



Royal New Zealand Pipe Bands' Assn. (Inc.)

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COVID-19 Update

The RNZPBA urges all member bands and Centres to consider the impact of the current COVID-19 pandemic on their band's activities and individual members. Please follow the advice of the Ministry of Health, which is updated regularly on their website: [Ministry of Health COVID-19 advice for general public](#).

We advise:

- Anyone feeling unwell, or who may have had contact with anyone who may be infected, should not attend band practices, meetings or parades.
- Bands may wish to consider suspending band practices for the foreseeable future, particularly indoor practices. There is no requirement to do so and this will depend on each band's ability to properly manage the risks.
- Cleaning and disinfecting of surfaces in band halls should be increased in accordance with Ministry of Health guidelines: [Ministry of Health General cleaning information-covid-19](#)
- Pipers should be extra careful. They should not share pipes or chanters and should be aware of basic hygiene when emptying water traps and maintaining their pipes.
- Teachers should advise students not to attend lessons if they are feeling unwell or may have been in contact with someone who has. Teachers need to take extra care to ensure they follow safe hygiene practices.
- Centres should consider whether meetings can be held electronically (eg skype or email) for the time being.
- Event organisers should be aware of the latest advice from the Ministry of Health and the Government's latest requirements for public gatherings. Click here: [Ministry of Health advice for event organisers](#)

All of us must be aware of our own health and hygiene practices to protect ourselves and others. The following advice is provided by the Ministry of Health:

- Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.
- Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.
- Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds).
- Try to avoid close contact with people who are unwell.
- Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.
- Avoid personal contact, such as kissing, sharing cups or food with sick people.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.
- Stay home if you feel unwell.
- Call Healthline on [0800 358 5453](tel:08003585453) if you have any symptoms and have been to any [countries or territories of concern](#) or have been in close contact with someone confirmed with COVID-19.

Management Board
RNZPBA