

7 September 2021

To Club Secretaries
CC Regions

Covid 19- Advisory No 16

Hi Everyone

From 11.59pm on Tuesday the 7th of September New Zealand will be at Alert Level 2, apart from Auckland who will remain at Alert Level 4 until the 11.59pm on the 14th of September. The Government will make a further announcement on the 13th of September.

We are keen to support the return to bridge as soon as possible and practical. For the rest of New Zealand this is possible provided Clubs adhere to the new rules as set out below.

- 1. Indoor event venues limited to 50 people in any defined space.**
- 2. Scanning or record keeping is required.**
- 3. Mask wearing in public indoor areas.**

We refer you to the Governments Covid-19 Website <https://covid19.govt.nz> for the latest information.

The rationale behind the Governments decision is that they want to avoid major spreader events, hence the 50-person limit and new separation rules. As bridge clubs are not public venues the 2-metre rule does not apply but a 1 metre separation is required from people you do not know. This latter point applies even if you have been fully vaccinated. If physical distancing is difficult you are encouraged to wear a face covering.

Whilst NZ Bridge issues advisories, compliance with the rule's rests with each club. We know Covid-19 is airborne and the Delta variant is particularly virulent. It is important that each club owns the risks they are taking and puts in place appropriate controls. With this in mind, we offer the following guidelines for a return to face to face bridge:

1. Scheduled club sessions subject to points 1-3 above with a recommendation that this be limited to your own members.
2. The hosting of scheduled tournaments is strongly discouraged pending the next Government advisory on Monday 13th September.
3. The Government is concerned about gatherings and people being together for an extended period. Hence the limitation on the number of people. Bridge sessions we know last for 2.5 to 3.0 hours at a time. We also know that ventilation systems in many clubs are sub-optimal.
4. The need to maintain good hygiene practices- sterilizing hands, washing hands, coughing, or sneezing into your elbow, cleaning surfaces

5. People providing services (e.g., director) are not included in the gathering limit.
6. If food and drinks are provided everyone must be seated to be served.
7. If a place has more than 1 defined space, then people should not intermingle between the defined spaces. This includes when entering, leaving, or going to the bathroom.

We remind you if you symptoms or feel unwell, stay at home, and seek medical advice, have a test.

Stay well, stay safe and care for family and friends.

Cheers Allan