



Kia Ora tātou,

We've compiled some information we hope will be helpful below. We are here to help so please don't hesitate to get in touch for a chat or to discuss how we might help you approach any issues.

Town Centre Manager Rana Judge is available on 027 274 6401 and manager@papatoetoemainstreet.org.nz and is always happy to hear from you.

The next stage of our COVID-19 response

The traffic light settings allow businesses to open and operate with greater flexibility while minimising the virus' spread. This helps keep vulnerable people and those that can't be vaccinated right now safe.

The Framework empowers people and businesses to take responsibility for keeping COVID-19 down. Having a highly vaccinated population that regularly uses their My Vaccine Pass means we will be better able to protect our hospitals and health system.

New Zealand is well-prepared for an Omicron outbreak, with high vaccination levels, boosters and childhood vaccination now available, and public health measures in force through the COVID-19 Protection Framework.

These measures will help slow the initial spread of Omicron. However, it is important to prepare for potential workforce shortages, due to staff being sick or needing to self-isolate, and supply chain issues.

As a business owner, there are steps you can take to protect your staff and customers against Omicron. Taking a moment now to think about how you

lessen the impact as you focus on ultimately operating in a safe way.

At each of the three phases to the Omicron response, there are different requirements for businesses to be aware of, including testing and how long cases need to isolate for.

What it means for business

- The requirements apply by activity. If your business carries out a number of different activities, you will need to consider how best to meet the requirements for each. For example, a mall may have a food court (food and beverage rules apply), general retail (retail rules), and a supermarket (which people must be able to access without presenting a My Vaccine Pass). If your business carries out a number of different activities that can't be separated, you will need to operate under the more stringent rules. If you can separate operations, you can operate in line with the specific rules within each separate area.
- Businesses must display posters advertising if they require people entering to have a My Vaccine Pass
- Information on My Vaccine Pass and the verifier app: [Checking My Vaccine Pass](#)
- Businesses and services may switch between requiring My Vaccine Passes and not requiring My Vaccine Passes. They will need to clean the premise/space between the two groups, and ensure they follow the appropriate rules relating to the use of My Vaccine Passes or not requiring My Vaccine Passes.
- You must clearly communicate what settings you are operating under, and display the appropriate signage. For example, a conference venue can host a conference for a small group of people under the unvaccinated rules (including number limits), clean, and they can then host a larger conference for vaccinated attendees.

The capacity limits apply to the premises or defined space. Limits include all attendees, but not workers.

- A defined space is: an indoor area that has no direct airflow to another indoor area that is being used; or an outdoor area that is separated from other outdoor areas by 2 metres. Separate spaces must be managed so that, so far as is reasonably practicable, groups do not mix entering, leaving, or using the premises.
- Some capacity limits are based on 1-metre distancing. This means the maximum number of people who could occupy the space if each person

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holding a gathering at a private dwelling or house you only need to adhere to the maximum number limit, regardless of the size of the house.

- For some types of businesses, there are lower capacity limits if they do not require a My Vaccine Pass, than if they do. If you have a group of people that has both people with My Vaccine Pass (or children under 12), and people without, you must adhere to the lower capacity limit.
- Workers include anyone required to operate the business or service, and therefore includes paid and unpaid.

Service guidelines for Food & Drink and Close proximity businesses

Vaccination rules

- Vaccination for all food and drink service workers is required. As of January 17, 2022 workers must be fully vaccinated (for the Pfizer vaccine, this means having received two doses) to continue to work.
- Vaccination for all workers undertaking close contact services is required.
- Vaccination requirements do not apply to people who hold an exemption.
- For close proximity businesses, signage must be displayed in a prominent place near the main entrance of the premises indicating whether customers and/or workers do or do not require a My Vaccine Pass. Workers should also have a clear understanding of My Vaccine Pass requirements.
- Workplaces must display their NZ COVID Tracer app QR code, but vehicles are not required to do this. Workplaces must also undertake record-keeping for contact tracing purposes (i.e., all those in this part of the workplace must scan QR tracer codes, or other record-keeping must be used). In-home services must keep contact records for their workers.
- If you are requiring vaccine passes, then you must sight all customers' My Vaccine Pass, and verify a reasonable number.
- Vaccination requirements do not apply to people who hold an exemption.
- If the work is solely for takeaway food and drink, then workers do not need to be vaccinated.

For more information on worker vaccination requirements, see [Employment New Zealand](#).

[Vaccines and the workplace](#) — Employment New Zealand

Other requirements

keeping accurate records (i.e., all those on-premises must scan QR tracer codes, or other record-keeping must be used).

- Businesses and services must display signage in a prominent place near the main entrance of the premises indicating whether customers do or do not require a My Vaccine Pass.
- Workers should also have a clear understanding of My Vaccine Pass requirements.
- If My Vaccine Passes are used, you must sight all customers' My Vaccine Passes and verify a reasonable number.
- Face mask requirements exclude performers and people presenting to an audience, where those people are following the 2-metre physical distancing rule. For example, this may include live music, and performers at open mics.



Government raising minimum wage to \$21.20

The minimum wage is being raised by \$1.20 an hour to \$21.20 from the start of April, Workplace Relations and Safety Minister Michael Wood announced today.

Amid rising complaints from businesses that they will have less than two months to prepare for the increase, the Government announced the changes this morning.

"Many Kiwis who earn the minimum wage have gone above and beyond in our

Wood said in a statement.

"Raising the minimum wage will directly benefit approximately 300,000 workers, and will help many households that have been most impacted by the effects of COVID.

