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Bubble of one for workers who are a close contact

Purpose

The purpose of the Advisory is to give more detail to operators using, or planning to use, the Government's 'bubble of one' for workers who are close contacts to continue working. The Ministry for Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE) has provided advice about this option.

Eligibility

Transport and logistics have been defined by Government to be critical services and therefore, they have access to the Close Contact Exemption Scheme (CCES). All workers in those companies are critical workers and eligible for CCES. Transporting New Zealand has sent you an Advisory about this scheme.

Another option for close contacts to return to work is that any business may use the 'bubble of one' system if the worker is not customer facing and is able to maintain a 'bubble of one' at work (including travel to and from work). It is not limited to critical services.

Workers must be vaccinated and asymptomatic.

Application

This system is more straightforward than the Close Contact Exemption Scheme, however, it has the restriction that it requires the worker to remain in a bubble of one.

This could be used by drivers, if they are able to maintain their bubble of one while loading and unloading, with no customer-facing activity. The truck cab is also defined as being the worker's workplace. It could also be used by office staff in small businesses.

You are not required to register to use this strategy, nor do you have to take rapid antigen tests (RATs). You must however, follow the prescribed guidelines.

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Guidelines

The following are [MBIE's guidelines](#) that must be followed while using this strategy:

- use a medical mask at all times (including wearing a medical mask before entry to the workplace, and changing as needed during the day)
- comply with any infection prevention and control protocols at work
- work in an indoor or outdoor space with no others present in that space (defined as an indoor space that has direct airflow with other spaces, or an outdoor space that is separated by at least two metres from other outdoor spaces)
- travel solo or with a household member, to, from and around work or between jobs
- eat alone in a well-ventilated space, outdoors where possible
- use a dedicated bathroom (if this is not possible, no others should be present in the bathroom while the worker is using it)
- ensure that if symptoms develop at any stage, the worker follows the public advice for close contacts with symptoms on the Ministry of Health website [here](#)
- continue participating in regular workplace surveillance testing if this is already in place
- when not at work, the worker must self-isolate as per standard for close contacts, including testing if applicable.

Transporting New Zealand would like to advise that this is the advice we have to hand, but it may be subject to change, and we will update you if anything changes.

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