



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

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## COVID-19 Update No. 4

### Alert Level 2: Further guidance for band practices and meetings

Our Update No. 3 dated 11 May sets out the minimum requirements for band practices and meetings under Alert Level 2. They include the requirement to maintain physical distancing of at least 1 metre.

Players are most at risk of infection if sharing instruments rather than playing their own instrument alongside others. This includes all transmissible infectious diseases including COVID-19.

Bands may wish to consider taking a more cautious approach than the official Alert Level 2 requirements. By doing so they may be able to ensure members attending practices are not "close contacts" but instead are classified as "casual contacts" of one another. Casual contacts of a confirmed or suspected case are not required to self-isolate for 14 days, but like everyone, should monitor their health closely and seek assessment if symptoms develop.

Factors that would help ensure band members are not classified as "close contacts" in contact tracing –

- There is no direct sharing of body fluids i.e. no sharing of instruments or water bottles.
- They do not live in the same household.
- They have not been within 2 metres of one another for 15 minutes or more in face to face contact (in any setting) or an enclosed space (ie practice room or band hall).
- Indoor practices have been kept to 2 hours or less.

Drone tuning is not a face to face activity, and would not be included in the face-to-face assessment above.

To assist contact tracing, a record of attendance at practice should be kept.

Pipers would be well advised to i) clean their mouthpieces before and after practice; ii) keep the inside of their bags and moisture control systems clean and dry and iii) wipe down tables used for shared activities/chanter practice.

Official information on the requirements of Alert Level 2 is available here: <https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-system/alert-level-2/#play-it-safe>. Further information from the Ministry of Health is available here: [Ministry of Health information for close contacts](#)

Management Board  
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