

Auckland Hockey (AKH) COVID-19 FAQs

Vaccination Policy and COVID VACCINATION CERTIFICATES (CVCs)

Who does the Auckland Hockey COVID-19 Vaccination policy apply to?

This policy applies to AKH employees, contractors and volunteers, as well as anyone wanting to access AKH'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 Hockey 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 fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our facility and activities.

AKH is required to adhere to relevant legislation and applicable CPF rules. Under the CPF red setting guidance from SNZ and Auckland Council, Hockey is considered an "Organised Community Sport" and defined as a "Gathering" and the whole of our LEP site is captured under "Clubrooms with Hospitality offering" defined as "Hospitality" due to LEP being a fully licensed venue inside our fence lines. At times we also will be running "Events" as defined by the CPF framework.

What steps have been taken to develop this policy?

We have 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 NZ.

We also considered what stance we adopt when it comes to members and volunteers, including coaches, officials, athletes, parents/caregivers and other visitors according to the guidance provided by SNZ, HNZ, MBIE and Auckland Council.

The CEO and GM then developed a draft policy which was ratified by our Board. This policy was then circulated to clubs to provide an opportunity to feedback. All feedback was considered by the Board before the policy was finalised and shared back to employees, contractors and clubs and stakeholders.

Will AKH at its LEP site require people to be vaccinated against COVID-19?

Yes, from the date on which the Government makes digital vaccination certificates available and the COVID-19 Protection Framework goes live in our region, Friday Dec 3, we will require all AKH stakeholders using LEP to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our facility and activities.

What evidence of Vaccination will AKH require?

Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates (My Vaccine Pass) are available through the Ministry of Health's My COVID Record on the NZ COVID Tracer App. 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 Hockey record that I am vaccinated against COVID-19?

You will be asked on our gate at LEP by an AKH Staff Member or Security Personnel to present your Vaccine Pass either on your phone or via a hardcopy. For those of you with your My Vaccine Pass on your phone we will use the My Verifier App loaded on our devices.

What information will Auckland Hockey 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 only. We will hold this information in accordance with the Privacy Act.

Your Club's membership of the Auckland Hockey Association**What does this mean for my Club's membership agreement?**

We will be updating our Constitution 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.

Does AKH support people getting vaccinated?

Yes, like HNZ, and other Hockey Associations, 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.

Employees**Does AKH 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, AKH will be implementing a vaccination certificate (CVC) entry requirement for our workers as well. All of our workers are vaccinated thus far.

How did Auckland Hockey support their workers if they wanted to get vaccinated?

Where appropriate, we provided flexibility for AKH 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 AKH 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 AKH as a last resort. For AKH 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 AKH 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 AKH's *COVID-19 safety plan* that is currently in place, and include measures such as capacity restrictions, contact tracing, mask wearing when appropriate, intensive hand hygiene and health monitoring. We will continue to monitor the situation and Traffic Light Framework and introduce new measures as and when appropriate.

What safety protocols and guidelines does AKH 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 AKH 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 the Covid Protection Framework at given times:

- At least 15 minutes between groups / matches
- Sanitisation stations
- Capacity restrictions of up to 100 people per Gathering at LEP (based on allowing 1 m² of space per person)
- At RED you will be asked to have 2m separation between the groups on our turfs, spectators and in our pavilion.
- You are encouraged to wear a mask to and from Hockey but are able to play Hockey without a mask.
- You will be asked to bring your 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 we encourage wearing a mask to and from our Turfs, washing / sanitising hands, covering coughs and sneezes, bringing your own Hockey equipment, and not sharing or touching anything that you don't have to.

Do I need to wear a mask?

We encourage wearing a mask at RED at all times except when playing, so masks should 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, our Bar and Café may be open and we will be following the 1 m² of space per person, seated and separated inside rule in our LEP facility.

Are there limits at the Red level?

Yes, there are restrictions on group numbers of up to 100 people per Gathering (based on allowing 1 m² of space per person off the field). We can play 11 aside games.

What support will staff receive?

All staff will undergo training and will be abiding by all COVID-19 Protection Framework restrictions.

Coming to LEP / taking part in activities**Once AKH 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 and call Healthline or your Doctor for advice.
- At the Gate you must have produced evidence that you are fully vaccinated to gain access to our facility/activities.
- You are encouraged to wear a mask at all times except when playing.
- Wash or sanitise hands before entering the facility/activities and when moving through different areas.
- Scan your QR code every time you enter LEP.

I've recovered from COVID-19 – can I come back to the LEP 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 AKH facility and activities as long as you follow all COVID-19 processes and protocols including personal hygiene expectations.

What about changing rooms and Toilets at LEP?

Changing Rooms may not be open at the RED Level. Toilets will be open. If you can come dressed in your gear that will be helpful. Showers at home afterwards is encouraged. Please respect the space of your fellow members and be kind.

How will we let people know about any restrictions?

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

Are there Non-Compliance Penalties?

Yes for Auckland Hockey and Yes for Individuals without CVCs trying to enter the site.

Please note, under the Covid-19 Response and related legislation, penalties for AKH in not taking reasonable steps to verifying vaccine status are \$15,000 per offence. WorkSafe and NZ Police have both indicated they expect to undertake compliance spot checks. Failure to take reasonable steps to scan in a visitor is likely to be deemed serious misconduct and may lead to liability for fines.

Individuals who fail to comply may be subject to a judicial hearing and/or a Trespass Notice.

Auckland Hockey

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