

ScreenSafe - SCREEN INDUSTRY GUIDANCE – Easing of Restrictions

Friday, 1 April 2022

The following changes were announced by the Prime Minister on **23rd March 2022**. The Omicron outbreak has now peaked, or is about to peak, in most of the country. This, combined with high vaccination rates and reduced risk of reinfection for those who have recently recovered from COVID-19, means that the government is easing some COVID-19 restrictions over the next few weeks.

ScreenSafe anticipates a wider revision of the COVID-19 Protocols, with the next review of the traffic light settings scheduled for 4th April 2022. However, for the time being, please note the below changes.

The key changes are:

No Requirement to Use QR Codes

From **11.59pm on Friday 25th March**, the requirement to scan a QR Code before entering a business ended. From this time, businesses were freed of their obligation to display a QR Code poster (although businesses may still display a QR Code if they wish to do so). People are encouraged not to remove the COVID-19 tracer app from their phone just yet in case it's needed in the future.

No Requirement to Use My Vaccine Pass

From **11.59pm on Monday 4th April**, there will be no requirement to use My Vaccine Pass.

- *The Vaccination Passport sections of the Protocols will no longer be relevant. If any productions choose to use any sections of it, they must undertake a health and safety risk assessment, along with any other relevant legal assessment, to ensure they are not unlawfully discriminating against workers within the workplace.*
- *A Production must undertake a Covid-19 health and safety risk assessment to ascertain if there are any roles within production that require vaccination. A risk assessment might identify that some work can only be undertaken by a vaccinated employee for work health and safety purposes – for example, where the risk of contracting and transmitting COVID-19 at work is higher than it is in the community, You should follow [WorkSafe's advice and guidance](#) in respect of how to conduct a health and safety risk assessment, and may also wish to seek independent legal advice.*

Worker Vaccine Mandates

From **11.59pm on Monday 4th April**, vaccine mandates will be removed from the education sector, police and defence force. For the time being it will still be in place for health & disability workers, aged care workers, corrections workers and border/MIQ workers.

Note: After a robust health and safety risk assessment and worker consultation, businesses may be able to voluntarily introduce workforce vaccination requirements but it must be appropriate to the workforce. As above, for guidance on how to conduct a health and safety risk assessment, [WorkSafe's website](#) is a good place to start.

Mask Wearing is Still Crucial

Although use of QR Codes and Vaccination Passports are being phased out, it is worth noting that proper use of face masks is one of our best tools for fighting this virus.

Overview of current Traffic Light Settings

Review of Traffic Light Settings

All of New Zealand is currently in the RED setting. The next review of the traffic light settings is on **4th April**. It will review what 'colour' (or setting) each area of New Zealand sits in.



Changes to RED Traffic Light Settings

From **11.59pm on Friday 25th March** the following changes came into effect:

- No limit for outdoor gatherings (in terms of the amount of people that can attend).
- 200-person limit for indoor gatherings and events (*with such capacity limits excluding workers*).
- No requirement to wear face masks outdoors (although productions should make their own decision based on a health and safety risk assessment).
- Other face mask rules remain unchanged — face masks are still required in most indoor settings.
- No requirement to scan in or for a business to display a QR code poster or maintain some other form of attendance record-keeping.

Changes to ORANGE Traffic Light Settings

From **11.59pm on Friday 25th March** the following changes came into effect (noting that all of New Zealand is currently at the Red setting, so these changes are simply indicative of what can be expected if and when there is a shift in settings):

- No limit for outdoor or indoor gatherings (in terms of the amount of people that can attend).
- No requirement to wear a face mask outdoors (although productions should make their own decision based on a risk assessment).
- Other face mask rules remain unchanged.
- No requirement to scan in or for a business to display a QR code poster or maintain some other form of attendance record-keeping.

Changes to GREEN Traffic Light Settings

No changes of note.

We anticipate many productions will choose not to use QR Codes and Vaccination Passports, but note that our key tools will still remain: good mask wearing, physical distancing, good hygiene and good ventilation. And as always – DO NOT come to work if you are unwell!

Thank you to NZ Film Commission and NZ on Air for funding the ScreenSafe COVID reviews.

Sincerely,
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CC:

NZFC NZ On Air Te Māngai Pāho SIGANZ SPADA NZAPG RFONZ