

# New Zealand

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## COVID 19

<https://covid19.govt.nz>

Update 02/12/2021;

Please remember to be kind to each other.

The following is to keep the wider community and players safe and has been prepared by the NZ Reviewers in line with discussions with the government advisers ([covid19.govt.nz](https://covid19.govt.nz)) around the new traffic light system and is supported by Geocaching HQ.

- **If you are unwell, or been told to isolate - DO NOT GO GEOCACHING! STAY HOME!**
- Keep your distance from other people in public.
- If your cache is based in a local building, check to see what they are doing and if necessary (keep) disable(d), we promise to go easier with the archiving tool for these caches.
- For updates on what changing rules mean for geocachers - you can either place this page (wiki) on a watchlist or follow the reviewers page on Facebook; 'Frie-NZ of the Frog'
- Remember to look after yourself and each other, be kind and be safe.

## Find and Hiding (excluding events - see next section)

### Red

*Caches not requiring access to venues e.g. museums or monument buildings requiring vaccine certificates and there are no regional travel restrictions will be published.*

### Orange/Amber and Green

*All caches will be published*

## Events (excluding Megas)

The Ministry of Health have confirmed to us that Geocaching Events would class as Social Gatherings and it is down to the Venue hosts to determine if their event will use vaccine certificates or not. So if for example the event will be in a hall/restaurant the event and all attendees must follow their requirements to provide vaccine certificates, if required.

The reviewers will publish events in line with the diagram below; but all COs and attendees must comply with the Ministry of Health requirements.

We don't know yet how quickly the traffic lights for each region will change, so it will be down to the CO to check the traffic lights the day before/day of the event and if the event would fail in the diagram below to cancel the event.

To make things simple as to what the traffic lights mean for an event to go ahead, we have created the following summary diagram;

## New Zealand Reviewers

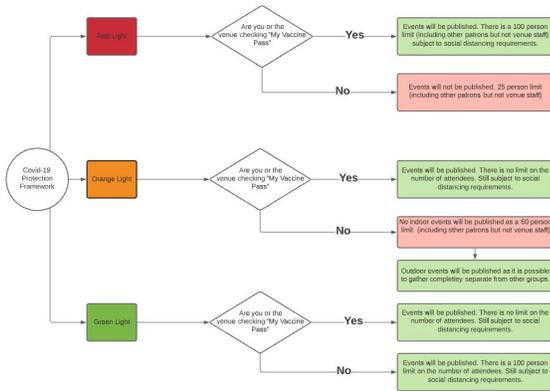
[TheCur8or](#) - South Island, [TheCod diwompler](#) - North Island (South), [L adyPolgara](#) - North Island (North)

## About This Guide

The local laws and guidelines for geocaching placement vary from place to place. As community reviewers learn geocache placement policies for a certain location, they can add it here. This site may not be a complete or accurate list of land policies. These policies are made by the land owner or manager, they are neither the reviewer's nor Geocaching HQ's. This guide is just for reference, if no policies for the area you're looking for are listed, that doesn't mean no policies exist. You must still obtain permission to place your geocache from the landowner or land manager, comply with all applicable laws, and follow the [Geocaching Listing Requirements](#).

If you have an update, email the community reviewer(s) listed.





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And, you agree to keep content current by checking back regularly for updates.

### If you are looking at hosting an event, we are asking people to add the following in the descriptions;

*"COs are being asked to communicate this by the reviewers in advance, so everyone is aware of the rules required by the Ministry of Health to attend this event.*

*This Geocaching event has been published at a location **which [does/does not] require vaccine passes. Please note as per the regional guidelines (New Zealand - Geocaching.com Wiki - Geocaching Wiki (groundsspeak.com)) which are in line with the ministry of health rules; geocaching events are classed as Social Gatherings and depending on traffic light restrictions may apply.***

*Please note if you are attending the event, we are being asked to advise everyone;*

- Stay home if ill - or been asked to isolate.
- Please scan QR codes, as required under the traffic light rule on [govt.nz](https://www.govt.nz).
- Please wear your mask, as required under the traffic light rule on [govt.nz](https://www.govt.nz).
- The event location/venue **[will/will not]** require you to show your vaccine pass.
- **[For an indoor venues; All usernames should list the number of people (including muggles, children etc) attending the event so the CO can track numbers attending, especially if a table booking is required.]"**

