

November 2021

Re) COVID-19 vaccinations

Dear clubs

I know a lot of you are seriously considering your club's position related to vaccinations amongst your members or users. Tennis NZ is committed to guide you on following a good process and we intend to send you detailed guidelines when we are able to, noting they are not clear at the moment. We expect to be able to provide more guidance towards the end of November, in line with the Governments review of moving from the Alert Level system to the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

The key message or recommendation is to hold on, be patient and do not rush into any decisions. The Government and Sport NZ are still working through specific details on what the Protection Framework means to the sport sector. Vaccine certificate requirements for many sectors, including community sport, are still unclear, and the risk is that if your club acts now, a good process might not be followed, there may be unnecessary legal implications and/or you may need to change your approach as more information follows and/or until the Government passes new legislation to support the new COVID-19 Protection Framework.

Please note the following sites for more information referring to vaccine certificates and requirements:

[Worksafe](#)

[Sport NZ](#)

[Covid19.govt](#)

Please also understand, that this communication is based upon the information currently available from Government. Tennis NZ (and tennis clubs) reserve the right to restate its position as we learn and understand more about how New Zealand manages the fight against COVID-19 in our communities and workplaces

Following consultation with a professional company with expertise in both health and safety, and Worksafe requirements, our advice to clubs at the moment if you do want to decide to make early decisions about vaccination is as follows:

1. Do everything you can that is reasonable and practical to keep people safe
2. Undertake a risk assessment to guide any decisions (an example can be [found here](#))
3. Record everything
4. Please consider the following
 - The general rule of thumb for now is 'if you can maintain distance, you can't stop people coming in'.
 - Worksafe have now been engaged by Government to lead some of the vaccine related work, so their guidance should have contractors, coaches and volunteers covered. Employment is more complicated and is where Health & Safety and HR will need to work very closely together.
 - Regarding vaccine certificates, there will likely be a process for all businesses/places not mandated by Government (this is mentioned [here](#))
 - Business are mainly/currently categorised into contact vs non-contact services (e.g. hairdressers vs clothes shop)
 - Business where you can't avoid contact (e.g. hairdressers, physios) would have a vaccine mandate and certificate system

- Other businesses that don't fall into mandated categories, would need to complete a risk assessment (probably via a Worksafe template)
- Then they apply for the business to become a 'vaccinated business', that would then give you the right to only allow vaccinated workers and patrons engage with you
- For tennis, the U16's/school aged children could be complicated as their school rules might apply for them wherever they go

Coaches in schools

One area of clarity is that tennis coaches or volunteers wanting to deliver tennis in schools, must be vaccinated. They will need to have their first dose by 15th November 2021, and their second by 1st January 2022. School club links are critical to supporting the growth of tennis, and we know that a majority of tennis coaches around NZ work in a school setting throughout the year. Please ensure your coach is aware of this. You can read more [here](#).

A note about Alert Levels (including Level 3 Step 1/2/3 currently affecting Auckland and parts of Waikato)

The current Alert Level framework remains in place until further notice from Government, and the Government recommends vaccination for all eligible New Zealanders during this time. The latest tennis guidance for the current Alert Level system, can be found [here](#). Information on the Tennis NZ website will be updated as more COVID-19 Protection Framework information is available from Government and Sport NZ.

More details will follow in a few weeks' time.

Take care everyone



Julie Paterson

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