

The purpose of this document is to provide the basketball community with guidance and recommendations to help ensure a safe return to basketball related activities.

We all want to see a return to play however, Associations/basketball providers must ensure they have guidelines and processes in place to ensure the health and safety of their staff, officials, volunteers and participants.

As the COVID-19 situation and advice continues to change quickly, our aim is to keep Associations/basketball providers up to date on any key changes. Government advice is also listed on the [COVID-19](#) and [MOH](#) and [Sport NZ](#) webpages.

This document covers the following areas and should be read in conjunction with **Sport New Zealand Level 2 Guidelines** (sportnz.org.nz):

1. Government and Ministry of Health Advice
2. Health and Safety
 - a) Plans
 - b) Cleaning and Hygiene
 - c) Face Coverings
 - d) Basketballs
 - e) Mouthguards
 - f) Clothing (Uniforms/Bibs/Wristbands)
 - g) Control Desk/Office, Court Control/Volunteer Space
 - h) Scoretable, Statistics and Other Equipment
3. Contact Tracing and Record Keeping
4. Physical Distancing
5. Venue Management
 - a) Mass Gathering Restriction/Personnel/Defined Spaces
 - b) Entry and Exit
 - c) Signage
 - d) Spectators
6. Teams/Players/Team Management/Coaches
7. Referees, Officials, Staff, Volunteers
8. Travel
9. Competition Considerations for Mass Gatherings
 - a) 50-person Mass Gathering Limit



1. **Government and Ministry of Health Advise**

Below are some of their key messages to New Zealanders under [Alert Level 2 Play it Safe](#):

- COVID-19 is still out there. Play it safe.
- If you're sick, stay home. Don't go to work or school or socialise.
- Keep a track of where you've been and who you've seen.
- Wear a face covering.
- Wash your hands. Wash your hands. Wash your hands.
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow.
- Regularly clean surfaces.
- Keep your distance from other people in public.
- If you have cold or flu like symptoms call your doctor or Healthline and get tested.
- If you have been told to self-isolate you must do so immediately.

All involved must play a role to help reduce the transmission of COVID 19, including those organising basketball activities. Stay home if you're sick and do not take part in sport. If you have flu like symptoms, self-isolate at home and get tested immediately.

2. **Health and Safety**

a) **Plans**

- Associations/basketball providers are required to have a COVID-19 Health and Safety Plan.
- Ensure that both the Association/basketball provider and the Venue have an agreed COVID-19 and health and safety plan(s) and that these do not contradict each other; a collaborative approach is vital.
- Communicate your health and safety plan(s) to all staff, officials, volunteers and participants. Have your plan available and displayed at the venue.
- Provide basic first aid including kits and ice at a centralised area for ease of access. It is recommended that the team/participants bring their own basic first aid kit and if possible, ice should be prepacked to reduce handling. Gloves should be worn when packing the ice.
- Provide blood kits at each scorebench or at a centralised area for ease of access. For more information, please refer to the BBNZ Blood Policy and Kit ([BBNZ Blood Kit & Process](#)).

b) **Cleaning and Hygiene**

- All participants and spectators must follow public health hygiene measures, including washing and drying hands before and after any activity.
- Water, soap and towels/drier should be available to wash and dry hands. If that's not possible you must provide hand sanitiser (containing at least 60% alcohol) ([SNZ](#)). It is recommended that hand sanitising stations are placed in common area in the venue and around the court. For more information regarding cleaning/hygiene in the Venue can be found under Venue Management.
- Exercise caution with common touch points (e.g. gates or doors) and wash or sanitise your hands after touching these surfaces.
- Provide cleaning kits at each scorebench or at a centralised area for ease of access. The kit should include, disposable gloves, sanitiser, cleaning wipes, disinfectant solution, paper towels, rubbish bags.
- Make sure the equipment is washed and dried before and after games (e.g. equipment that is shared by people but at different times should be cleaned before and after each use ([SNZ](#)). For more information regarding cleaning/hygiene of equipment refer below.

c) **Face Coverings**

In general, face coverings should be worn whenever you can. The Delta variant is more transmissible by droplets, so face coverings are a way we can protect ourselves and each other.

- You should wear face coverings when you are indoors at sport and recreation facilities such as gyms, dance studios and health clubs apart from when you are exercising or playing sports ([SNZ](#)).



