



COVID-19 Vaccination Policy

RATIONALE

The Delta variant of COVID-19 has proved to be a game changer and carries significantly higher risks of transmission than previous strains of the virus. The Government has repeatedly emphasised the importance of vaccinations – to protect individuals and to give the country more possibilities in managing the virus. Vaccination is widely considered critical to protecting people's health and safety, by reducing the risk of transmission and minimising the clinical impacts of COVID-19 infection.

Under current legislative settings, all organisations can require visitors to their facilities, and/or participants in activities that they run, to be vaccinated as a condition of entry, subject to having undertaken a risk assessment to inform a final policy decision. When the new COVID-19 Protection Framework comes into force, vaccination status will be a key feature in determining what is possible under different settings (green, orange, red).

This policy sets out ARGOS Gymnastics COVID-19 vaccination requirements as they apply to employees, and contractors, and to all members and volunteers*. It is designed to keep our people safe and is aligned to the Government's objective of minimising the impacts of the COVID-19 global pandemic and protecting the communities of Aotearoa New Zealand.

* including coaches, officials, managers, athletes and parents.

STATEMENT

At ARGOS Gymnastics, we encourage and support our members being vaccinated against COVID-19, so that we can reduce the risk of exposure and transmission of COVID-19. It is important that we provide you with a safe community, in which you can undertake gymnastics and currently the best protection against spreading COVID-19 is vaccination. We recognise that COVID-19 poses a very real and serious risk to the safety of our staff, members and volunteers, and in accordance with our health and safety obligations, we are required to take reasonably practicable steps to put in place control measures to manage and minimise (or eliminate) any such risk.

ARGOS GYMNASTICS REQUIREMENTS

From 3 December 2021 gymnasts under the age of 12 years and 3 months do not need to provide evidence of being vaccinated at this time, however gymnasts over the age of 12 years and 3 months will need to be vaccinated (i.e. have completed a NZ Government recognised course of COVID-19 vaccination) to access ARGOS Gymnastics facilities/activities and enter and use the gym aligned with our existing measures to keep everyone as safe as possible.

As a result of the risk assessment undertaken by ARGOS Gymnastics, all those entering the gym will be required to have completed a NZ Government recognised course of COVID-19 vaccination. ARGOS Gymnastics will require proof of vaccination prior to entry to our facility and activities.

VACCINATION STATUS

Where vaccinations are required, ARGOS Gymnastics may ask individuals to disclose, and/or provide proof of, their vaccination status. Information regarding vaccination status is collected for the purposes of our health and safety management planning, implementing this policy, and to identify any relevant support



measures (related to Covid-19). ARGOS Gymnastics will hold this information in accordance with the Privacy Act 2020.

You are not required to give this information and if you choose not to provide proof of having received the vaccine, or do not wish to disclose your vaccination status then we will respect your personal choice and right to that privacy. In the interests of health and safety, those unable or unwilling to provide proof of vaccination when requested, will be treated as though they have not been vaccinated.

EXEMPTIONS

ARGOS Gymnastics respects the rights of individuals to choose whether to be vaccinated and acknowledges that there may be medical or other reasons or circumstances, for not being vaccinated, for which you may seek an exemption. Where an employee or contractor seeks an exemption from the requirement to be vaccinated, ARGOS Gymnastics may require them to provide confirmation of this, which may include a letter from their medical practitioner or religious leader.

If, in future, a role within ARGOS Gymnastics is required to be performed by a vaccinated person under the COVID-19 Public Health Response (Vaccinations) Order 2021 (**Order**), exemptions to the COVID-19 vaccine will be subject to that Order. Currently, exemptions under the Order require a suitably qualified medical practitioner or nurse practitioner to apply to the Ministry of Health on an employee's behalf, on the grounds that the employee meets the specified exemption criteria.

Even where an exemption from being vaccinated is obtained by an individual, ARGOS Gymnastics may have to determine whether it is able to safely manage the relevant risks posed by that individual not being vaccinated, and whether any accommodations can be made.

ARGOS Gymnastics will work with those people who are not vaccinated on a case-by-case basis, respectfully and in good faith to explore options and try and find a way forward.

- For ARGOS Gymnastics employees this may involve steps such as working from home, providing alternative duties, or redeployment where practical, but depending on the role, this may not always be possible. Termination of employment is also an option, but this will be used as a last resort, and only after ARGOS Gymnastics has explored and considered other alternative options first.
- For ARGOS Gymnastics members (including coaches, officials, athletes, parents, and other visitors), this is likely to be more challenging given the nature of our settings and operations. As a result, unvaccinated members should expect to be denied entry or participation rights because of their non-vaccinated status.

ADDITIONAL MEASURES

In addition to this policy, ARGOS Gymnastics will maintain a range of appropriate and complementary measures in its facilities/activities to further minimise the risks associated with COVID-19, as well as following all guidance set out in the legislation and public health guidance.

The conditions of entry **before coming to the facility or taking part in activities include:**

- Stay home if unwell
- You must have produced evidence that you are fully vaccinated to gain access to our gym
- You must wear a mask at all times except when being active



- Wash or sanitise hands before entering the facility/activities and when moving through different areas
- Scan your QR code every time you enter facility or at activities
- You must abide by any distancing requirements that apply e.g. 1m at Red level

The COVID-19 health questions that will need to be answered include:

- You do not have any symptoms associated with COVID-19 (e.g. fever, cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, sneezing/runny nose or loss of sense of smell)
- You are fully vaccinated against COVID-19
- You do not have COVID-19 nor are you awaiting the results from being tested for COVID-19
- You have not been in contact with any known or suspected cases of COVID-19 in the past 14 days
- You have not returned, or been in contact with anyone else who has returned, from overseas in the past 14 days

ARGOS Gymnastics acknowledges that best practice in the minimisation and mitigation of the impacts of COVID-19 is evolving rapidly (e.g. the potential introduction of rapid antigen testing). Given this, ARGOS Gymnastics confirms to its members its intention to work in good faith, as new information and recommendations come to hand, and to do its utmost to introduce the latest and complementary measures to further minimise risks.

ARGOS Gymnastics notes that this policy is based upon the information currently available from Government and is subject to change as we learn and understand more about how New Zealand manages the fight against COVID-19 in our communities and workplaces. In addition, the Government may mandate that ARGOS Gymnastics take certain steps. This policy may be revoked, amended or replaced at ARGOS Gymnastics sole discretion on reasonable notice in the circumstances at that time.

Related documents

This COVID-19 Vaccination policy should be read in conjunction with the following ARGOS Gymnastics documents:

- *Risk assessment:*
- *COVID-19 FAQs*
- *Health and Safety policy*
- *COVID-19 safety plan*
- *Privacy policy*

REVIEW

This policy will be closely monitored by Shannon Hannah, Club President. A COVID-19 group, led by Stephanie Kerr, will take responsibility for managing the *COVID-19 safety plan* and reviewing and updating this policy and risk assessment as needed in consultation with ARGOS Gymnastics Committee.

Date reviewed: 29 November 2021

Next review date: 28 January 2022