

SCREEN INDUSTRY COVID-19 PROTOCOLS – TRAFFIC LIGHT UPDATE

Tuesday, 14 December 2021

At 11.59pm on 2nd December 2021 (effectively Friday 3rd December) all of New Zealand moved into the new COVID-19 Protection Framework (aka the Traffic Light System). This system will replace the previous four level system.

The following areas are currently in the RED level: Northland, Auckland, Taupō and Rotorua Lakes districts, Kawerau, Whakatane, Ōpōtiki districts, Gisborne district, Wairoa district, Rangitikei, Whanganui and Ruapehu districts. All regions (except Northland) will move to **ORANGE** at 11.59pm on 30th December 2021.

And these regions are in ORANGE: The rest of the North Island (Waikato, Taranaki, Hawkes Bay, Wairarapa and Wellington), as will the entire South Island.

Note: The Auckland land and air boundaries remain in place and until 15 December 2021 people will only be able to travel out of Auckland for permitted reasons. From 15 December 2021, restrictions at the Auckland boundaries ease and personal travel will be permitted for any reason for travellers who have a Vaccine Pass or have a negative COVID-19 test, taken within 72 hours of travel.

The Traffic Light System

The Traffic Light system is designed for living with COVID-19 in the community. This is of course a huge mind-shift for everyone, but it is built on the foundation of one of the highest vaccination rates in the world.

Overall, the intent of the new system appears to be:

- Encourage everyone to get vaccinated so that we can safely reopen the country
- Reduce stress on the health system and protect the vulnerable
- Ensure certainty and business continuity by incentivising businesses that use the vaccination passport system

The Traffic Light System will offer businesses much more flexibility and more certainty in regards to business continuity. COVID-19 restrictions within each level of the Traffic Light system are designed to encourage businesses to use vaccination passports, where only vaccinated staff, contractors and customers are allowed into a business or work site.

For productions using vaccination passports there are no restrictions on numbers on a work site. And Close Proximity work (make up, stunts, actor interaction, etc.) can happen at all levels, although with increasing risk minimisation tools (PPE, hygiene measures, testing, etc.) in place when moving to the higher levels.

Productions choosing NOT to enforce a vaccination passport system may have restricted access to some council and private locations, and some locations may not be available to those productions. Close Proximity work is only allowed in the green level.

We STRONGLY urge you to familiarise yourself with the new protocols. And in the next week we hope to also publish department specific guidelines for the new system.

[ScreenSafe COVID – 19 Traffic Light System Information](#)

Thank you to the NZ On Air and the New Zealand Film Commission for funding the review of these protocols.

Sincerely,
The ScreenSafe COVID-19 Group



Email: info@screensafe.co.nz

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Te Māngai Pāho

THE KEY UPDATES TO THE PROTOCOLS ARE:

TO VACCINATION PASSPORT OR NOT?

The key decision for every production is to choose between using vaccination passports or not. The Protocols offers a safe way to work within either system, although using vaccination passports offers more freedom and business continuity at all alert levels.

There is no vaccination mandate for the film industry. However, the new legislation allows close contact industries like ours the ability to choose to use vaccination passports.

Employers/PCBUs need to make their own decision regarding vaccination requirements for their business. The new Prescribed Vaccination Assessment Tool from the WorkSafe (available from mid-December) may assist productions in making a decision. But the tool will not override any risk assessments that the production company has already done.

Studios, private locations, equipment rental houses, etc. will also need to make their own decision regarding vaccinations and access to venues and facilities.

RESTRICTED ACCESS TO COUNCIL VENUES FOR NON-VACCINATION PASSPORT JOBS

For productions that are not using vaccination passports, many councils and regional film offices will most likely restrict access to or put conditions on film permits (like a limit on numbers, etc.).

There are no definitive answers yet from the various councils and regional film offices. And it's likely to be a changing landscape for the immediate future. Please talk to your local council about their current or expected guidelines.

VACCINATION PASSPORTS (MY VACCINE PASS)

The Protocols explains how to get your personal vaccination passport (My Vaccine Pass) and if offers suggestions for how to implement and enforce the system using the NZ Pass Verifier app.

VACCINATION EXEMPTIONS

For persons who hold an official COVID-19 vaccine exemption issued by Ministry of Health Temporary Exemptions Panel, they will be able to obtain a My Vaccine Pass, giving them the same access as a vaccinated person.

CLOSE PROXIMITY WORK

Productions using vaccination passports can do Close Proximity Work (make up, stunts, close actor interaction, etc.) at all levels, although with increasing risk minimisation measures in place.

Non-vaccination passport jobs can only do Close Proximity Work at GREEN.



SURVEILLANCE TESTING

There are no major changes to this section, but it's worth reiterating that testing is likely to become common for many productions, regardless if they are using vaccination passports or not.

Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) testing will most likely be available for our industry in 2022, but as of now, there is neither the supply nor workplace training and processes to roll this out.

INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

Quarantine requirements when entering New Zealand have changed. The stay at an MIQ facility has been reduced from 14 days to 7 days, but people must then self-isolate at their home or accommodation for a further 3 days, or until their day 9 test comes back negative.

The Government has announced it will ease international travel restrictions into New Zealand in early 2022. The plan will allow certain travellers to enter New Zealand without going into MIQ, but with a mandatory seven day self-isolation period in place for people not required to enter MIQ.

The easing of restrictions will take place in three stages from January to April 2022, but final guidelines are yet to be announced.

DOMESTIC TRAVEL

Overall there will be no regional travel restrictions in the new system, regardless of regional Traffic Light levels.

However, special rules will be in place for Auckland for the 2021/2022 Holiday Period. Between 15 December 2021 and 17 January 2022, you can travel into and out of Auckland for any reason, but you must follow some restrictions:

- You must be fully vaccinated and have your My Vaccine Pass with you; or
- You must carry evidence of a negative COVID-19 test received within 72 hours before crossing the boundary.

After this period, you will be able to travel anywhere in New Zealand at all levels, apart from the rare exception of regional lockdowns.