

# FLOORNZ NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021

Dear FloorNZ Members

This newsletter has been developed to provide the latest Covid-19 information and FloorNZ's position on vaccination.

## ALLIED TRADES INSTITUTE (ATI)

The Board met on the 26<sup>th</sup> October and made a decision that apprentices and other learners attending the ATI need to show proof of having been fully vaccinated or provide a medical exemption certificate. This position was taken on the basis that apprentices are hosted in people's homes and will also be mixing with others who have young children and who are unable to be vaccinated. This position has been conveyed to the BCITO who have accepted our position. As a number of apprentices attending the ATI come from out of town, they are required to be fully vaccinated before they are able to board an AirNZ flight which also supports the position we have taken. This position will be enforced from January 2022.

## FLOORNZ

FloorNZ has supported the Specialist Trades Association submission to the Minister that the construction industry should be covered by a mandatory vaccination order. This has arisen from feedback across the construction sector of the need to mitigate the risk to both customers and workers when working on a multi-trade site or entering people's homes to work. The Government response was that they were considering the issue, but no decision has been made to date.

In the interim FloorNZ supports the encouragement of workers to get fully vaccinated as part of a risk mitigation strategy for the sector.

## COVID-19 PROTOCOLS

The Construction Sector Accord is proposing industry-developed protocols to assist employers make sound legal decisions on when they can require staff to be vaccinated.

Hon Michael Wood, Minister for Workplace Relations and Safety, has announced a vaccination assessment tool will be available from mid-December to help employers decide if they would require vaccination for different types of work.

The standard and protocols include a construction-specific Vaccination Risk Assessment Tool to give more sector specific guidance assessing whether work should be undertaken by a vaccinated worker or work force.

Workplace health and safety regulations place heavy emphasis on ‘engineering controls’ to be used where reasonably practicable, and vaccinations meet the definition of an engineering control in that they provide a barrier between the person and the harm. It’s a very strong control supporting individuals and groups to avoid becoming seriously ill from COVID-19, and will allow construction businesses to maintain operations, protect workers and the public from the risk of serious illness.”

Other potential controls in the protocols include surveillance testing, mask wearing, physical distancing on site, work bubbles, enhanced hygiene, and tracking/tracing.

The protocols include simple-to-follow decision trees and cover:

- whether specific role(s) or classes of roles should be fully vaccinated
- whether a business or business unit should be fully vaccinated
- whether a specific worksite site should only be accessed by fully vaccinated people.

We will provide these tools to you as soon as they are released.

## COVID-19 PROTECTION FRAMEWORK

### About the framework

The COVID-19 Protection Framework signals a new chapter in our response to COVID-19. The new Framework allows businesses to open and operate in a way that is as close to normal for vaccinated people 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 business 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.

The guidance and advice on this on the Ministry of Health website is interim. It will be updated once the COVID-19 Protection Framework Order is issued.

### Framework levels

The framework involves a traffic light system, with red, orange, and green levels.

#### Red

Red will be used if there’s a need to protect both at-risk people and our health system from an unsustainable number of hospitalizations.

Face coverings will be mandatory on flights, public transport, in taxis, retail, public facilities, and recommended whenever leaving the house.

#### Orange

Orange will be used when there’s increasing community transmission of COVID-19.

Face coverings will be mandatory on flights, public transport, in taxis, retail, public facilities, and encouraged elsewhere.

#### Green

Green will be used when there are some COVID-19 cases in the community.

Face coverings will be mandatory on flights

From 1 December, businesses who want to use rapid antigen testing at their workplaces will be able to buy them directly from authorized suppliers.

When we move to the COVID-19 Protection Framework, if your business needs to check customers' proof of vaccination status, you can use the free NZ Pass Verifier app which can be downloaded from the Ministry of Health website.

If you have any information, you would like us to share on any comments or questions on any of the content in this newsletter, please contact me on [kari@floornz.org.nz](mailto:kari@floornz.org.nz)

**Regards**

Kari Pearcey

CEO FloorNZ & ATI

[Kari@floornz.org.nz](mailto:kari@floornz.org.nz) +64 21 810320