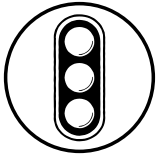


# Guidance for places of worship



The COVID-19 Protection Framework (the 'traffic lights') was removed at 11.59pm on the 12th September 2022.



Only people who test positive for COVID-19 are required to isolate for seven days. Household contacts are recommended to take a RAT test every day for five days. So long as they test negative, they will be able to go about daily life as normal, including attending places of worship.



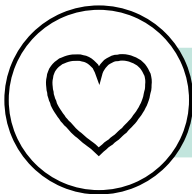
Masks will not be required anywhere, except when visiting certain healthcare facilities like hospitals, GPs, pharmacies and aged care residential facilities. Some places like places of worship or workplaces may ask people to wear a mask.

## How places of worship can operate safely and help their communities stay safe



- Encourage people who are unwell to stay home.
- Consider offering online services where possible, so those sick or isolating at home can participate.
- Encourage the use of masks if attendees have household contacts who are positive and isolating.
- Clean and sanitise shared surfaces thoroughly before and after use.
- Clean and sanitise musical and prayer related instruments thoroughly before and after use.
- Have plenty of places for people to wash hands with soap and water.
- Encourage people to stay up to date with vaccinations.
- Ensure that spaces are well ventilated. Good ventilation helps remove COVID-19 virus particles in the air. For more information visit

[www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/keep-up-healthy-habits/ventilation-and-covid-19/](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/prepare-and-stay-safe/keep-up-healthy-habits/ventilation-and-covid-19/)



## Extra support and information

- For places of worship that operate as workplaces, additional health and safety information can be found on the WorkSafe website.  
<https://www.worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus-covid/>
- COVID-19 has taken a toll on everyone, particularly people's mental health. There has been significant innovation in effective and evidence-based digital mental health tools. People can access more information about these tools at [www.covid19.govt.nz/mentalhealth](https://www.covid19.govt.nz/mentalhealth)