### Planning an event - here are some other helpful tips;

- Logbooks - some people might not feel comfortable signing an event logbook. It is not required under the rules and COs cannot refuse anyone's attended log who did turn up to the event.
- **We are seeking guidance but it appears there will be a requirement that a COVID QR is set up (if outside a venue which has one) to avoid requiring people to provide their contact information.** You can make a QR code at <https://covid19.govt.nz/business-and-money/businesses/get-your-qr-code-poster/> it is a temporary event. Please make sure you encourage everyone to scan.
- Indoors; please ensure to communicate with the venue. Many café/restaurants will have limited seats and have their own H&S procedures. All attendees should know from the description and or event announcement the expectations, we encourage the CO to provide this before the start of the event.
- Cafes/Restaurants etc with limited capacity many of these businesses need paying seats, and we cannot force/expect attendees to pay. Therefore, if you know from past events that many attendees will bring their own flask/sandwiches to an event then please think about alternatives, like BYO homemade or takeaways to a park.
- Whilst COs are not bouncers, they are expected to encourage all attendees to follow the guidelines of [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz); masks and social distancing etc. If people are not following the rules, the CO should ask them to stop or leave. If they do not then the event should be stopped immediately and all attendees advised to leave the area. This is important because if geocachers cannot attend events within guidelines of [covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz), events might not be allowed.
- Please note if CO does not confirm they have/will be undertaking the above within their reviewer note, reviewers will likely ask for confirmation and this delay could result in the event not being published.

In the meantime, no matter the alert level; you can go to your workshop to work on those lingering cache ideas or work on those D5 puzzles.

If your cache is based in a local building check to see what they are doing and if necessary disable (we promise to go easier with the archiving tool for these caches).

Remember to look after yourself and each other, be kind and be safe.

If you have any queries feel free to message any of the reviewers.

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### **Kauri Dieback**

North Island cachers need to be aware of a serious danger currently threatening Kauri trees throughout the North Island. This information link <https://www.kauridieback.co.nz/> has details of the problem and what you can do to minimise the spread of the disease. For cache owners, it is important **NOT to go off the track to place caches** in certain forests.

### **Christchurch Flat Lands Residential Red Zone.**

The Manager of Community and Customer Services for Crown Property, within Land Information New Zealand has been consulted and advised about geocaching and has no issues for having geocaches placed within the Flat Lands Red Zone, but the **Port Hills Red Zone is out of bounds** (This area has been zoned red because of the life risk posed by rock fall and/or cliff collapse, and land slips. Please note this is an extremely dangerous area for the general public – there are natural hazards present and heavy machinery may be in use.)

A Map of the red zones is available here, and the RedZone is a layer that can be added to the map.

<https://mapviewer.canterburymaps.govt.nz/?webmap=8e2a6565eb084801afec078813296080>

Caches within the Flat Lands Red Zone are to have this text added to the listing.

'This geocache is placed within the Christchurch Flat Lands Residential Red Zone. Please follow all warning signs that you may come across. It there are areas that are fenced off with no access, then this is for a reason. There are to be no motorised vehicles (cars, motorbikes etc) used to travel through the Red Zone land or on roads where barriers are in place. People used to live in these areas, so please be respectful when in the Red Zone.'

### **Power boxes, Utility Boxes and Phone Booths**

As these are owned and maintained by their respective companies. Some have warning signs of different types and some don't.

Power boxes/Transformers

"Geocaches or any other material should not be attached to any electricity reticulation or equipment and we also encourage the public to keep clear of any electricity or other infrastructure.

There is a hazard if people are looking for the geocache feel for boxes in or under parts of the equipment. While the equipment is basically safe and is regularly inspected, we cannot guarantee this if there is a fault or damage that has not been identified.

It should be noted that transformers have 11,000 Volt wiring present inside the case."

### **Phone Booths**

"Our (Spark) preference is that the Geocaching community not affix containers to the phone booths, magnetically or otherwise. While I don't believe the containers would cause any technical disruption to the service, or control panel access issues, it's more about setting a precedent of allowing the public to place items on the booths - however unobtrusive they might be.

Also, the booths are regularly serviced by maintenance crews so which would probably result in a higher rate of container loss than some of the other locations your players use."

### **NZTA and local road structures**

NZTA and local authorities require all users to ensure the safety of others. Geocachers (hidrs and finders) have a responsibility to protect ourselves and other road users. We can do this by;

- Not placing any containers on bridges or structures which could drop on to live traffic lanes/hard shoulder (if any are found NZTA have stated before they will revoke rights for geocaches to be

placed in their corridor.) If paths below think about the damage it could cause if it was to be knocked off and someone was below.

- Caches should not be in areas where there are no public access allowances i.e. motorways, gated walkways
- Ensuring caches are placed in an area where there is safe parking.
- Think about the safety of others, can someone slow down or reach the cache without causing a distraction which can cause a crash?

Remember if co-ordinates are a bit out due to coverage/proximity to buildings or the hints are not explicit - would someone search in wrong area and cause damage to anyone above or below.