The starting-out and training minimum wage will also increase from \$16 to \$16.96 per hour from 1 April 2022, Wood said. Along with proposals for fair pay agreements and social income insurance, hiking the minimum wage is another step in creating better working conditions for workers in Aotearoa.

New scheme to keep key sectors going through Omicron

A new close contact exemption scheme will help keep critical supply chains running through Omicron.

- New exemption scheme was established with aim of keeping critical supply chains running.
- Close Contacts can keep going to work instead of isolating if they return a negative rapid antigen test.
- Businesses will self-assess against criteria to join scheme.
- In addition, government confirms Close Contacts who work alone can continue to operate in a bubble of one.

The Government has for weeks been working with industry bodies and critical services to set up a workable scheme that gives their workers an exemption from Close Contact isolation requirements, if they return daily negative tests.

The scheme will be supported by rapid antigen tests supplied either directly by the business or service, or through our health system in an easy and accessible way.

From today, businesses and organisations can register online as a critical service if they think they will meet the criteria when we enter Phase 2. Registration includes a declaration and will be able to be checked.

Critical services include:

- food production and its supply chain
- key public services like health and emergency services
- lifeline utilities such as power and water supplies
- transport

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- social welfare
- human and animal health and welfare.

It is up to businesses to self-assess and decide if they want to participate in the scheme. In doing so there needs to be an awareness that bringing Close Contacts into the workplace will come with risks.

Getting your Boosters shot

February is a critical month to get New Zealand boosted. Boosters help slow the spread of the virus, so more of us can stay well. And that helps free up our hospitals for other people who need care.

Two shots were great protection against Delta, but boosters are the best way to fight Omicron. That's why everyone who can needs to get boosted in February.

If you had your 2nd vaccination at least 3 months ago and you're 18 and over, get your booster ASAP. You can access a Pfizer booster dose in the same way as any other dose, booking online via www.BookMyVaccine.nz, visiting a walk-in or drive-thru vaccination clinic, or by calling the COVID Vaccination Healthline on 0800 28 29 26 (8am to 8pm, 7 days a week).

Find your nearest walk-in vaccination centre here:

<https://www.healthpoint.co.nz/covid-19-vaccination/>

You can find more information about booster doses on the website here:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19-vaccines/>

What financial
support can
I get?

[New Zealand Government](#)

Unite
against
COVID-19

Support for hospitality businesses

Under the Government's 3-Step plan, Auckland hospitality businesses will be able to open in a more 'normal' way under Step 3. Hospitality venues like cafes, bars, and restaurants, can reopen with a limit of 50 people inside the premises.

To help businesses make use of outdoor space, Auckland Council and Auckland Transport are committed to fast-tracking new licences and extensions to food-only outdoor dining applications, which businesses can apply for now. A street trading licence is not required for using the area in front of the business for contactless pick-ups.

Fees for new applications or extensions to existing street trading licenses and street trading rents will be waived while in Alert Level 2 or higher, for a maximum of six months. New application fees and street trading rents will resume once Auckland is no longer in Alert Level 2 or higher or will be reassessed after six months.

Existing and new street trading licences issued under council's Trading and Events in Public Places Bylaw are extended again this lockdown without cost. This will be for a period equal to the duration of trading restrictions under Alert Levels 4, 3 and 2, to a maximum of six months.

For information on how to access a fast-tracked new street trading license, extensions to food-only dining applications or an automatic extension to the expiry date for existing outdoor dining licenses visit [this Our Auckland page](#) or [make an application online](#).

Rates support for businesses

If you are worried about paying rates due on your business property, there are options available to you to make life a bit easier. You can contact us on 09 301 0101 and ask to speak with a credit control team who can discuss arrangements with you.

There are various ways to pay your rates to suit you and your situation. These include direct debit, automatic payment, telephone banking and internet banking. With a direct debit payment, you can choose weekly, fortnightly, monthly or quarterly frequencies to suit you.

pay your rates by cash or Eftpos at any PostShop that is able to operate at the current Alert Level. Check which PostShops are open on the NZPost website.

Read more on: [Our Auckland](#)

COVID-19 Small Business Cashflow Scheme (SBCS)

The Small Business Cashflow Scheme (SBCS) was introduced to support small to medium businesses and organisations struggling with a loss of actual revenue due to COVID-19. Applications are open until 31 December 2023.

Work and Income will administer the payments and repayments of this scheme. If your business or organisation is eligible and you submit an application through myIR, you may be entitled to a loan.

Checkout the eligibility criteria here: <https://www.ird.govt.nz/covid-19/business-and-organisations/sbcs/eligibility>

Businesses of the Month



This month's first shoutout goes to **Bombay Spice** as we acknowledge their efforts and hard work to provide a place for the community to get their authentic Indian dishes for all kinds of celebrations. They make Papatōetoe Town Centre a diverse space for everyone to enjoy Indian delights.

As we push the businesses in the Centre towards digital transformation, it is vital that we recognise their efforts to share their beautiful dishes and engage with their customers through social media and their exceptional website.

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The second shoutout goes to **Awesome Hair & Beauty Salon**. They have proven why they are locals favourite when it comes to trendy hair makeover services. We truly admire their vision of growing their business by demonstrating unique styles on their social media to connect and build customer relations.

Their team is a great example of how social media can be used as a tool to reach out to the community in these uncertain times and keep growing the business.

Visit them here: [Awesome Hair & Beauty Salon](#)

If you would like your business to be featured in the next newsletter, send us your creative content to by clicking the button below.

[Send Business Request](#)



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