

COVID-19 FAQs

Vaccination policy and certificates

Who does the ESGC COVID-19 Vaccination policy apply to?

This policy applies to ESGC employees, contractors and volunteers, as well as anyone wanting to access ESGC's facility and activities – including participants (12 years and older), 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 on the 3rd of December 2021. It will adopt a 3-level 'traffic-light' approach to managing COVID-19 and involve the use of vaccine certificates.

So ESGC 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, if eligible for the vaccination. This requirement does not currently apply to members under the age of 12 years, or those with a recognised medical exemption.

What steps have been taken to develop this policy?

Our board 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.

We have surveyed our membership and asked our staff for feedback.

Will ESGC 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, we will require all eligible people to be fully vaccinated against COVID-19 prior to entry to our facility and activities. The government has indicated that this will be from the 3rd of December 2021.

What evidence of vaccination will ESGC require?

Digital COVID-19 Vaccination Certificates are now available through the Ministry of Health's My COVID Record. 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 exemptions 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 ESGC 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 ESGC 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 ESGC facilities.

Does ESGC 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 ESGC 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, ESGC 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.

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 ESCC 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 ESGC as a last resort. For ESGC 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 ESGC 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 ESGC'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 ESGC 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 ESGC 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)
- Staggering class start and finish times to reduce congestion on entries and exits at Red level.
- Sanitisation stations
- Further equipment cleaning
- COVID-19 Conditions of Entry to the facility
- COVID-19 signage
- And our member-facing staff will be wearing masks at Red and Orange level.

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. At Red and Orange levels, this means wearing a mask on entry and exit to the facility, washing / sanitising hands, covering coughs and sneezes, keeping 1m from the nearest person, and not sharing or touching anything that you don't have to.

Do I need to wear a mask?

At Red Level, Gymnasts over the age of 12 and Adults must wear a mask on entrance and exit to the facility. Gymnasts are not required to wear face masks on the gym area. This follows protocols based on the Government's guidelines. At Orange and Green levels, mask wearing is encouraged on entry and exit but not mandatory.

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](#).

What about physical distancing?

At Red level, we will be following the 1m distance rule in ESGC'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 at Red Level.

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.

Once ESGC 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 on entrance and exit to the facility.
- Wash or sanitise hands before entering the facility/activities and when moving through different areas
- Scan your QR code every time you enter facility or at 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 ESGC'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 ESGC's facility and activities as long as you follow all COVID-19 processes and protocols including personal hygiene expectations.

What about changing rooms?

Bathrooms 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 bathrooms due to physical distancing.

Showers at home afterwards is encouraged. 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 ESGC's facility you will see COVID-19 signage. There will be visual reminders (signage, collateral etc) throughout ESGC's facility. Sanitisation bottles will be visible. We will also inform you via email and our website.