- Face coverings do not need to be worn when playing sport but should be worn before and after at indoor facilities ([SNZ](#)).
 - You legally must wear a face covering if you are an employee involving customer contact at a business or service — for example, barbers, hairdressers or beauty therapists. At an indoor public facility such as a swimming pool or gym employees are encouraged but not required to wear a face covering ([covid19](#)).
 - It is recommended that all employees (event organiser personnel) wear a face covering excluding in game referees.
 - It is recommended that all participants enter the venue wearing a face covering and continue to wear it until they reach their designated court. The participant can remove their face covering while the game is in play (team management, players). Once the game has concluded it is then recommended that participants wear a face covering until they have exited the venue.
- d) Basketballs**
- Basketballs should be cleaned/sanitised prior to use and also at the completion of each game.
 - If cleaning of a basketball is not possible, spare basketballs that have been sanitised and remained unused should be available for use.
 - A clean game ball should be provided for each game.
 - Any basketballs brought into the venue i.e. for training prior to a game, should be sanitised. It is recommended that a limit is placed on the number of balls per team that can be brought into the venue.
 - The Association/basketball provider could provide training balls to teams if possible, however the above sanitation criteria must apply.
 - Please check with your venue if there are restrictions regarding teams providing their own basketballs.
 - To clean a basketball, use disposable gloves and a disposable anti-bacterial wipe, or by spraying with a disinfectant spray/solution and wipe with paper towels.
- e) Mouthguards**
- Mouthguards are to be put in correctly before entering the game and must not be taken out for the entirety of the game.
 - If a player adjusts, removes or touches their mouthguard, they must be removed (subbed out) from the game and will need to self-sanitise before re-entering the game.
 - Discourage the removal of a mouthguard.
 - For non-contact period i.e. individual workouts, mouthguards are not mandatory.
 - Continue to use the BBNZ mouthguard policy unless directed by the MOH and BBNZ. For more information, please refer to the BBNZ Mouthguard Policy ([BBNZ-Mouthguard Policy](#)).
- f) Clothing (Uniforms/Bibs/Wristbands)**
- For the safety of staff and volunteers, it is recommended that Associations/basketball provider refrain from providing uniforms/bibs/wristbands to teams.
- g) Control Desk/Office, Court Control/Volunteer Space**
- Keep these areas confined to employees (staff, officials, volunteers) only, no participants should enter these areas or touch equipment within this space.
- h) Scoretable, Statistics and Other Equipment**
- Make sure the equipment is washed and dried before and after games (e.g. equipment that is shared by people but at different times should be cleaned before and after each use ([SNZ](#))).
 - Surfaces and equipment should be regularly cleaned and disinfected where practicable ([SNZ](#)).
 - Measures should be taken to minimise the sharing of equipment/balls/uniforms. However, for sports or activities where equipment must be shared ensure that all participants wash and dry their hands before and afterwards, and clean and disinfect the equipment before and afterwards ([SNZ](#)).
 - Also exercise caution with common touchpoints (e.g. gates or doors) and wash or sanitise your hands after touching these surfaces ([SNZ](#)).
 - Provide gloves for scorebench/statistics personnel if possible.



- Use the Glory League scoring on an iPad to record game results instead of using paper and a pen. If the Glory League scoring app is not available, ensure that gloves are used when using pen and paper. Wipe down the iPad in between games.
- Wipe down all equipment on the scorebench/statistics bench including the table after each game or if there is a change in personnel during a game.
- Extra equipment should be on standby should you need to make a replacement; basketballs, scorebench, statistics equipment, iPads etc.
- Wipe down team benches at the end of each game.
- If in doubt, give it a clean.

3. **Contact Tracing and Record Keeping**

Before resuming basketball activities, Associations/basketball organisers must have developed and tested their own contact tracing and record keeping systems.

At an event, either the venue owner or operator, or the organiser/hirer of the venue can be the person who is responsible for making sure there are ways for people to record their visit ([covid19](#)). It is recommended that you discuss with the venue where this responsibility will sit and ensure that this is included in your health and safety plan and is executed.

There are several ways you can make record keeping easier ([covid19](#)).

- a) Prominently display your **QR code poster** - All workplaces and businesses legally must display a NZ COVID Tracer QR code for each location. This applies at all Alert Levels.
- b) Have **alternate systems** for record keeping - You legally must have an alternative system for people who do not use the NZ COVID Tracer app. You can:
 - use an electronic system like a tablet sign in app or an existing booking system
 - use a paper register using individual slips and a box for storage
 - ask an employee to manually record visitors, details. These sheets must not be filled out by the customers or visitors, or left in the open where they can be accessed or seen
 - It is recommended that records include the persons full name, phone number and date and time they entered.
 - Associations/Basketball providers could use GameDay which will ensure all your data is in a secure and central location online and enhances your ability to maintain an accurate database of your members.

4. **Physical Distancing**

- People may participate in team sports and physical activities, provided the gathering requirements are met (i.e. maximum groups of 50 indoors and 100 outdoors) and all other public hygiene measures along with contact tracing are in place. Participants should maintain physical distancing when not participating in the sport or activity ([SNZ](#)).
- Think about modifications that can be made to your game to minimise the amount of contact between players. Participants should try to maintain physical distancing before and after the game, and in changing rooms or in clubrooms ([SNZ](#)).
- You will need to keep 2 metres apart from others. Facilities may restrict numbers to help with physical distancing ([Covid19](#)).

