



# **COVID-19 PANDEMIC POLICY and COVID-19 FRAMEWORK PLAN**



Version 2: February 2022

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## **1. Executive Summary:**

This Pandemic Plan is designed to provide a framework for managing risks associated with the current COVID-19 Pandemic for the Piping and Dancing Association of New Zealand (PDANZ).

This is a working document that will continue to evolve to ensure recommendations meet the latest information relating to COVID-19 protocols and safe interventions.

The mandatory rules and other recommendations outlined in this document are based on best information as at the date of this document. It will change over time, potentially rapidly. These changes may involve either a strengthening or reduction in controls depending on the assessed level of risk at the time. This document also sets the framework, with modifications as required, for future pandemics.

## **2. Objectives:**

**The Objectives of this Plan are:**

1. To provide a framework and guidance that promotes a safe environment for conducting the activities of the PDANZ that meets New Zealand government standards, protects our members and the wider piping and dancing community, and considers best practice solutions.
2. To provide 'Trust and Confidence', to both the Government and the New Zealand public that the PDANZ takes COVID-19 safety seriously, and is taking all practicable steps towards eliminating or mitigating associated risks.

## **3. Roles and Responsibilities:**

### **Pandemic Committee:**

The Pandemic Committee will consist of the Executive Committee members in whole. From time to time, a Pandemic sub-committee from Executive members may also be formed, to meet in the first instance and then collaborate with the wider Executive Committee and Council members if required. Where needed a third-party consultant may be called in for assistance.

### **Secretary:**

The Secretary shall:

- Coordinate the initiation of any meetings held by the Pandemic committee in relation to any Covid-19 response.
- Coordinate communications that need to go out to Centres and/or members.

### **Media Liaison Officer:**

The President of the PDANZ will act as the Media Liaison Officer and lead any media activities and will be tasked with managing all external communications with Health or Government officials, the general public, and the media.

## 4. My Vaccination Passes:

To allow our competitions to proceed without disruption, **all attendees eligible for vaccination and a My Vaccine Pass must have their pass sighted and verified** to be admitted to any venue conducting a competition, meeting or other event under the auspices of the PDANZ.

This includes all competitors, judges, pipers, organising committees, spectators etc.

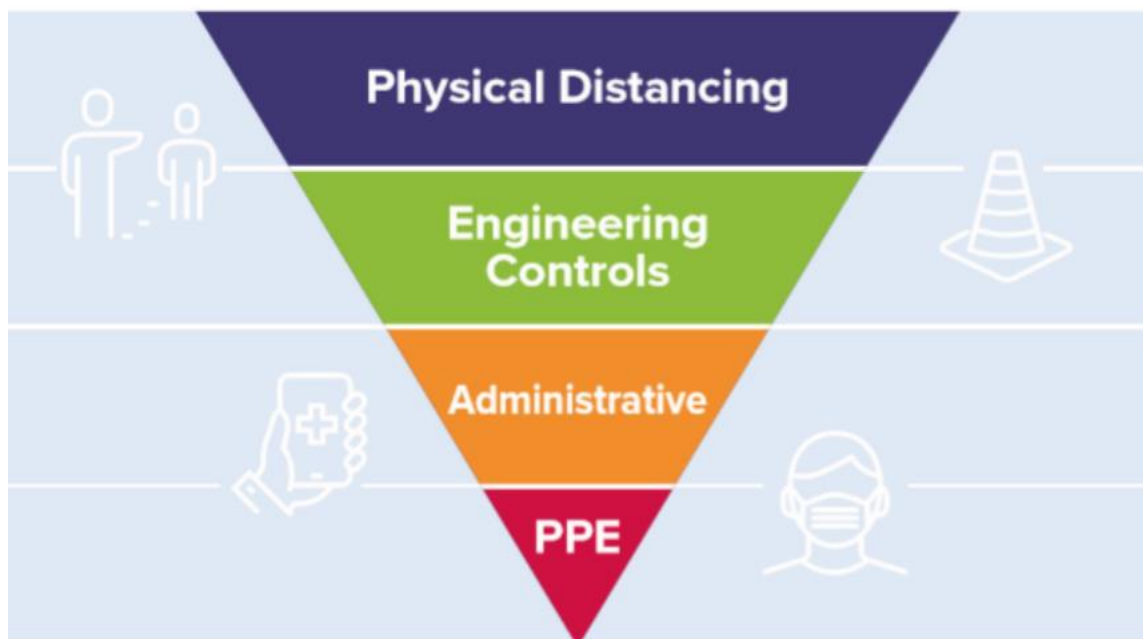
Societies will need to include this condition on their competition schedules, and this will become a condition of the Centre permitting process.

