class of students within the school. Staff such as itinerant music teachers and relief teachers will be able to work across different schools. As with all staff, they should closely monitor for symptoms, stay home if unwell, get tested if symptomatic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff can work across more than one group/class of students within the school. Staff such as itinerant music teachers and relief teachers will be able to work across different schools. As with all staff, they should closely monitor for symptoms, stay home if unwell, get tested if symptomatic. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Minimise as much as possible, staff working across groups/classes of students. Staff such as itinerant music teachers and relief teachers should avoid working across different schools, if possible. As with all staff, they should closely monitor for symptoms, stay home if unwell, get tested if symptomatic.
Libraries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Operate as normal. 		
Shared supplies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shared supplies and equipment can be used if students and staff are undertaking regular hand washing and staying away if sick. 		

Measure	Green	Orange	Red
Drinking fountains	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> OK to use at any framework setting. Follow usual safety precautions (regular cleaning, don't touch mouth to metal, wash hands regularly). 		

Food preparation

If you prepare food onsite you must check the MPI guidance on food safety and ensure your school and any suppliers meet all health and safety requirements.

Food should be eaten outside wherever practicable at Red.

[MPI guidance on food safety](#)

Managing in an emergency

Fire alarms and other emergencies may require you to either evacuate your buildings or move everyone inside. The priority in these situations is keeping students and staff safe from the threat arising through the emergency event – fire, flood, earthquake etc.

You will also need to ensure your health and safety plan can respond to other accidents or issues that may be faced in regard to health and safety, particularly if there are smaller numbers of staff on site. This includes having sufficient staff with first aid experience.

You should continue to operate practice drills as normal at green, orange and red.