

COVID-19 FAQs

Vaccination policy and certificates

Who does the Auckland Table Tennis Association COVID-19 Vaccination policy apply to?

This policy applies to Auckland Table Tennis Association employees, contractors and volunteers, as well as anyone wanting to access Auckland Table Tennis Association'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 announced a new COVID-19 Protection Framework which will come into effect once 90% of eligible New Zealanders in DHBs are fully vaccinated. It will adopt a 3-level 'traffic-light' approach to managing COVID-19 and involve the use of vaccine certificates.

So Auckland Table Tennis Association 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 vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our facility and activities.

What steps have been taken to develop this policy?

Our Executive Committee has carried out a role-based risk assessment for employees and contractors (and engaged with employees and contractors on that risk assessment). This was done by grouping positions according to type of role and the work each role does within the organisation and considering a series of factors prescribed by WorkSafe New Zealand.

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

The Executive Committee then developed a draft policy. This draft policy was then circulated to employees and contractors to provide an opportunity to feedback over the following 7 days.

Will Auckland Table Tennis Association require people to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

Yes, from Friday 3 December 2021 we will require all people to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our facility and activities.

What evidence of vaccination will Auckland Table Tennis Association require?

Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates are expected to be available through the Ministry of Health's My COVID Record by late November 2021. These Vaccination Certificates 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 exceptions consistent with Government guidance regarding implementation of vaccination certificates. We would appreciate you raising your unique situation with us so we can discuss what might be possible in good faith.

How will Auckland Table Tennis Association record that I am vaccinated against COVID-19?

When we know more about how the digital vaccination certificate will work, we'll be able to share how we will record evidence of vaccination against your membership. We are hoping that you will only have to present this evidence once. We will know more once details are released.

What information will Auckland Table Tennis Association 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 or older to have proof (or an exemption) of being fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our organisation'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 Auckland Table Tennis Association membership. We can put you on Special COVID-19 Pause for up to 6 months. Please email aucklandtt@xtra.co.nz if you'd like to take up this option. If you want to cancel your membership as a result of your choice to not be vaccinated against COVID-19, please contact us at aucklandtt@xtra.co.nz

Does Auckland Table Tennis Association 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 Auckland Table Tennis Association 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, Auckland Table Tennis Association will be implementing a vaccination certificate entry requirement for workers as well. We are currently working through what this means for us in terms of timeframes around implementing mandatory vaccinations for our workers.

How is Auckland Table Tennis Association supporting their workers if they want to get vaccinated?

Where appropriate, we provide flexibility for Auckland Table Tennis Association workers to get vaccinated during their workday.

What will happen if I am a worker and not fully vaccinated?

If you have not completed a NZ Government recognised course of COVID-19 vaccination, we will work with you in good faith to explore options and try and find a way forward. For Auckland Table Tennis Association employees this may involve steps such as working from home or redeployment, or providing alternative duties, but we recognise that will not always be practical. For employees, there is also the potential for employment to be terminated, but this will be used by the Auckland Table Tennis Association as a last resort. For Auckland Table Tennis Association members (including coaches, officials, athletes, parents and other visitors), this is likely to be more challenging given the nature of our settings and operations. As a result, unvaccinated members should expect to be denied entry or participation rights as a result of their non-vaccinated status.

Safety

What else is Auckland Table Tennis Association doing to protect people apart from this policy?

While the vaccination policy will be 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 Auckland Table Tennis Association'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 Auckland Table Tennis Association 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 Auckland Table Tennis Association do to keep me safe?

Everything we can. We will put in place extensive processes and protocols to mitigate risks with the aim of looking after you, including some or all of the following, subject to alert levels at given times:

- Physical distancing of 1m (at Red level only)
- Sanitisation stations
- Deep cleaning regime
- Bringing own equipment
- 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 1m from the nearest person, bringing your own equipment, and not sharing or touching anything that you don't have to.

Do I need to wear a mask?

You must wear a mask at all times except when being active, so masks must be worn when entering the facility, changing and walking between areas and rooms. This follows protocols based on the Government's guidelines.

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.

What about physical distancing?

At the Red level, we will be following the 1m distance rule in the Auckland Table Tennis Association'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.

What support will staff receive?

All staff will undergo training and will be abiding by all physical distancing, room limitation and other COVID-19 Protection Framework restrictions.

Coming to the facility / taking part in activities**Once Auckland Table Tennis Association 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 facility/activities
- 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 the facility or when attending 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 Auckland Table Tennis Association's 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 Auckland Table Tennis Association facility and activities as long as you follow all COVID-19 processes and protocols including personal hygiene expectations.

What about showers and changing rooms and showers?

Showers will be closed.

Changing Rooms will be open, but the less you can use them the better. If you can come dressed in your gear ready to go it'll mean that you'll get in and out of the club facility quicker, have less

interaction with others, and won't have to worry about limits in the changing rooms due to physical distancing.

Vanity benches will have limited people at them due to physical distancing. Washing hands is okay as long as you're physically distant from the next person. Please respect the space of your fellow members and be kind.

How will you let people know about any restrictions?

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