



Analysis of COVID-19 - ALERT LEVEL 2: Gatherings up to 100 implications for our social dance classes

*Research compiled by Deb Robinson for Fevah Modern Jive
25-30 May 2020*

Introduction

This document captures our analysis of the current NZ Government recommendations of returning to operation at alert Level 2 when gatherings of up to 100 are allowed as they apply to Fevah Modern Jive dance classes.

The COVID-19 pandemic is evolving so we will review our position regularly and make changes as required.

Sources

As a social dance group, we do not have a national guiding body to prepare guidelines specifically for us so we are gathering a variety of information and weighing up the most appropriate guidelines we can find. The most useful information surrounding our decision on restarting classes has been found in the Prime Minister's post-cabinet broadcast live on Monday 25 May 2020, the Worksafe NZ web site and Sport NZ website. Since the initial announcement, supporting information has also appeared on the Government Covid19 website, Unite Against Covid-19 Facebook page posts and discussion, and the New Zealand Major Events web site hosted by the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment.

See the notes at the end of this document for direct quotes from these sources that we have used as the basis of our analysis.

Definitions

Combing through the relevant sections of the Worksafe and Sport NZ websites we can see that social dance classes, such as those held at Fevah, are closest to a mix of the definitions of "Close Contact and Proximity Service" and a "Social Gathering". See Cited Sources at the end of this document for the full text of definitions. (Formerly Sport NZ defined "Gathering" or "Low-Risk Gathering" even though the activity is of a high-risk nature, which may be why it was removed) Therefore the guidance taken is based on the recommendations for both of these definitions.

Result

The good news is, according to our sources, contact based services are permitted to resume their operations, with appropriate care, and gatherings can be up to 100 people from midday Friday 29 May. We believe this means we can resume our classes under Alert Level 2 when gatherings of up to 100 are allowed.

Discussion

100 people limit

Most businesses that service a gathering do not need to include the staff in the 100 headcount of the gatherings, but our crew are as much a part of the gathering as the dancers, therefore we believe it is necessary to include all people in the venue in the total.

Our classes also operate differently to venues such as bars with a dance floor. As the Prime Minister pointed out, a bar can have changeover of patrons within one evening with a stream of gatherings many times over. Our evenings are each an individual gathering which will have a total limit of 100 people, we will not have multiple gatherings in a venue in one day. And we will not allow more people in after somebody leaves.

Venues

Another constraint placed upon us, is that the school halls we usually hire are not available yet. C3 Church on Hills Rd is starting to function again and is available for us to hire. They have agreed with requirements for cleaning and handwashing and that we can use the small kitchen for refilling water bottles and hand washing also.

This means that we can only operate 2 of our 4 nights for now. We will restart at C3 on Tuesdays and Thursdays.

Therefore, there may be high demand on these classes, so we will aim to launch a booking system to ensure it is easier for people to know if there is still space for an evening and whether they will be able to participate on a given night of the week.

Contact Tracing

Contact tracing is a requirement for operation under Level 2. We already have robust contact tracing implemented with our Fevah database. When people book for a class, we will also ask them to check we have their current details.

We will also provide a QR Code at the entrance for people who wish to register their attendance in their NZ COVID Tracer App.

Distancing and Hygiene

Our classes are not viable without contact between people. Now that the guidelines allow groups of up to 100 there is an expectation that there will be contact within that group. We understand that it may be confronting for many people to be making contact with many others again so quickly, so we intend to provide the opportunity for fixed couples within the class that do not rotate if that makes them more comfortable and eases them back into social dancing.

Washing hands will clearly be desirable and we require everyone who arrives at the venue to start by washing and drying their hands and recommend this during and at the end of the evening also.

There needs to be reminders in place to tell people not to come if they are unwell or may have been in contact with cases of COVID-19.

We will publish our hygiene and other guidelines before the launch of classes and signpost at classes.

