



## **RUAPEHU SKI CLUB**

# **CLUB MEMBERS' HANDBOOK**

The guidelines and rules within this handbook reflect more than one hundred years of experience. They facilitate the smooth running of club life, and many are safety-related. Therefore, the rules are mandatory and non-negotiable. The committee has the right to amend these from time to time.

Members and their guests are encouraged to read these notes, including the section on mountain safety, carefully and become familiar with them.

Breach of these rules will attract disciplinary action as provided in the Club Constitution.

### **ADMINISTRATION OFFICE**

PO Box 8064,  
Symonds Street, Auckland  
Phone: (09) 377 3856  
Mobile: 027 808 2163  
Email: [admin@rsc.org.nz](mailto:admin@rsc.org.nz)  
[www.rsc.org.nz](http://www.rsc.org.nz)

### **R.S.C BUILDINGS**

Lodge, Hut Flat, Whakapapa (07) 892 3824  
Hut, Hut Flat, Whakapapa (07) 892 3822  
Chalet, Rehua Place, Iwikau Village (07) 892 3823  
Turoa, Alpine Village, Ohakune (06) 385 8767

# 1. MEMBERSHIP RULES

The use of the Lodges is at the user's risk. The Club will take all practicable steps to ensure that the buildings and facilities are safe and in reasonable condition.

The Club carries no insurance for the private property of members or their guests and accepts no responsibility for it. Therefore, members and their guests should ensure that their personal effects policy carries an extension for Club buildings.

Users must take all reasonable care when using the buildings. Users will adhere to instructions from the building leader regarding safety and communal living.

Individuals who misuse the facilities or behave in an offensive or inappropriate way will be required to leave the buildings and not be eligible for any refunds.

Users who cause any wilful damage to buildings will be liable for paying the costs involved for replacement or repair.

Members assume all risk of personal injury and property loss or damage. The member understands that skiing, snowboarding, and other snow-sport are hazardous sports. Many hazards and obstacles, marked and unmarked, natural, and artificial, exist within Tongariro National Park boundaries. Therefore, the

member uses the area at their own risk.

Membership resignations must be made in writing to the Club Secretary, who will notify the Club Administrator.

Membership is ongoing, with annual subscription fees payable until resignation is received.

Membership may be terminated if subscriptions are not paid.

Memberships are non-refundable and non-transferable from the date of the first payment under any circumstances. Where an injury or medical condition precludes or significantly limits the ability to use the Club's facilities throughout the entire season, any request for a refund will be at the discretion of the Club Committee.

# 2. BOOKING POLICY

These rules apply to the Club's high-level alpine buildings located at Hut Flat on Whakapapa Ski Field, the Lodge and Hut, which are bookable during the ski season.

Additionally, they apply to the Chalet at Whakapapa Village and Turoa Lodge at Ohakune which are bookable year-round.

The committee has the discretion to close any building at any time of the year, usually for maintenance or group/school bookings.

Members must ensure their annual membership subscription is current before making a booking.

Bookings will only be accepted from senior members.

All children under 18, either guests or junior members, must be accompanied by a senior member, either parent or a sponsor, for the duration of their stay.

Children under four years of age may not stay in the Lodge or Hut at any time. Children two years and older can stay at the Chalet or Turoa. Parents are responsible for ensuring dry beds.

All junior members must be sponsored, and they are either booked on the booking form signed by their sponsor or the booking form signed by their parent must be countersigned by the sponsor. (Junior members turning 18 during the season can become senior members by

paying the additional subscription or if they remain as a junior, rules for junior members will apply, including the need for a sponsor).

Club Administration staff are not permitted to arrange sponsors for either junior members or non-members.

Non-member guests must be accompanied for the duration of their stay by senior member sponsors. Each senior member is limited to a maximum of three guests at any one time.

Sponsors are responsible for the behaviour of their guests (be they non-members or junior members), for briefing them on Club rules, and for ensuring they comply with the rules.

Non-members are only permitted to make two visits per year to Club buildings. They should be encouraged to seek membership if they wish to continue to use Club facilities.

Non-member bookings for peak periods (Weekends, School Holidays, and Club Week) will only be confirmed two weeks prior to the required date. Members' bookings will take preference until bookings are confirmed.

## PAYMENTS AND FEES

The Club uses members accounts for each senior member to process bookings, the number of your account being the same as your membership number. Money received is credited to the member's account and bookings charged against it. This applies no matter how you pay for your bookings, and covers all other bookings (junior and guests) as well. Funds may be held in a

member's account for future web or email bookings.

For further information on member's accounts, contact the Club Administrator.

Bunk fees are based on the number of nights a bunk is occupied and vary according to the age and membership status of the occupant.

Rates are set each year by the committee and are shown on the back cover of the Bulletin. A booking runs from mid-day to mid-day.

