

# Covid-19

Panui 20<sup>th</sup> April 2022



Kia ora koutou,

This letter is to keep you up to date as to how Bigfoot Adventures is responding to the COVID –19 pandemic, particularly with the Omicron variant, and how we can work together in helping us to keep our communities safe.

Through reviewing the information provided by the government and conversations within our industry, including industry leading organisations such as EONZ and Recreation Aotearoa, we are back operating under the COVID-19 Protection Framework (Traffic Light System) with some minor changes at each level outlined at the end of this document.

Additional to this we generally operate within small groups, within guidelines. We operate predominately in open spaces (outdoors), full of fresh clean air, and our work is generally with low-risk population groups, mostly schools, where we are only brief visitors. All this means we feel we offer an extremely safe environment to operate in, especially when joined with our own protection guidelines.

In taking measures to ensure that we are doing all we can in line with the Ministry of Health guidelines to reduce infection risk **we request the following support from you:**

- Do not allow anyone to participate on any programmes if they show signs of any symptoms of COVID-19 or have been identified as 'close contacts'.
- Ensure that you have current and up to date information as to who will be on the programmes/activities and that a register is taken on the day to ensure that there have been no last-minute changes.
- Ensure an increased focus on hygiene throughout the duration of their experience with Bigfoot Adventures.

Further to this we **will be doing the following:**

- Bigfoot Adventures keeps a record of staff immunisation status'. Please note, due to the privacy act we can't share these records but welcome our clients to request that our staff are to be tested before your programme, please note there may be additional costs in some circumstances to pay for the testing kits.
- All Bigfoot Adventures staff will remain outside for the programme being delivered, aside from using bathroom facilities when strict hygiene procedures will be followed. If welcome to use a staff room Bigfoot staff will adhere to school policies.
- All participants will be regularly reminded and briefed on the recommended hygiene practices, hand washing, sneeze/cough into elbows etc.
- We are altering activities & programmes to minimize or eliminate close contact team initiatives where possible.
- Hand sanitizer will be available for use regularly throughout the day with encouragement to use it.
- All Bigfoot Instructors have been instructed to, and have been provided appropriate tools to, clean appropriate equipment as often as practicably possible. Including prior to and following each activity.
- If anyone develops any concerning symptoms on our programmes, camps or activities: We will follow the Emergency Covid-19 Plans document. We provide these plans in our Covid response documents which can be altered in collaboration with our clients at the planning stages before we deliver a programme.
- Social distancing will be adhered to at Red and Orange in the traffic light system. Where possible, Bigfoot instructors will keep a minimum 1m distance from participants, and ensure participants can do the same. In many circumstances and activities, this will not be possible. So, our instructors will manage this to the best of their ability, and socially distance as much as possible, when suitable to the activity.
- Bigfoot instructors will use masks where possible. Some activities we deliver involve some form of exertion and exercise. In these circumstances masks do not have to be worn by instructors or participants and hygiene as well as social distancing will be the best form of protection. Masks can also inhibit clear communication, in a situation where risks must be monitored and quick, clear and concise safety information must be delivered.

- We will use a team of instructors, or a bubble, to work on a consecutive day programme in one school or on one programme type. This bubble, where possible, will remain together to work across multiple schools or multiple programmes to limit the number of contacts for both staff and participants.
- We have limited the need for help in our activities as much as possible meaning volunteers (teacher/parent/guardian help) is minimised or eliminated. Some activities require adult help, such as the mobile rock wall. Within bike events we run existing close contacts of participants, such as parents, will be used for close contact activities and/or support.
- Any third parties engaged by Bigfoot adventures follow and adhere to all the above actions.

## Schools and groups

We believe that our measures stated within this document, coupled with our existing best practices allow us to meet all the relevant guidelines within the traffic light system. We regularly review the EONZ, Recreation Aotearoa and Ministry of Health and Education's current guidelines to ensure we meet the latest expectations, we are also being pro-active in our approach and always open to feedback.

Please note we are flexible in our approach and will work with a school or group to ensure we have the best plan in place to limit any risk of transmission during our programmes. This can mean helping to work within both our own and existing school or group guidelines our clients may have.

In the highly unlikely event that there is another Auckland regional boundary, schools and groups can still engage with us but please allow time for us to apply for a travel exemption. We have already been granted these for programmes to run outside of Auckland with the support of the school or group in question.

## Contact Tracing

Despite the use of "tracing" not being a legal requirement. Bigfoot Adventures operate a resource management programme "Current RMS" – within this programme all Bigfoot staff members, contractors, trainers and trainees who attend any programme are recorded and are traceable immediately if required. Current RMS also tracks any third-parties operators engaged during a programme, including but not limited to transport, catering, activity providers and camps.

Should any participants and/or helpers exhibit symptoms of Covid-19 within 14 days of our services. Please contact Healthline immediately, and then Bigfoot as soon as possible on 09 444 1446 or ops@bigfootadventures.co.nz. Outside of office hours (0900-1700) please call 021 1111 057. We will work collaboratively with all parties to identify all contacts if needed.

With such robust procedures in place, we hope you will consider running a programme with us.

We are keeping well informed and up to date of further requirements and will notify you if there are any changes to the way we approach our services or our own guidelines. For further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

Kind regards



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