Cited Sources

From: <https://worksafe.govt.nz/managing-health-and-safety/novel-coronavirus-covid/covid-19-alert-level-2-public-health-requirements-what-you-need-to-know/>

On: 27/5/2020 01:06 –gathering numbers are given as 10, but we know this will increase to 100 from 29 May 2020

COVID-19 Alert Level 2: Public Health Requirements – What you need to know

Businesses and services need to meet public health requirements under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level 2) Order 2020. This has been brought in by the Government to set out what businesses, services and others need to do to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We have information about what Alert Level 2 means for your business or service, to help you meet requirements in the Order. Remember you must also continue to meet all your obligations under the Health and Safety at Work Act 2015 (HSWA).

The Order has general and specific requirements. **Which requirements apply to you depends on what your business or service is.**

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All businesses and services

These are the general requirements for all businesses and services.

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For **physical distancing** you are required to:

- ensure all people (excludes workers) on the work premises or who use its services keep two metres away from each other and from the workers wherever possible
- ensure all workers keep one metre away from each other wherever possible
- **manage the risk of COVID-19 spread if physical distances cannot be met or maintained**
- limit the size of groups of people in the workplace to 10 people, if a group stays within one metre of each other.

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Close contact and proximity businesses and services

Examples include: massage and hairdressing services, small passenger services, and professional or semi-professional sports

Excludes: health and education services

For **physical distancing** you are required to:

- ensure all people keep one metre away from each other and from workers wherever possible, **except where physical contact or close proximity is required to deliver the service**
- keep workers apart one metre to the extent practicable
- mitigate the risks where physical distancing requirements cannot be fully met
- have no gatherings of more than 10 people within one metre.

For **contact tracing** you are required to:

- keep contact tracing records for all people who enter the work premises or use its services including workers.

These businesses and services must also follow the general requirements for all businesses and services, where they don't contradict the specific requirements.

When working closer than one metre **people aren't required to wear PPE**, like masks. However many workers and customers may want workers to wear masks.

If you choose to use PPE, the type is up to you and should be based on the level of risk for your business or service (e.g. number of people (workers and clients), the working proximity, the physical work area, and the time length of time people are together).

Healthcare workers need to refer to guidance about PPE provided by the Ministry of Health.

Work should only be completed within one metre if it can't otherwise be achieved. The time spent in close proximity needs to be kept to a minimum. At all other times, a one metre distance should be maintained.

From: <https://sportnz.org.nz/covid-19/sector-advice/mass-gathering-guidance/>

On: 30/05/2020 15:30 (and 26/5/20 13:40)

Sport New Zealand

MASS GATHERING GUIDANCE

Guidance on mass gatherings for the sport and recreation sector.

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HIGH LEVEL PUBLIC GUIDANCE ABOUT GATHERINGS

As we have seen in New Zealand, and around the world, gatherings present a very high risk of transmitting COVID-19.

Gatherings are allowed at Alert Level 2 with a limit of up to 100 people. Ensure you keep a record for the purposes of contact tracing for people who don't know each other. There are

no physical distancing requirements for a group up to 100 but multiple groups of 100 should not intermingle.

WHAT IS A GATHERING?

A social gathering is a group of people who are intermingling, and includes both public and private activities, but does not include activities where people remain 2 metres apart (e.g. people at a playground or park) or activities undertaken on a business premises or educational facility. Gatherings include parties, weddings, funerals, tangihanga, religious celebrations, conference, or spectators watching sports or music events (this isn't an exhaustive list).

Gatherings are not: offices or work sites (including professional sports, gyms), supermarkets, educational facilities, retail stores, cafes, bars or restaurants, public transport, hospitals, prisons, or malls (all of whom have their own measures in place to prevent transmission). Gatherings are not people going to a public venue like a library, museum, or going to a park or a beach for a walk where other people are present.

For indoor venues like a shopping mall, or swimming pool there are guidelines for operating safely.

[copied on 26/5/20 but since removed from the web document]

There are two types of gatherings relevant to sport and recreation:

- *Gatherings of friends and whanau – where everyone knows each other*
- *Lower-risk gatherings – where not everyone knows each other and therefore someone keeps records to enable contact tracing]*

All gatherings and events should practice good public health measures such as ensuring:

- People with cold and flu symptoms do not attend
- Surfaces are wiped down regularly with disinfectant
- Facilities for regular and thorough hand washing with soap and water and drying, or hand sanitiser are provided.