All named members must be financial to qualify for members rates.

## BOOKINGS

All booking requests must be made online through [www.rsc.org.nz](http://www.rsc.org.nz) or by emailing the Club Administrator.

Once a booking is received, the Club Administrator will email a booking invoice to the member. Payment is required before the booking is confirmed. There is no pencilling in of bookings.

If there is credit on the member's account, this will automatically be applied to the invoice.

If there are insufficient funds, or the invoice is partially paid, payment must be made by direct credit with the membership number and invoice number as the reference.

Within two days of the first day of a booking, a Bunk Authority will be emailed to members, including their confirmed building, bunk bed, and building code.

Bookings are ranked in priority according to the date they are received.



School holidays are an exception to this - see the School Holiday notes. Unsuccessful bookings are kept on a priority list and filled if cancellations are made.

To ensure the fair distribution of accommodation; bookings cannot be made for more than seven consecutive nights and booking the Lodge or Hut for consecutive weekends is discouraged. As an alternative, members should book the second weekend at the Chalet and check to see if the high-level buildings are available on Friday morning. Cancellation fees for the transfer will not be charged in this case.

**CANCELLATIONS AND REFUNDS**

To enable maximum usage by members of our accommodation, notice of cancellations needs to be made with sufficient time to allow other members the opportunity to take up the vacant bunk(s).

Bookings start at mid-day of the night booked. Cancellations must be made 48 hours before the start of the booking to qualify for a refund of that night's booking. For example, a Friday night booking must be cancelled by mid-day on the prior Wednesday. (A Saturday night booking must be cancelled by mid-day on the prior Thursday).

Cancellations made with less than 48 hours' notice may be entitled to a refund, if a doctor's certificate

referencing infectious illness is provided.

A cancellation fee will apply to all cancellations regardless of the notice unless done through the website. The cancellation fee is \$5.00 per person per booking. It does not apply where a doctor's certificate has been provided. (For clarity, a booking comprising consecutive nights will only incur a \$5.00 fee per person. So, if a group of 4 people are booked in for five consecutive nights and they cancel a fee of \$20.00 will apply.)

Transfers between buildings and changes of dates are regarded as cancellations and rebookings, other than those done in the case of persons wait listed for another building on the same dates.

Since a priority (wait) list operates for bookings, a transfer of an unwanted booking directly to another person is not permitted.

All School holiday cancellations require two weeks' notice for a cancellation to apply.

**EXTENSIONS**

If you wish to extend your stay while at a building, you must contact the Administration Officer to confirm availability. Payment must be made immediately if there is insufficient funds in your member's account to cover the booking.

**SCHOOL HOLIDAY BOOKINGS**

Bookings in the Lodge and the Hut for the school holidays are reserved for members' families with school age children. Non-member bookings are not accepted in school holidays unless there are vacancies one week prior to commencement of the booking and after these vacancies have been offered to other members.

Bookings are open for the first three weeks of May each year and are allocated on 1 June. Where bookings exceed the bunks available, a ballot will be held. This applies to all school holidays. Confirmation of bookings will be made by the second week of June

Bookings for a full week, Sunday night to Saturday night will be given priority.

All other booking rules apply.

**IN SUMMARY**

Bookings will only be accepted from financial senior members and payment must be made at the time of applying for a booking. Bunk fees will be banked to the senior member's account until the bookings are confirmed. Bunk fees for unsuccessful bookings are refundable in full and will remain in the account at the members' discretion.



**3. STAYING OVERNIGHT**

Our buildings reflect the family orientation of the Club. All of our buildings have large warm dining and common areas, which provide members of all ages the opportunity to meet and enjoy their stay together.

Our accommodation is in the form of communal living and it is important that members and their guests respect and tolerate others.

**ACCESS**

All buildings have a keypad lock. On payment of your booking, the current code will be made available to you.

**HUT FLAT**

Getting to and from Hut Flat when the lifts are not operating gives rise to additional risk. Usually, this means if it is dark, or the weather is terrible.

The walk time from the car park to Hut flat should take between 25 to 40 minutes, depending on fitness, weather conditions, and how much gear you are carrying.

Ring ahead and let the Building Leader know you are on the way up, then find them to confirm your arrival. If you are going down, let the Building Leader know and then ring from Top of The Bruce to confirm your arrival there. Unless you have a cell phone you will need a phone card to use the public telephone at the Top of The Bruce.

Don't make the trip alone unless you are sure of the weather. It can be fine at the Top of The Bruce and closed in halfway to Hut Flat.



All our buildings are communal, and therefore, sickness, e.g. COVID-19, flu, stomach bug etc, can spread rapidly.

The Club asks that in the interests of Health & Safety if you or a member of your party contracts a communicable sickness before you travel – you must not come.

If you or any of your party falls sick while on the mountain, the Club asks that you vacate in the interests of the other occupants. Inform the building leader of your departure.

