

Basement Theatre

Update on Vaccine Pass Requirements

26 April, 2022

VENUE - ARTISTS/HIRERS & AUDIENCES

You will have heard that the government recently announced changes and updates to the Covid Protection Framework, and since April 4 2022, the My Vaccine Pass is no longer a government-enforced requirement for Tāmaki Makaurau businesses.

At Basement, our core objective is to stay responsive to the health, safety and wellbeing needs of our people. We have done that, and right now we believe strongly that Basement's unique communities aren't quite ready for this measure to be lifted from the matrix of methods we use to keep everyone safe.

For this reason, Basement Theatre will temporarily continue to uphold the requirement of My Vaccine Passes for artists/hirers and audiences at our venue. *This decision is an interim stance - we will continue to review all factors regularly and in an ongoing manner, and update our communities accordingly.*

In making this decision, four core concerns that are unique to who we are were at the front of our minds:

- We are located in a heritage building that lacks airflow and ventilation
- Many of our community members have an increased level of vulnerability to the transmission of Covid-19
- We care about artists' livelihoods, and we want to do our best to protect them from cancelled shows and loss of income
- We want to do our bit to bring vitality back to our city, encouraging audiences to regain confidence in stepping out into the CBD again. We've heard from our people that vaccine passes will enable that to happen.

We want to acknowledge that our decision to temporarily continue with vaccine passes prolongs the access barrier they create for those who aren't pass holders. We want those people to know that we certainly envision a time where vaccine passes won't be a requirement when visiting or staging a work at Basement. We're easing our way back in, and we thank everyone for understanding the need for us to take a gentle approach.

We will also continue to implement other health and safety measures alongside the My Vaccine Pass, which can be found on our website. These measures change according to where we are on the Protection Framework, and will also be updated regularly in response to the changing nature of Covid-19.

We thank everyone for their ongoing contributions and for continuing to support our decision-making, in the important effort of ensuring safety and wellbeing for our people.

DOJO & OFFICE

Unlike the venue, our community rehearsal space (the Dojo) and the Basement office have a lower risk profile, and as a result of this, we will be lifting the requirement for all visitors to these spaces to show a My Vaccine Pass. This reasoning is based on the following factors:

- The high rate of vaccination in Tāmaki Makaurau.
- Updated public health advice, and the government's recommended removal of vaccine mandates for workers.
- The relatively low risk factor of these physical spaces. The Dojo has a mechanical ventilation system and is a large space where people can distance easily. The Basement office is able to be ventilated naturally, though this will be more challenging in Winter.
- Users of these spaces are familiar with one another, contained and able to proactively monitor and manage the risks involved using less invasive measures.