5. **Venue Management**

- Ensure that both the Association/basketball provider and the Venue have an agreed health and safety plan(s) and that these do not contradict each other; a collaborative approach is vital.
- Discuss with the venue how they can support with proactive hygiene protocols - toilets, change rooms, seating, areas where people congregate, team benches, scoretable, regular touch points; doorknobs, rubbish bins and other surfaces using the [Covid-19 cleaning surfaces](#).
- Provide hand sanitiser/wipes/disinfectant solution at entry and exit, floor control and referee areas/rooms, scoretable, floor control area and at each court for both teams.
- Adjust competition timing/allow for additional time for wipe downs and cleaning between games. Allocate additional time for teams entering the venue and completing contact tracing processes and evacuating the venue before the next round of games commence. Discuss with the venue an appropriate length of time for cleaning between games.



- Restrict areas of the venue to mitigate congregation and additional cleaning. This may include change rooms, water fountains, canteens, vending machines, rooms etc.
 - Provide additional rubbish bins around the venue for the disposal of paper towels and wipes.
 - Use gloves when cleaning areas around the venue, picking up rubbish etc.
 - Instead of using towels to mop up sweat and spills, use disposable paper towels.
 - Enable an entry and exit protocol with the venue. This should include how to contact trace people coming in the venue.
 - You will need to keep 2 metres apart from others. Facilities may restrict numbers to help with physical distancing ([Covid19](#)).
- a) Mass Gathering Restriction/Personnel/Defined Spaces**
- Community sports games where there is contact between players are subject to gatherings requirements (i.e. maximum groups of 50 indoors and 100 outdoors). These group limits include all players and spectators (but not referees and officials). Multiple gatherings can take place at the same event or facility as long as they can be kept separate (e.g. use separate entries/exits, do not share facilities and are separated by walls with separate airflows). Phasing of activities could be used to allow time for people to pass through communal areas safely. For smaller venues a reduced capacity may be more appropriate to maintain 2m physical distancing. Sports clubs should follow public health guidelines on physical distancing and personal hygiene. If you are having club events, consider limiting numbers to ensure 2m physical distancing can take place, take extra care on cleaning surfaces and when preparing food to minimise risks. Now is not the time to have a large club prizegiving or event. Think about keeping things simple ([SNZ](#)).
 - Limits of 50 people at indoor hospitality venues, gatherings or event facilities does not include staff. Public-facing staff must wear face coverings (Covid-19 FAQ).
 - Event facilities can operate, including cinemas, stadiums, concert venues and casinos can have up to 50 people indoors and 100 people outdoors. You can have more than 50 people in an event facility, but only if the people are in separate 'defined spaces' at all times and there should not be direct airflow between these spaces (Covid-19 FAQ).
 - If you have people in both indoor and outdoor spaces, you need to make sure the two groups do not mix. This means making sure you have separate entrances for shared areas — for example bathrooms or counters where people go up to order or pay. Workers providing services to the event are not included in the indoor and outdoor gathering limits.
If you are providing food and drinks at an event, everyone must be seated to be served. Employees working at an event legally must wear a face covering if they interact with customers. ([Covid19](#))
A defined space is a single indoor or outdoor space separated from other spaces.
 - If a place has more than 1 defined space, then people should not intermingle between the defined spaces. This includes when entering, leaving, or going to the bathroom. It does not include workers. An indoor space is a single space if there are walls that substantially divide that space from other spaces. The walls can be permanent or temporary ([Covid19](#)). To clarify, the defined space must have its own airflow and own air conditioning, its own entrance and exit which allows for physical distancing of 2m and does not come into contact with other groups.
 - All venues must have ways for people — including staff and guests to record their visit. You can do this by displaying a QR code for your venue and asking people to scan in. If an event is either indoors or outdoors and in one defined space, you can use one QR code for the event.
If the event is spread out across sites, we recommend having separate QR codes for each business or exhibit. You should also use an event QR code at entrances to help people sign in.
You also need to provide an alternative way for people to record their visit, especially for people who are not able to scan QR codes. ([Covid19](#))
- b) Entry and Exit**
- If you are hiring a venue that has multiusers, you'll need to work through a process with the venue to ensure that all restrictions are being adhered to.