In all cases where bookings are affected, please inform the Club Administrator of your change in plans.





## ESSENTIAL ITEMS FOR YOUR STAY

### BEDDING

- Pillow case and two single sheets - a fitted sheet can be helpful. Sleeping bags are not allowed.
- Two double sheets if booked into a double bedroom at Turoa.

### GENERAL GEAR

- Bunk Authority, building keypad access code
- Member name tag (if issued)
- Small padlock for bed-side locker
- Ear plugs if you are a light sleeper
- Towel and face cloth
- Toiletries including sunscreen and personal medicines.
- Ski clothing and equipment
- A cosy set of clothing for inside the building, including soft shoes/slippers. Name gear to prevent mix-ups in the drying room.
- A headlamp or torch is ideal for emergencies, or when arriving late and walking up the mountain in the dark.
- If you enjoy nibbles and/or an alcoholic beverage, bring a selection to enjoy before and after dinner.
- Key for gear or ski locker if you have been allocated one
- Mobile phone and charger
- Shovel and snow chains

Ask the Building Leader what the weather is like when you ring.

If the weather is terrible and you must make the trip, unless you are absolutely sure of the route and have a cell phone with you, ask the Building Leader to send a couple of members down to walk up with you.

### PHONES

Telephones in the Club buildings are toll barred. Mobile coverage exists at all buildings; however we are currently unable to offer WiFi.

### DUTIES

During the winter season, a club member will be assigned the Building Leader role. They become accountable for the smooth operation of the building and the assignment and supervision of the duty roster. Members will have the opportunity to become a Building Leader during the season.

Club members staying in the buildings will be allocated a duty, including collecting stores, rubbish, food preparation, dishes, cleaning, or snow shovelling. The bunk number on the noticeboard assigns the duty.

It is a breach of Club rules not to do your duty or not to do it well. Parents are responsible for their children's duties. The Leader will try to assign age-appropriate responsibilities.

### FIRE AND SAFETY

Fire notices are displayed in all buildings, with fire and safety briefings conducted most evenings after dinner. Each member is responsible for reading the fire and safety procedures.

### LIGHTS OUT

Lights out is at 11pm Sunday to Friday and midnight on Saturday unless specifically varied by the Building Leader. The person

nominated on the Duty Roster for Lights out duty must be the last to bed. Occupants arriving at buildings after lights out must show consideration for those already in bed.

### LOCKERS

Lockers are available for senior members. The Club takes no responsibility for the contents of lockers. Contact the Club Administrator for further details.

### MEALS

Most of the food and household supplies are provided in all buildings during the winter season, with chef/custodians in residence.

The purchase of food is via bulk orders. If people have specific dietary requirements, they may bring some of their food ingredients. The chef/custodian needs five days prior notice of any dietary requirements. However, there is no guarantee that the Club will meet an individual's specific nutritional needs. It is not the responsibility of the chef/custodian to make special celebratory cakes/meals or the prerogative of members to do this without prior discussion. Chef's discretion applies, and sufficient notice with them is always required.

Lunch is a get your own affair between 12 noon and 2 pm with supplies left out by the chef. Occupants must clean their lunch table and their dishes. People using the kitchen facilities are also required to leave the area in a clean and tidy state.

Lunch for Chalet residents is provided in the Lodge. In addition, by prior arrangement with the Lodge chef, Turoa residents visiting Whakapapa for the day may also be catered for.

Non-resident members and their guests visiting the ski-fields for

the day may use the building's facilities, including crockery; they must bring their own food and clean up after themselves. Club hospitality is restricted to hot and cold drinks.

Those staying in the Hut, do not morning tea or lunch in the Lodge.

Outside the ski season, there is only coffee, tea, milo and sugar supplied.

### SHOWERS

Because our water on the mountain is limited by tank supply, only one shower per day is permitted, showers must be shorter than three minutes and taken between 2pm and 9.30pm. Please be considerate so everyone can enjoy hot water.

### VISITING AT NIGHT

If you are visiting another Club at night, advise the Building Leader of your estimated return time and ring to let them know if your plans change. Let them know when you get back.

Junior members MUST have permission from both parent/sponsor and the Building Leader before leaving the building at night.

### DEPARTURE

The last person leaving any Club building must secure the building and ensure the appropriate Main Power Switch is turned off as indicated by notices in all buildings. Do not turn off any other switches as 24-hour circuits maintain power to freezers and alarm systems. Where we have a fireplace, make sure the fire is out.

### ANIMALS

No animals are allowed in any of the buildings. Dogs are not permitted in Tongariro National Park.