Societies will need to arrange for valid verification of My Vaccine Passes.

## 5. Hierarchy of Controls:

Using the modified hierarchy of controls, COVID-19 mitigation measures can include:

- Physical Distancing – wherever possible reducing physical contact between persons.
- Engineering controls – creating physical barriers between people.
- Administrative controls – redistributing responsibilities to reduce contact between individuals, using technology to facilitate communication.
- PPE & Cleaning – providing PPE and having robust cleaning protocols that are well communicated.



## 6. Risk Mitigation:

The PDANZ shall provide guidance to its membership in relation to New Zealand Government guidelines, while also considering the unique risks associated with our core activities.

When in **RED** and specifically in such environments such as competitions, meetings and our members' dance /piping schools, consideration needs to be given to the following:

- Proximity to others for prolonged duration.
- Shared equipment (eg. Dancing Swords).
- Increased respiration rates during many activities, with potential increased risk of spreading virus particles.

- Activities which involve individuals coming together from across multiple bubbles.

**NB:** The above considerations are not exhaustive. Consideration will be given to any other circumstances that may arise due to our unique environment of piping and dancing activities and community piping and dancing settings.

**Important:** This framework specifically controls for COVID-19 related risks within the piping and dancing environment. Where this framework goes above/beyond the general guidelines from the New Zealand Government, this is due to the unique and/or additional risks associated with a piping and dancing setting, some of which have been outlined at the top of this page.

## 7. Maintenance of Activities conducted by the PDANZ

### Executive and Council Meetings:



If the area hosting the meeting is in RED then no 'face to face' meetings will be held. Any meetings will be conducted using Zoom or other similar platform. The mitigating risks taken into account for no 'face to face' meetings are:

- Proximity to others for prolonged duration.
- Activities which involve individuals coming together from across multiple bubbles.
- Requirement to travel with increased exposure to risk factors.



Meetings shall be as planned with importance placed on remaining vigilant and continuing with good hygiene practices and contact tracing. Any additional / alternative decision as to whether meetings will be 'face to face' or by Zoom will be at the discretion of the Executive.



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## 8. NZ Championship Piping/Dancing Competitions

### Rules for New Zealand Championship Events being Held:

#### Dancing:

If the **HOST** centre for the New Zealand Championships is in the **RED** Traffic Light Setting then New Zealand Championship Events cannot proceed. This is due to the increased risk and difficulty of being able to conduct these competitions under the current 'Requirements for conducting competitions under the COVID-19 protection Framework'

#### Piping:

Due to the ability of being able to conduct these championships within additional limits and guidelines set out at the **RED** setting, these can go ahead at the discretion of the Pandemic Committee after approval of an adequate Safety Plan.

It is the responsibility of the Host Centre, in consultation with the Pandemic Committee, to assess any scenarios that may occur either prior to or during the hosting of NZ Championship events that may cause disruption and to have a plan in place where practicable.

Example scenario:

- NZ Championship events have already commenced when a change up in Traffic Light system occurs.

### **Financial Risk:**

The financial risk associated with disruptions caused by the Pandemic for any NZ Championship events will lie with the Host Centre.

## **9. Piping and Dancing Competitions (excluding NZ Championships)**

### **Rules for Competitions being Held at Various Traffic Light Settings:**

Competitions may go ahead at any Traffic Light Setting but must be conducted under the PDANZ's "Requirements for conducting competitions under the COVID-19 protection Framework" provided.

These guidelines may change from time to time in line with the current situation and as such the most recent version of this will be available on the Website and will sent to all Centres.

Any additional specific requirements should be included in the Schedule or attached as a separate document with the schedule so that all competitors / attendees are aware of these.

### **NOTE:**

**The Pandemic committee reserves the right to amend the "Requirements for Conducting Competitions", including the decision that competitions cannot go ahead if they consider that the current situation of the Pandemic provides too high a risk to the safety of our competitors, societies, spectators etc .**