

# FAQs

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FAQ's for Traffic Light system are coming soon

## QUESTIONS

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**Q: Why does MOH refer to the 15 minute time of work within physical distancing but this document does not recognise that?**

**A:** The intended use of the 15 minute rule by MOH was to take into account accidental encounters where people in the workplace unintentionally come into contact. It is not permission to do jobs without physical distancing for less than 15 minutes without controls in place. Worksafe endorse these protocols and expect all to comply with them, more information [here](#).

**Q: Where can I get a SSSP or similar form?**

**A:** You can use the Worksafe COVID-19 safety plan template available [here](#) or use the industry created SSSP available [here](#).

**Q: Is health screening required?**

**A:** Only if required by agreement with the main contractor.

**Q: Does everyone need to be re-inducted to the site?**

**A:** When first returning to work under a change in alert level, all workers and contractors are to be made aware of the changes to the protocols under the applied protocol alert level requirements. Use the Toolbox Talks available in the protocols to communicate as appropriate.

**Q: Do I have to wear a mask?**

**A:** The protocols for Alert Levels 2 & 3 require face coverings as an appropriate control for close contact work (1-2 metres for Alert Level 3; and allowance for less than 1m for Alert Level 2). For Alert Level 4, workers must wear a face covering if they are conducting work involving customer or public contact or there is a risk of coming into close contact with another person.

Consistent with government recommendations face coverings should be worn on public transport for all Alert Levels. The government may mandate masks in public and or in the worksite – the Protocols will be updated to reflect any changes as they occur.

Construction organisations and activity must always follow government and Ministry of Health requirements.

**Q: Who is a vulnerable person at a higher risk of severe illness from COVID-19?**

**A:** Information about vulnerable workers can be found on the Ministry of Health website or [here](#)

**Q: Why should we split our teams on site?**

**A:** If it is possible to split staff to 50:50 site attendance (management, supervision and trade teams) then if half of the team gets infected the other half team will still be able to work. By zoning areas to specific teams you also reduce the likelihood of spreading the virus beyond teams.

**Q: Why aren't we recommending that thermometer testing should be mandatory?**

**A:** Temperature checking has not been found to be an effective control for health checking because of the high chance of people having the Delta variant yet not having a temperature. Therefore, it is not advised that workplaces rely on temperature checks.

Devices also vary and can be unreliable in determining if someone is infected with COVID-19.

Moreover, your body temperature is not always a great way to tell if you've been infected by COVID-19 or any virus for that matter. Not all people infected with COVID-19 show symptoms and if they do it can take days to appear... and what happens if you've taken some medications to bring your fever down?

**Q: How can I get enough of the required PPE e.g. rubber gloves?**

**A:** If you are having trouble sourcing rubber gloves, hand sanitiser or other required PPE, then there are people and organisations around who will be able to assist. If you are a part of a membership organisation, they may be able to assist in sourcing of PPE products, alternatively if you are working on site, contact the main contractor as they may have stock to sell or share. Be prepared and stay well stocked. Order your supplies early, don't wait until you have nothing left before you place an order.

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## **Q: Do I need to use the COVID-19 tracer App QR code and another sign-in register?**

**A:** Government requires all businesses and services to display the official government QR code for the NZ COVID Tracer App, and to have systems and processes in place to otherwise support contact tracing for people who do not scan in with the NZ COVID Tracer app (such as a pen and- paper register or a digital sign-in system).

Please note you need to create a QR Code for each of your premises or unique locations. Make sure to put your posters on display in prominent locations next to every entrance.

You can generate an official QR code poster for each of your premises through the webform at: <https://qrform.tracing.covid19.govt.nz/>

If your business has a large number of premises you can also get your official QR codes by sending a [completed template](#) to the NZ COVID Tracer support team at [help@covidtracer.min.health.nz](mailto:help@covidtracer.min.health.nz). Please see Tips displaying your NZ COVID Tracer poster for further guidance.

You can find further information about the QR codes on the Ministry of Health website.

## **Q: Do I need a QR code for mobile work crews, or for working out of a vehicle?**

**A:** No, but make sure your other contact tracing procedures are working effectively.

## **Q: Can an employer require workers to be vaccinated?**

**A:** Workers have the right to refuse medical treatments under human rights legislation, therefore generally an employer cannot require workers to be vaccinated.

