

# Forestry Work Under the Covid-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System)



There are 3 key things forestry businesses need to do under the new Covid-19 Traffic Light framework:

- 1 Assess the risk to workers
- 2 Put in place controls to protect people (and your business)
- 3 Know what to do if someone at work gets sick.

## 1. ASSESS THE RISK TO WORKERS

Forestry isn't subject to mandatory vaccination requirements. However, businesses must still assess the risk of people being infected at work, and must involve workers when they do this assessment. The assessment must be for the role, not the individual doing the role. Be aware that some businesses (such as Ports or forest owners) might require vaccination as a condition of entry to their workplaces.

- [See WorkSafe guidance on doing this assessment](#)

The government tool can help with this assessment. Businesses need to answer 'yes' to at least 3 of these 4 questions before they can require vaccination:

- Does the worker work in an indoor space that is less than 100m<sup>2</sup>?
- It is reasonable for the worker to maintain 1m physical distancing from other people?
- Is the worker in close proximity to any other person for more than 15 minutes?
- Does the worker provide services to people who are vulnerable to Covid-19

[See more about the tool](#), including who it covers, exemptions, and dealing with 3rd parties that require vaccination.

## 2. PUT IN PLACE CONTROLS TO PROTECT PEOPLE

Businesses need to follow the controls required by the government in the red, orange and green traffic light system.

- See more about working at [red](#) and [orange](#). At green scanning in and record keeping are required, and face coverings are encouraged indoors.

At work, additional controls will help protect workers, and your business from the financial consequences of you or your workers getting sick.

- See additional controls for [red](#), [orange](#) and [green](#).

## 3. KNOW WHAT TO DO IF SOMEONE AT WORK GETS SICK

Make sure people know that if someone feels sick with Covid-19 symptoms at work, they need to leave, get tested and stay home till the test result comes back.

If the test is positive, follow the instructions of the Public Health Unit and your Medical Officer of Health.

- [Guidance for workplaces that have a case of Covid-19](#)
- [See guidance on How to Decontaminate a Worksite](#)

### KEEP UP THE HEALTHY HABITS

These healthy habits that we're already doing will help slow the spread of the virus:

- Scan in using the Covid-19 app
- Regularly wash and dry your hands or use hand sanitiser.
- Sneeze and cough into your elbow.
- Wear a face covering or keep your distance from people you do not know.
- Clean or disinfect shared surfaces often.
- If you have cold or flu symptoms, get a test and stay home.
- Get vaccinated and download the My Vaccine Pass.

# ADDITIONAL CONTROLS AT RED



## Site entry

Require everyone on site to scan in using the Covid App or a paper register, and keep a record of who has been on site.

If vaccinations are required, check My Vaccine Passes.

Limit visitors to site.

Where practical, stagger start, finish and break times to reduce mingling.

Provide soap and water/sanitiser at entrances and require workers and visitors to use them before entering and leaving the site.

Put up signs at site entrances and common areas to remind people about Covid-19 protocols.



## Site operations

Provide soap and water/sanitiser for people to use during the day.

Regularly clean shared work areas using disinfectant.

Clean shared vehicles before and after use.

Increase ventilation in enclosed spaces.

Keep team sizes as small as possible or create work 'bubbles' to minimise the impact of a positive case on your business.

Split larger worksites into zones to keep teams/crews separated.

Where practical, office employees should work remotely.

Nominate one crew member to deal with site visitors/deliveries etc. Keep the contact as brief as possible, and keep one metre physical distance.

Wear a face covering when dealing with visitors/members of the public.

Ask for paperwork to be emailed or wear gloves when handling it.

Disposable masks and any other disposable PPE should be put into bags and removed from site.



## Site Meetings and Inductions

Hold meetings online where possible.

For face-to-face meetings:

- keep numbers to a minimum and keep a record of who attended
- hold meetings in open areas where possible, or well-ventilated rooms
- keep teams in work bubbles, separated by physical distancing.



## Extra controls to consider if workers are not vaccinated

Increased surveillance of symptoms.

Physical distancing.

Maintain work and travel bubbles.

Require visitors to wear face covering on site.

Require unvaccinated worker to wear face coverings when around others workers.

Testing may be used as an additional control; either existing PCR or Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) when available.

Ensure that any concerns vaccinated workers have about working with unvaccinated people are addressed.

