

New Zealand Rugby COVID-19 Level 2 Match Day Guide

New Zealand Rugby has developed the Return to Rugby Requirements which prioritises the safety of participants and supporters and provides rugby clubs and schools with the guidance on what they need to do to be ready for kick off.

As part of the Return to Rugby requirements and to meet Government COVID-19 guidelines, all rugby clubs and schools will need to develop a health and safety plan in four key priority areas: trainings, changing rooms, club rooms and match days.

This guide helps Rugby Clubs and Schools develop their Match Day health and safety plan. Your local Provincial Union can provide you with support and will need to approve the plan before clubs can be approved to host matches.

Helpful information and resources on health and safety plans can be found on the [Worksafe New Zealand website](#).

COVID-19 Alert Level 2 Controls: Mass gatherings cannot exceed 100 people (including players, coaches, referees, medical staff, and planned spectators). Mass gathering should remain separate to other mass gatherings at all time and observe a minimum of 2 metre social distancing between each mass gathering. People should wear a mask if they can.

It is now mandatory to ensure recordkeeping at venues and events is completed using the Covid Tracer App.

Definitions for the purposes of this guide:

Mass Gathering - where people come into contact and cannot maintain 2m distancing. For the purposes of rugby, this includes players, coaches, referees, support personnel, and planned spectators. There may be more than one mass gathering at a venue provided that they are controlled and do not intermingle.

Mass Gathering requirements – Those in mass gatherings must observe personal hygiene, contact tracing requirements and avoid unnecessary contact with people they don't know.

Planned spectators – these are spectators that have come specifically to observe a match being played and will need to be in a controlled space to watch the match. They should not attend if they have flu-like symptoms.

Casual spectator – these are spectators that are coincidentally in the vicinity of a match (walking in the park with their dog or spectators transiting to or from another field) and observe for a short period and do not transit into controlled spaces.

Controlled spaces – these are designated areas where mass gathering controls are established and club/school measures are in place to contact trace, support hygiene measures, and manage numbers. Controlled areas will include individual fields, changing rooms, sidelines and clubrooms. There may be multiple mass gatherings within a controlled area provided these gathering do not intermingle. These areas are the priority for clubs and schools to manage but the definition of these is a site by site decision. See example below of controlled and uncontrolled spaces.

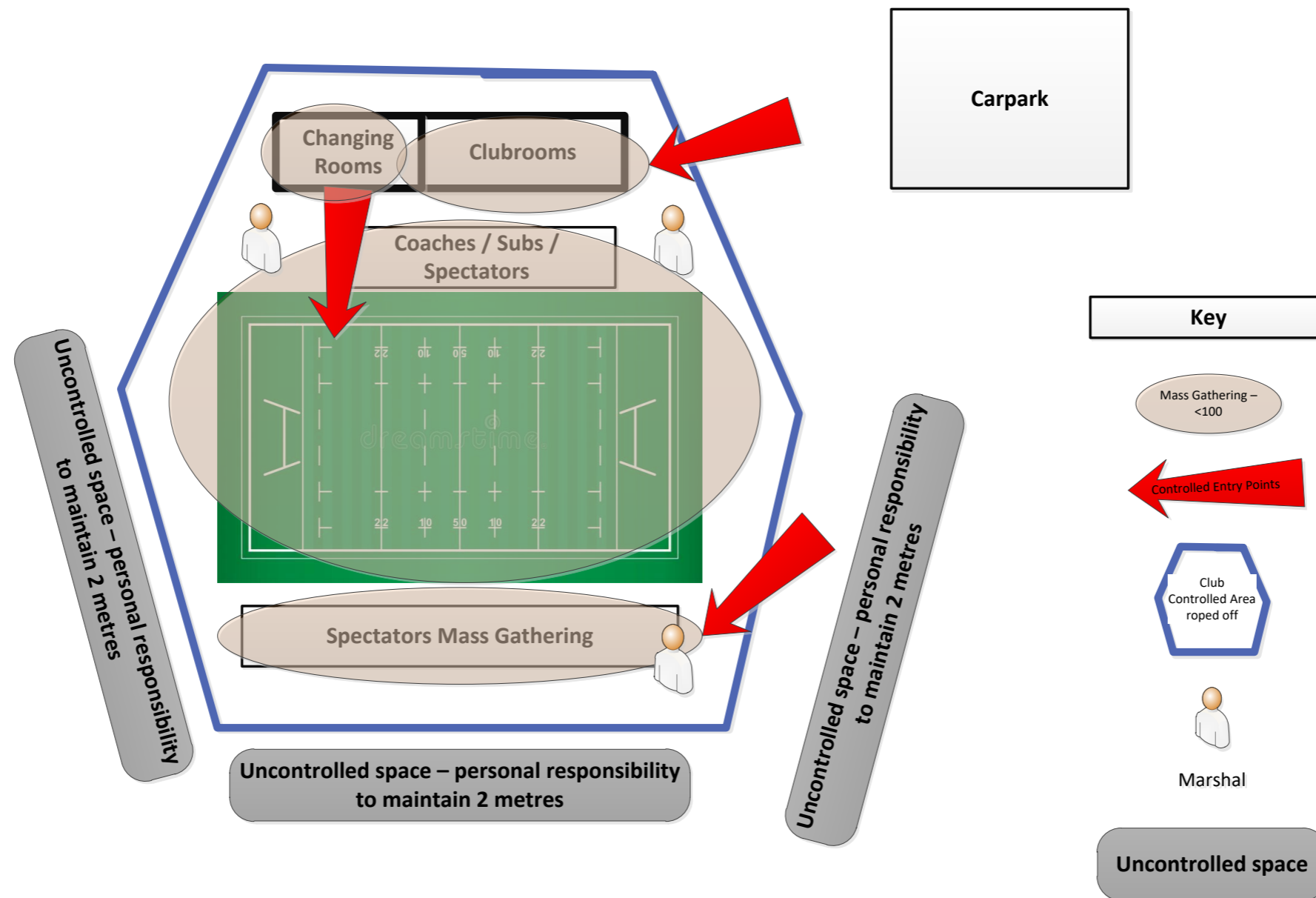
Uncontrolled spaces – these are areas where people are required to exercise personal responsibility around maintaining 2 metre distance from others that they do not know and are therefore not subject to mass gathering measures. These areas should be monitored by clubs and schools as a secondary priority after controlled areas. See example below of controlled and uncontrolled spaces.