In some circumstances where there is increased risk to the worker or other persons, a specific role may require that only a vaccinated person to carry it out. WorkSafe have provided guidance for PCBUs around this situation [here](#).

## **Q: What happens if I need to move between regions with different alert levels.**

**A:** An alert level boundary separates areas that are at different alert levels from each other. To travel across alert level boundaries you'll need to apply for business travel documents. Watch the [video](#) on how to apply, or click [here](#) for information on current boundaries and the process of applying

## **Q: What is the purpose of Bluetooth tracing in the NZ COVID Tracer app?**

**A:** You can use Bluetooth tracing to keep an anonymised record of the people you have been near — turn it on under the 'Dashboard' section in the app.

Bluetooth tracing allows you to receive an alert if you have been near another app user who tests positive for COVID-19. It is safe, private and anonymous.

Bluetooth tracing does not replace scanning QR codes — you still need to keep track of where you have been. Bluetooth tracing helps keep track of the people you have been near. Think of it like your phone is giving a digital high-five to other people's phones.

You do not have to have the app open for it to work, but you do need to have Bluetooth on your phone turned on. It does not use mobile data or drain your phone battery.

## **[How privacy is protected in the NZ COVID Tracer app](#)**

## **Q: What will be the process for obtaining exemption to be able to work under Alert Level 4.**

**A:** The conditions and guidance for essential construction work are laid out on MBIE's website [here](#).

For assistance with determining whether the business or project meets the criteria MBIE can be contacted at [consentsystem@mbie.govt.nz](mailto:consentsystem@mbie.govt.nz)

## **Q: If a worker is not vaccinated but wants to work, can a vaccinated worker refuse to work with them?**

**A:** Employers should engage in "good faith" discussions with workers to resolve health concerns related to exposure to the virus.

It is recommended that:

- Employers engage with workers to understand any underlying health concerns they may have and in particular if they are others are more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19 and therefore have increased risk to their health. It may require special arrangements and controls for vulnerable workers to limit their exposure to the virus in general.
- Employers look at the nature of the work to see if there are special conditions that require only vaccinated workers to carry out the work as per WorkSafe's advice and process

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**Q: If a worker is not vaccinated but is classed as an essential worker under Alert Level 4, do they have to work if they are concerned about their health?**

**A:** Employers should engage in “good faith” discussions with workers about their situation and talk through how they can work safely, and what controls are in place to enable a return to work.

It is recommended that:

- Employers engage with workers to understand any underlying health concerns they may have and in particular if they are others are more vulnerable to the effects of COVID-19 and therefore have increased risk to their health. It may require a decision not to work under Alert Level 4 and/or special arrangements and controls for vulnerable workers to limit their exposure to the virus in general.
- Employers look at the nature of the work to see if there are special conditions that require only vaccinated workers to carry out the work as per WorkSafe’s advice and process.

**Q: What regional travel is allowed within areas under Alert Level 3?**

**A:** For regions operating under alert level 3, travel is allowed for work within the same region or any adjacent region.

Travel across non-adjacent regions must be accompanied with a letter from the employer confirming travel requirements.

For information on regional maps and boundaries click [here](#).

**NOTE:** Alert level 4 boundaries found [here](#) overrides any regional boundary.

North Island [map](#).

South Island [map](#).

**Q: What do I need to include in my application to MBIE for approval to work between alert levels 3 and 4?**

**A:** Any application to MBIE must have a detailed plan that considers how to limit the spread of COVID-19 as far as reasonably practicable. This would include following the protocols for construction as a minimum and typically include additional measures such as:

- Processes to limit the number of essential workers
- Safe transportation in and out of regions that prevents transmission en route
- Segregation of the workforce on site and between sites
- Face covering and hygiene requirements while travelling and working
- Any accommodation and care requirements for staff staying outside of their home region that prevents transmission to the community.

**Q: What travel is allowed in and out of Alert Level 4 regions?**

**A:** Travel in and out of Alert Level 4 is highly restricted to essential workers. This is either:

1. Work on projects of national significance who have been through the MBIE approval process at <https://businessconnect.govt.nz/>
2. Emergency construction work to provide for the current needs of people and communities.

Emergency construction work should only be undertaken if there are no other people who could undertake this work within the required region. If this does happen then protocols should include:

- Avoiding any contact with those in the region, site, building or dwelling – ideally doing the work with no occupants on site.
- Wearing appropriate PPE such as face masks and gloves while on site, safety disposing of them and sanitising as per the protocols.