# ADDITIONAL CONTROLS AT ORANGE



## Site entry

Require everyone on site to scan in using the Covid App or a paper register and keep a record of who has been on site.

If vaccinations are required, check My Vaccine Passes.

Limit visitors to site.

Provide soap and water/sanitiser at entrances and require workers and visitors to use them before entering and leaving the site.

Put up signs at site entrances and common areas to remind people about Covid-19 protocols.



## Site operations

Provide soap and water/sanitiser for people to use during the day, and disinfectant for cleaning.

Clean shared vehicles before and after use.

Keep team sizes as small as possible or create work 'bubbles' to minimise the impact of a positive case on your business.

Where practical, office employees should work remotely.

Wear a face covering when dealing with visitors/members of the public.

Disposable masks and any other disposable PPE should be put into bags and removed from site.



## Site Meetings and Inductions

Hold meetings online where possible.

For face-to-face meetings:

- keep numbers to a minimum and keep a record of who attended
- hold meetings in open areas where possible, or well-ventilated rooms
- keep teams in work bubbles, separated by physical distancing.



## Extra controls to consider if workers are not vaccinated

Increased surveillance of symptoms.

Physical distancing.

Maintain work and travel bubbles.

Require visitors to wear face covering on site.

Require unvaccinated worker to wear face coverings when around others workers.

Testing may be used as an additional control; either existing PCR or Rapid Antigen Testing (RAT) when available.

Ensure that any concerns vaccinated workers have about working with unvaccinated people are addressed.

# ADDITIONAL CONTROLS AT GREEN



## Site entry

Require everyone on site to scan in using the Covid App or a paper register.

Provide soap and water/sanitiser at entrances for workers and visitors to use them before entering and leaving the site.

Put up signs at site entrances and common areas to remind people about Covid-19 protocols.



## Site operations

Provide soap and water/sanitiser for people to use during the day, and disinfectant for cleaning.

Disposable masks and any other disposable PPE should be put into bags and removed from site.

## MORE INFORMATION

Call Healthline if you have Covid-19 symptoms **0800 358 5453**

Need to talk? For mental health help, call or text **1737**

For free helpline for businesses, including advice and access to government business support, HR and general business advice, and access to online resources and webinars, call **0800 500 362** for North Island, or **0800 50 50 96** for South Island.

[Checklist to make sure your household is ready if someone gets Covid-19](#)

# COVID-19 – DECONTAMINATION CLEAN FOLLOWING SUSPECTED CASE ON SITE

## Personal Protective Equipment



- Wear **tight fitting disposable gloves**.
- You must wash your hands immediately following removal of gloves.



- Eye protection and face masks while cleaning is to stop you from touching your face.
- If you do not have access to goggles and face masks **do not touch your face**.

\*The virus cannot independently move off a surface.



- **Disposable clothing if available can be worn** to protect clothing.
- If you do not have access to disposable clothing, you may use overalls and wash them on a heavy-duty hot water cycle with any household laundry detergent.

## Decontamination

**Ensure you read the labels re: instructions for safe and effective use of cleaning product including ensuring good ventilation while cleaning.**



**If surfaces are dirty first clean with detergent and water to remove the dirt, then disinfect.**



**Disinfect surfaces. Household grade disinfectant spray or wipes will kill the virus.**

**If your workplace uses a commercial cleaner, contact them about the situation. Request a full site clean and disinfection of all touch points.**

## Clean up and Disposal



- Remove PPE carefully (gloves removed last)
- Seal along with all cleaning cloths into a plastic bag.
- Rubbish and items to be washed sealed in separate bags.

**Clearly label the bags COVID – 19 contaminated items and do not touch.**

**1. Dispose of sealed bag in general rubbish:**

- Once received confirmation of negative COVID-19 test for suspected case or
- After 3 days (from date of suspected exposure)

**2. Wash all non disposable clothes in heavy-duty hot water cycle with any household laundry detergent.**

\*Studies suggest the virus can last up to 3 days on certain surfaces.



- Following decontamination and bagging of rubbish or laundry **wash your hands with soap and water for 20(secs)**.
- Dry hands thoroughly with paper towels or an air dryer.

\*All information in this document was sourced World Health Organization, Center for Disease Control and Australian and New Zealand Ministries of Health websites.