Health & Safety Considerations	Potential Health & Safety Actions	Person Responsible	PU Sign Off
<p>Who is Responsible?</p> <p>Each club and school will need to develop, implement and monitor the match day plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider Director of Rugby or Coach Development if one is available. Alternatively, a committee member or staff member. 		
<p>Does anyone outside your club need to be involved in your plan?</p> <p>Consider other authorities and agencies that might need to contribute to or be consulted as part of your plan.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Refer to any existing PU guidance around match day operations/event management. Refer to any guidance from Local Councils that may apply. See below on co-ordination with other sports clubs. 		

Health & Safety Considerations	Potential Health & Safety Actions	Person Responsible	PU Sign Off
<p>Fixture Management Successful mass gathering management may involve reducing the number of matches at your ground and/or allowing more time between matches to allow disbursements of all participants prior to next round of matches commencing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Engage with your PU or competition organising committee to ensure that they are aware of your capability and capacity to manage matches at your grounds. Be clear with your participants and visiting teams about your ability to manage player and spectator numbers. Discourage attendance by spectators if there are concerns about your ability to manage numbers. 		
<p>Co-ordination with other Sports Have you considered other sports that use your facilities/grounds?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Make contact early with other users to share Health and Safety plans and co-ordinate activities where possible. Be flexible around timings and agreed usage to ensure crowd controls can be exercised. 		
<p>Managing mass gatherings Mass gatherings are limited to 100 (including players, referees, coaches, support personnel, and spectators) per field where they cannot maintain 2m distancing.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consider limiting planned spectators to a simple rule of one player/one spectator (in particular Small Blacks). Designate areas as controlled and uncontrolled to prioritise the control of mass gathering measures. (see diagram below) Appoint club volunteers to act as crowd marshals to support contact tracing and managing mass gathering restrictions of 100. Create suitable signage for crowds so they understand their requirements. Be clear about controlled and uncontrolled spaces with signage including maps of your grounds and the respective areas. 		
<p>Contact Tracing Each mass gatherings need to contract traced separately.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review your venue and fixtures to determine when you may need to have measures in place. Establish your contact tracing for your respective areas and appoint a person(s) to be responsible to manage and monitor contact tracing at your venue as required. Set up each controlled area as a separate mass gathering site as required. Create signage for uncontrolled areas so people know that they need to maintain personal responsibility about maintaining 2 metres distance from people they don't know. This may include but is not limited to stands and embankments. It is mandatory to ensure recordkeeping at venues and events is completed using the Covid Tracer App. <p>Resources: View the Contact Tracing resource at https://qrform.tracing.covid19.govt.nz/</p>		
<p>Equipment Cleaning All rugby equipment must be cleaned before and after matches.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Includes but is not limited to balls, hit shields, weights, RipRugby belts, tackle bags, cones, and flags. Equipment is not to be shared between matches without first being cleaned. Disinfecting equipment can be achieved with a solution of 1:10 bleach to water solution in a spray bottle. Ensure that your bleach has not expired. Reminder: Your 1:10 bleach solution is only effective for 24 hours. 		
<p>Hand Hygiene There must be hand hygiene measures in place for all participants part of a mass gathering.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sufficient supplies of hand sanitiser available for all participants prior to entering any mass gathering. Access to soap and water to enable good hand washing measures. 		
<p>Changing Room Use Is there a plan in place to ensure players can utilise changing rooms safely and not exceed internal gathering limits?</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Only use changing rooms where these have been approved to open. Discuss with local authorities their requirements if a council facility is to be used. 		

Health & Safety Considerations	Potential Health & Safety Actions	Person Responsible	PU Sign Off
<p>After Match Socialising Is there a plan in place to ensure players can socialise safely in clubrooms without exceeding clubrooms mass gathering limits</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Only use clubrooms where these have been approved to open. • Team or match socialising should not occur in changing rooms or carparks. 		
<p>Monitoring the Plan It is important that all health and safety plans are monitored and adjusted to keep participants safe and as Government guidelines change.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitor your plan in its early stages to ensure that is effective and understood. • Stay updated with New Zealand Rugby and Provincial Union COVID-19 advisories. • Set regular updates to ensure that it remains sustainable and relevant. 		

Example of Venue layout where large numbers possible expected (potentially Senior and School Rugby)



Example of Venue layout where large numbers possible for multi field complex (potentially Small Blacks)

