



COVID-19 GUIDANCE STATEMENT FROM MD202 COUNCIL OF GOVERNORS

This guidance is intended for Lions Clubs, Lions Charitable Trusts, Lions Districts and Multiple District considering how to approach meetings, events, fundraising etc. in light of the current Covid-19 situation.

Each Lions Club and Trust is a separate legal entity and as there is no Lions International position at this time on participation in events by Lions and the public, based on vaccination status, it is for each club or entity to reach its own decision.

The mandate for vaccination by the New Zealand Government does not cover non-profit organisations. However, as a voluntary organisation that serves communities through projects and fundraising as well as the nature of work we do, we are encouraged to follow the government guidelines.

The starting point is to be aware of and follow all Government and Ministry of Health orders and guidance.

The Health and Safety of all involved must be considered for any activity undertaken.

- Can this meeting/activity/event be undertaken in a safe way with minimisation of the risks to all involved?
- Are there any other processes that need to be put in place to reduce the risks of infection over and above the current requirements?
- Should all participants be asked for their vaccination status? Is that required to protect the health of other participants?
- What requirements are mandated by the venue?
- Should meetings be restricted to double vaccinated participants?
- What about people who cannot be vaccinated for health or age reasons (e.g., children under 12 or adults on medical advice)? Should they be able to participate in the activity?

Assess the risks and decide what measures are required (over and above) any mandatory requirements e.g., double vaccinated people only for certain events and in certain high contact places such as cafés or when serving food.

Clubs should carry out a Risk Assessment for any activity or project being undertaken in the community to determine whether it is appropriate for unvaccinated members to participate.

It is not unlawful to put in place restrictions to protect the health of people participating in Lion's activities. The restrictions should (for members) ensure that their ability to participate is provided for in a non-contact way. For example, people can take roles in projects that are behind the scenes and do not involve community contact and voting can be done in online meetings.

If a club decides to restrict participation to double vaccinated people, then it needs to be careful how it collects and stores such information. Information should be kept private as far as lawfully possible e.g., it could be restricted to the Health & Safety, and Privacy officers of the club of either Lion's entity. It must only be used for the purpose for which it was collected and should not be kept longer than necessary for its purpose.

Remember, members who are not vaccinated may still wish to exercise their membership rights e.g., to take part in a club board or convention remit discussion or vote. Can alternatives be arranged to ensure they have that opportunity i.e., a mix of in person and online attendance?



Irrespective of whether members are vaccinated or not clubs should continue to follow the Ministry of Health guidelines for physical meetings which currently include: scanning QR codes, physical distancing, wearing face masks and hand sanitising.

The situation is developing quickly, and changes are happening often as new systems such as the traffic lights are introduced in place of Levels 1 to 4.

The situation is ever evolving so keep your policies under review and up to date. If any further clarification is required contact your District Governor and Legal Officer.

Whatever you decide - remember we need to keep in mind the Lions Clubs Code of Ethics and also to be kind and respect people's decisions and opinions, kindness matters.