From: <https://covid19.govt.nz/businesses-and-employees/businesses-and-services/contact-tracing-at-your-place-of-business/>

On: 26/5/2020 17:43

Who needs to collect contact tracing information

Non-retail businesses and services

All non-retail businesses must record details of all people's movement on their premises. This includes all employees, visitors and customers. You should keep people 1 metre apart at all times, where practical.

From: <https://covid19.govt.nz/businesses-and-employees/businesses-and-services/contact-tracing-at-your-place-of-business/>

On: 27/5/2020 00:47

How to collect contact tracing information

There are multiple different ways you can set up a contact tracing register. For example, a paper register, using an app or scanning a membership card.

Your contact tracing register or record-keeping system must collect people's:

- full name
- phone number or email
- residential address
- date of entering the business
- time in and out.

From: <https://www.majorevents.govt.nz/resource-bank/covid-19-advice-for-event-organisers/>

website title: New Zealand Major Events - MBIE

On: 28/5/2020 15:26

COVID-19 Advice for event organisers

Last reviewed 27 May 2020

New Zealand is now at Alert Level Two. New Zealand's priority is slowing the spread of COVID-19. Gatherings such as concerts and sporting events pose a high risk for transmission of infectious diseases.

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Public Events at Alert Level Two

There have been some changes to the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level 2) Order 2020 which will come into effect from 11.59am Friday 29 May. These amendments change and clarify some of the restrictions on events.

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Record keeping for contact tracing

Record-keeping for contact tracing means collecting and maintaining the following information: full name, a phone number or email, date of entering business, time in and out.

The requirement to collect a residential address has been removed.

From: <https://covid19.govt.nz/latest-updates/alert-level-2-changes-confirmed-for-friday-29-may/>

On: 28 May 2020 18:11

Alert Level 2 changes confirmed for Friday 29 May

Social gatherings can be held with up to 100 people

The limit for social gatherings will be lifted to 100 people. These include events at home and outside of home like religious services, parties, weddings, tangihanga and funerals. It is important everyone keeps playing it safe.

This means:

While hospitality businesses continue to have the 100 person limit, group bookings of more than 10 people will be permitted, but the 3 S's — seated, separated, single-server — still apply.

A funeral or tangihanga will also have a 100 person limit, and organisers are no longer required to apply to the Ministry of Health to hold one.

Social gatherings at a private dwelling will be able to have a maximum of 100 people.

A business or responsible individual, in charge of a social gathering, must ensure records are kept for contact tracing purposes, except where every person in a gathering knows each other. This includes in your home, community hall, or other such space.

Participating in community sport will also become easier, with greater numbers of people able to gather up to a limit of 100 people. Requirements for contact tracing still remain.

Workers providing a service to a social gathering, such as waiters at a wedding, are not included in the 100 person limit.

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Contact tracing - privacy

Businesses no longer need to record a person's residential address for contact tracing purposes.

All businesses, other than retail, still need to collect and maintain a record of staff, customers and visitors to their premises including names, visit times and an effective means of communication such as phone number or email address.

Businesses that collect personal information need to treat it with care and keep it safe. This means businesses should:

- keep contact tracing registers secure for 2 months. When records are 2 months old, they should be destroyed
- only share registers with the Ministry of Health or district health boards

- not use the information collected for any other purpose, for example, marketing or customer surveys
- make sure customers cannot see anyone else’s personal information.

A business that uses a booking system, for example a hairdresser, that already captures names, times and contact details is not required to run a separate system for keeping records for contact tracing purposes.

Jacinda Ardern live update Post-Cabinet press conference Monday 25 May 2020

<https://www.facebook.com/jacindaardern/videos/289095482256054/>

@ 3min40s - Gatherings can increase to 100 from midday Friday 29 May “renormalizing of life”

@ approx. 8min – Dance floors are not to be used in bars, but at organized events with fewer than 100 and full contact tracing a dance floor is allowed. Venues such as bars have may more people passing through in one evening.

Screen capture of Facebook page “Unite Against Covid-19” owned by the New Zealand Government

On: Friday 29 May 2020

