

COVID-19 VACCINATION POLICY

Health, safety and wellbeing for all of our people under the Covid-19 Protection Framework

POLICY BACKGROUND

The government recently announced changes to the Covid Protection Framework, and since April 4 2022, the My Vaccine Pass has no longer been a government-enforced requirement for Tāmaki Makaurau businesses. With this change to mandate comes the need for us to update our standing Covid-19 Vaccination Policy established on 10th December 2021. At Basement, our core objective is to stay responsive to the health, safety and wellbeing needs of our people.

POLICY STATEMENTS

Policy 1:

In response to community consultation, Basement Theatre will temporarily adhere to the following policy applicable to our venue (Lower Greys Ave, Auckland CBD, 1010):

Basement Theatre requires all those that are of vaccination age who enter our venue as an artist/hirer or audience member to verify their vaccination (or exemption from being vaccinated) upon or prior to entry, with a valid My Vaccine Pass. 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.

Policy 2:

The following policy will now apply to our community rehearsal space (The Dojo, 313 Queen St, Auckland CBD, 1010):

As a result of the lower risk profile within this space, all visitors will no longer be required to show a My Vaccine Pass.

This reasoning is based on the following factors:

- The Dojo has a mechanical ventilation system and is a large space where people can distance easily
- Users of these spaces are familiar with one another, contained and able to proactively monitor and manage the risks involved using less invasive measures
- The high rate of vaccination in Tāmaki Makaurau

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.

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VACCINATION VERIFICATION PROCESS

If you have been vaccinated outside of Aotearoa, we ask that you present a letter from the Ministry of Health confirming full vaccination status and the details of the vaccination. We understand the issues that the My Vaccine Pass poses for transgender and non-binary folk, and will therefore ensure that our hosts verifying passes do not refer to anyone by the name presented on the pass.

We also 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.

POLICY APPLICATION

This policy applies to everyone of vaccination age, including all groups entering into a venue hire agreement with the Basement Theatre; all artists, performers and technical crew involved in the presentation of shows and/or events; all audience members attending shows and/or events; all bar patrons and evening visitors. Unvaccinated children under 12 years and 3 months are still permitted to visit Basement Theatre with their parents or legal guardians.

POLICY REVIEW

Our board and Executive Director will regularly review this policy to reflect the changing nature of COVID-19 and public health guidelines. As a result of this we may amend aspects of this policy or terminate it completely at any time. We thank all of our communities and peers for contributing to the establishment of this policy.