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Isolation exemption for critical workers

Purpose

The purpose of this Advisory is to inform members about the Government's close contact isolation exemption scheme for critical sectors (including transport), announced today.

Government announcement

Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins and Associate Health Minister Dr Ayesha Verral made an announcement this morning. When we reach phase 2 of the Omicron response (outlined in the link below), workers within critical sectors who are close contacts will be able to continue to working if they meet the following criteria.

- They return a negative rapid antigen test (RAT) daily
- They are asymptomatic
- They are vaccinated

To be eligible for this, businesses must apply in advance to the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to be part of this scheme. The scheme is voluntary.

Applications are now open through the government's business connect portal. You will need both a RealMe and a Business Connect account.

To support the daily testing RATs will be supplied through the public health system with locations to pick up the testing kits to be made available on the Healthpoint website. Businesses will also be able to privately supply their own RATs.

More information is available [here](#).

Register [here](#).

Transporting New Zealand is seeking information on the situation for businesses that choose not to register with the close contact isolation exemption scheme; don't meet the criteria; and/or are rejected by MBIE's selection process.

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