

2 December 2021

The [COVID-19 Public Health Response \(Protection Framework\) Order 2021](#) made by the Minister for COVID-19 Response has now been released. The Order comes into effect on 11:59 pm Thursday, 2 December 2021.

Protection Framework- what does it mean for podiatry services?

This document provides a very brief overview of some of the current rules as we understand them. You should refer to the information provided by the Podiatrists Board, at the link provided or consult the Ministry of Health website for more detailed information. The advice we provide is general in nature and is not a substitute for legal advice. You should seek advice from a lawyer should you wish to understand how the rules apply to your specific circumstances.

Key Points

What is a Health Service?

Health Services are broadly defined as: 'a service provided for the purpose of assessing, improving, protecting, or managing the physical or mental health of individuals or groups of individuals' *HPCAA (2003) 5(1)*.

Unable to deny entry to unvaccinated

This is relevant for those working in gyms or other businesses where the Vaccine Pass is required for entry.

A business or service in control of designated premises from which health services are provided must not deny a person, other than a worker, access to those services on vaccination grounds (clause 32). Clause 33 states that a business or service in control of a premises must allow people access to designated premises for the purpose of accessing designated premises, or goods or services from those designated premises.

When can I deny services?

Clients may be denied access to services for good reasons, these can include health and safety requirements of your service e.g.,

- mask wearing,
- concerns following covid screening,
- apparent Covid-19 symptoms,
- recent contact with Covid-19 infected people, or
- inappropriate or abusive behaviour by the patient or their support person(s).

QR Codes

Whatever the setting of your clinic, you must

- have a QR code displayed for scanning purposes
- provide an alternative tracing record system and processes
- ensure that the QR code or alternative contact tracing is completed