



BBBS AUCKLAND COVID-19 GUIDELINES



February 2022

The Covid-19 pandemic has forced us to change the way we approach providing mentoring services. This guide serves as a reference for mentors and caregivers enrolled in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Auckland programme. We recognise however that many of our members have unique situations, and as such this is not a one size fits all approach. We encourage open communication between all parties to ensure everyone feels comfortable with mentoring under Covid-19 conditions.

Key points

- Match meets continue
- Government guidelines must be followed
- Full vaccination required for mentors
- Mask use encouraged
- Case by case assessment
- In-person contact with BBBS staff limited
- Group events on hold

Match meets

For mentors, mentees and caregivers

In person match meets may continue provided the government alert level setting allows this to occur. We encourage mentors and caregivers to discuss what activities each party feels comfortable with under current traffic light settings. In-person match meets **should not** go ahead if the mentor, mentee, or any member of their households is displaying Covid-19 symptoms, is awaiting Covid-19 test results, or has been identified as a close contact of a confirmed case of Covid-19.

Government guidelines

For mentors

During match meetings, mentors are required to abide by all [government guidelines](#) under the Covid-19 Protection framework. Mentors who consistently do not follow government guidelines on outings will have their match suspended pending further discussion.

For mentees

As much as possible, mentees are asked to follow their mentor's lead with abiding by government guidelines.

For caregivers

When interacting with their child's mentor in-person, caregivers are asked to abide by government guidelines.

Vaccination

For mentors

All mentors are required to be fully vaccinated against Covid-19 and provide their vaccine pass or proof of vaccination to BBBS Auckland to be stored securely.

For mentees

There is no requirement for mentees to be vaccinated against Covid-19 to participate in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Auckland programme. However, we encourage caregivers to vaccinate their children and are happy to provide support if needed to transport to vaccine appointments.

For caregivers

There is no requirement for caregivers with children in the Big Brothers Big Sisters Auckland programme to be vaccinated against Covid-19. However, we encourage you to have a discussion with your child's mentor around the vaccination status of your child and your whānau so they are able to make informed decisions around their own health, as well as take this into account when considering match activities where there may be a possibility of exposure to Covid-19.

Mask use

For mentors

When on match outings, mentors are required to follow government requirements for mask use unless they have a medical exemption. Mentors do not need to wear a mask when match activities are being conducted inside their own home. We encourage mentors to wear a mask when transporting their mentee in a private vehicle unless it is not practicable to do so.

For mentees

When on match outings, mentees aged 12+ are required to follow government requirements for mask use unless they have a medical exemption. In addition, mentees aged 8+ must wear a mask if travelling with their mentor on public transport.

For caregivers

Caregivers are encouraged to wear a mask when interacting in-person with their child's mentor.

Information on government mask requirements under all alert level settings can be found on the Covid-19 website or at the link below.

[Face mask information](#)

Case-by-case assessment

We recognise that some members of our programme have unique situations that may not fit into the framework provided, such as compromised immunity or a vulnerable whānau member. In these cases, we encourage you to use your best judgement around in-person contact and do what makes you most comfortable. If for any reason, in-person meetings are not feasible, please get in touch with your mentoring coordinator to discuss options.

In-person contact with BBBS staff

For mentors

All group and individual supervision will be conducted online until further notice. Home assessments can go ahead in person, however mask use is encouraged and virtual assessments are available.

For mentees

In-person contact with mentees from BBBS staff will continue on a case-by-case basis.

For caregivers

Where possible, contact with caregivers will be conducted virtually. Home visits can continue on a case-by-case basis.

BBBS group events

All group events are on hold until further notice. We hope to be able to restart these in the second half of the year.

Contact us

If you aren't sure about an activity you are planning, or have any questions relating to our Covid-19 guidelines, please don't hesitate to get in touch.



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