

MASS GATHERINGS

THE GOLDEN RULES FOR EVERYONE AT ALERT LEVEL 2

Do everything you can to *reduce* the risk of COVID-19 transmission.

1. COVID-19 is still out there. Play it safe.
2. Keep your distance from other people in public.
3. If you are sick, stay home.
4. If you have symptoms of cold or flu call your doctor or Healthline and get tested.
5. Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
6. Sneeze and cough into your elbow, regularly disinfect surfaces.
7. If you have been told to self-isolate you must do so immediately.
8. Keep a track of where you've been and who you've seen.

HIGH LEVEL PUBLIC GUIDANCE ABOUT GATHERINGS

As we have seen in New Zealand, and around the world, gatherings present a very high risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Gatherings are allowed at Alert Level 2 with a limit of up to 100 people. Ensure you keep a record for the purposes of contact tracing for people who don't know each other. There are no physical distancing requirements for a group up to 100 but multiple groups of 100 should not intermingle.

WHAT IS A GATHERING?

A social gathering is a group of people who are intermingling, and includes both public and private activities, but does not include activities where people remain 2 metres apart (e.g. people at a playground or park) or activities undertaken on a business premises or educational facility. Gatherings include parties, weddings, funerals, tangihanga, religious celebrations, conference, or spectators watching sports or music events (this isn't an exhaustive list).

Gatherings are not: offices or work sites (including professional sports, gyms), supermarkets, educational facilities, retail stores, cafes, bars or restaurants, public transport, hospitals, prisons, or malls (all of whom have their own measures in place to prevent transmission).

Gatherings are not people going to a public venue like a library, museum, or going to a park or a beach for a walk where other people are present.

For indoor venues like a shopping mall, or swimming pool there are guidelines for operating safely.

All gatherings and events should practice good public health measures such as ensuring:

- People with cold and flu symptoms do not attend
- Surfaces are wiped down regularly with disinfectant
- Facilities for regular and thorough hand washing with soap and water and drying, or hand sanitiser are provided.

HIGH LEVEL GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY SPORT

- Community sports games are subject to gatherings requirements (i.e. 100 limit). This includes both indoor and outdoor sports facilities. Players (including substitutes) and coaches from

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both teams involved in a game, along with officials, spectators (including parents/caregivers) are generally part of the same gathering (but see below), unless mingling between players and spectators can be prevented (including before and after a game).

- Multiple gatherings can take place at the same event or facility, as long as they can be kept separated. If, for example, you have stands on either side of the field and you can keep the groups separate (different entry and exit points and facilities such as food/coffee and toilets) you can have two stands of up to 100 for each side provided they are not also interacting with the players, umpires etc. In this example three separate gatherings would be operating: one of those involved in the game (players, coaches etc) and two gatherings of spectators. Record keeping for the purposes of contact tracing is required for all gathering groups.
- Record keeping to enable contact tracing is required if not all people know each other and cannot identify each other for contact tracing purposes. Physical distancing is not required.
- If teams are large and the space is small, consider limiting spectator numbers.
- Ensure that each gathering of 100 doesn't mix with other gatherings of 100 e.g. people at one field should not interact or mix with people at another field of 100.
- Care should be taken to avoid more than 100 people congregating at communal points such as entries and car parks, and to maintain physical distancing of 2 metres between groups.
- Phasing of activities is recommended to allow time for people to pass through these areas safely. For example, where there are multiple groups conducting activities, these should be scheduled to start and end at different times, and enough time should be allowed between activities to allow the previous group to have passed through common areas (and where necessary hygiene and sanitation of equipment completed) before the next session commences.

HIGH LEVEL GUIDANCE FOR PROFESSIONAL AND SEMI-PROFESSIONAL SPORT

- Professional, elite and semi-professional athletes, support staff and officials are treated as employees of a workplace and are not subject to gathering rules – but must have record keeping to enable contact tracing.
- Spectators are subject to the event facility rules and limited to 100 in a defined space. Record keeping for the purposes of contact tracing is required.
- You can have multiple groups of 100 spectators provided that each group of 100 is kept separate and there are controlled entry/exit points, access to food/drinks and toilet facilities. Each group of 100 must not mix or intermingle at any time.