- Entry - participants and officials cannot enter the venue earlier than the designated time prior to their game or before the participants and officials of the previous game have evacuated the venue. A process to advise teams when to enter the venue should be arranged prior to enable physical distancing between teams and mitigate any congestion. Waiting times may vary and could be staggered depending on the number of courts being used at any one time. Contact tracing must be completed through this process.
 - Exit - participants and officials must exit the venue using the designated door and physical distancing between teams finishing must be adhered to.
 - If a member of a team evacuates the building, they will be required to complete the entry process again as they have signed out of the venue. Please take note of any mass gathering threshold restrictions on their re-entry.
- c) Signage**
- Signage of the entry/exit points and directional signage if required within the venue should be displayed.
 - QR code codes are required at the entrance and an alternate record keeping system in place. Please refer to the contact tracing section within this document.
 - Other recommended signage to be display in the venue; current alert level restrictions, risks posed by COVID-19 and encourage health advise, hygiene and physical distancing practises, venue restrictions and Association/basketball provider rules.
 - The government website has [Covid-19 resources](#) available.
- d) Spectators**
- Spectators and participants are included in the mass gathering limit.
 - It is recommended that you work with the venue with regard to allowing spectators on site and to also ensure all restrictions are adhered to.
 - It is recommended not to have spectators attend events to reduce risks around physical distancing rules, mass gathering restrictions and venue management.
 - If there is no guidance regarding mass gathering restrictions, the Association/basketball provider must decide whether games go ahead with spectators. If they do, please follow the [MOH guidelines on hosting an event](#). A reminder that contact tracing is required for spectators as well.
 - Spectator seating should be laid out as per government requirements with physical distancing of two metres.
- 6. Participants (Teams/Players/Team Management/Coaches)**
- Participants and spectators are included in the mass gathering limit.
 - Communication of your health and safety plan(s) to all participants and staff and those involved is vital.
 - Communicate all processes regularly regarding contact tracing, self-registration pre-game day and game day registration, entry and exit protocols for the venue.
 - All should follow the health guidelines before turning up to the venue - If you're sick, stay home.
 - Do not share equipment; drink bottles, towels, uniforms, mouthguards, etc. Naming of equipment is essential.
 - No hand contact between any participants including players and officials.
 - Person to person touching should be kept to a minimum, there should be no high-fives, hugs, hongi, handshaking etc.
 - Each team should be responsible for cleaning their team bench area and the removal of rubbish and personal equipment after their game. Please ensure all personal equipment is removed as the venue may not store lost property items.
 - Change rooms may be restricted or not in use, in which case teams are then required to turn up ready to play and will be required to change away from the venue.
 - Teams may be required to provide their own trainings balls. If there are ball restrictions in place, teams may not be required to provide balls.
 - If there are mass gathering restrictions in place, teams may be restricted to a maximum number of personnel allocated to the team. This number may vary depending on the imposed restriction.

7. Referees, Officials, Staff, Volunteers

- Community sports games where there is contact between players are subject to gathering requirements (i.e. groups of 50 indoors, groups of 100 outdoors). These group limits include all players and spectators (but not referees and officials) ([SNZ](#)).
- From the meeting held with Sport NZ and NSO's, it was advised that the term officials includes referees, staff, volunteers, event organisers. These personnel are not included in the mass gathering limit.
- It is recommended that Associations/basketball organiser try to limit personnel within your defined space.

8. Travel

You can travel to other regions that are at Alert Level 1 or 2 to attend a concert, conference, sports game or any other public event. If the event is in an Alert Level 2 region, the indoor and outdoor gathering limits apply ([Covid19](#)). Remember that you must carry your alert level with you.

9. Competition Considerations to Mass Gathering Limits

If you are considering running a basketball event under a restriction of a gathering limit, you will need to consider a number of factors:

a) 50-person Mass Gathering Limit

- If running a boys and girls event, personnel cannot mix with each event (e.g. the events may require separate floor controllers, referees, volunteers, controllers etc).
- Hosts could have boys playing at 9am and girls playing at 10:45am however between transitions of each subgroup, the event host would need to evaluate the venue and clean before the next subgroup enters the building. It may be easier to have the boys and girls events at separate venues, which would also ease pressure on personnel running the event, subgroups mingling and less time pressure.
- Creating entry and exit protocols and applying physical distancing while moving through the venue.
- In regard to courts, if using a multicourt venue, where possible, try to space the games across the courts to allow for physical distancing. However, you must ensure that the gathering limit is adhered to.
- It is recommended that the event is held without spectators to keep mass gathering numbers down.
- Participants and spectators are included in the mass gathering limit.
- Keep in mind who is in the venue and ensure staff are aware of your current limit inside the venue to ensure you are keeping to the gathering limit.
- An example of event/tournament may require the following number of people:
5 x teams (8 players + 1 management) = 45

If you have any specific questions, please feel free to make contact and we'll try to help you where we can. Also, feel free to send any question to covid19response@sportnz.org.nz. This email has been set up by Sport NZ.