# HOUSE RULES

While visiting the Club's buildings, please note:

- All buildings are smoke-free.
- You must have your booking authority with you on arrival.
- You must only occupy your allocated bunk.
- On arrival, you may occupy your bunk by midday, and on the day of departure you must vacate by noon.
- Entitlement to meals co-relates to your bookings.
- Duties apply from mid-day to mid-day.
- Residents must take their pillowslips and sheets. (No sleeping bags or inners)
- Duvets, blankets, and pillows are provided for all bunks but must not be used without the above. (Defaulters are liable to be fined for covering laundering costs).
- Firearms and pets are prohibited in Club premises and in the Tongariro National Park.
- Ski and snowboard boots are prohibited in the lounge, dining and kitchen areas of all buildings.
- Consumption of alcohol and food in bunkrooms is forbidden.
- Members, guests, and visitors under the legal drinking age may only consume alcohol as permitted under the law.
- Members and their guests visiting buildings, i.e. not resident in the building, must only use visitors' toilets and must not enter bunkrooms. (This applies to residents from the Chalet and Turoa visiting high-level buildings).
- Visiting members must introduce themselves and their guests to the building leader.
- Name badges should be worn in all buildings for security and social reasons. They are provided to all new members and replacements are available from the Club Administrator.
- Building Leaders are assigned for each building. They are responsible to the committee for the smooth running of the building and are delegated full authority to act on behalf of the committee.
- A daily duty list is posted on the notice board. You are asked to perform your duty as allocated at the time shown.
- Chefs are club staff and are responsible to the committee through the Building Leader. Your dealings with them must be through the Building Leader unless you are assigned to help them with food preparation or kitchen cleaning.
- The chef's quarters are private and members are not permitted to enter as per the chef's employment contract.

## 4. MOUNTAIN SAFETY

Tongariro National Park is a place that can very quickly become very dangerous if not treated with the utmost respect.

The following notes on mountain safety are provided for your safety and for the protection of others who may have to search for you, then either rescue you or recover your body if you ignore them.

Very few mountain disasters result from a single event, they can usually be attributed to a chain of things not done or done wrong. Constant awareness and attention to the little things will always help the odds in your favour.

The usual causes of danger in the park are either injury or exposure.

### COMMUNICATIONS

Cell phones are a great safety tool, and coverage in the park is generally good. Keep your fully-charged phone with you and make sure the building phone numbers are in the memory. If reception is bad where you are, moving a short distance can make a big difference.

### INJURY

Injury on the mountain will either be due to falls or impact. Reduce the risk.

Ski in control.

Make sure that your bindings are properly adjusted.

When there is poor visibility, reduce speed and stay within areas you are familiar with.

Don't ski alone in isolated areas.

Start each day slowly or stretch to warm up muscles.

Know when you are tired. An experienced skier catches the lift when visibility, snow conditions, or tiredness make it the smart move. Tiredness is a factor in most

skiing injuries, and most happen on the last run of the day. Children particularly can tire very suddenly on the mountain.

Consider using a ski helmet. They are increasingly popular and are recommended for young children.

Always wear gloves and long trousers. Long sleeves are also a smart move. Snow and ice at speed can be very abrasive. Snow burns can cause lifelong skin problems. Skiing without a shirt is dumb at all times.

### EXPOSURE

Weather. Keep an eye on the weather – it can change very quickly.

Be aware of the forecasts and keep a lookout on cloud wisps coming over the top of the mountain or coming up from below. It can be as little as five minutes from a sunny day to white-out. You may be disoriented in a total white-out not knowing if you are moving or what is immediately in front of you.

Be aware also of increasing wind speeds.

### SNOW BLINDNESS

Snow blindness is a painful condition caused by excessive ultraviolet light in snow reflected sunlight.

Goggles offer total protection. Even regular optical spectacles reduce UV by 80%.

Goggles, sunglasses or some other form of eye protection is essential.

### COLD

You lose most of your body heat through your head. Therefore, a helmet or woolly hat is an essential piece of equipment.

### ALCOHOL

While alcohol seems to have a warming effect, it dilates the blood vessels and rapidly increases the loss of body heat. It also affects sound judgement.

### WIND CHILL

Wind chill is the primary cause of life-threatening hypothermia.

So if you are caught out on the mountain when the weather closes in, find shelter from the wind as a priority.

Dig a snow cave or get behind a bluff, and huddle together to preserve warmth. Once you are warm and secure in a snow cave, don't leave it until you are sure that the weather has adequately cleared.

### CHILDREN

Young children lose body heat much faster than adults and tire quickly.

Observe them and, at the first sign of grizzlies, get them inside to a warm drink.

### OFF PISTE

Never go alone if you are going outside the patrolled area, e.g. out to the west, the traverse between Whakapapa and Turoa, or up to the crater.

Make sure you tell someone where you are going and how long you expect to be. Then do what you said you were going to do.

Make sure you let them know when you get back.

Enquire about avalanche conditions from the Ski Patrol before you go.

Take appropriate clothing for adverse weather in case it changes.

Take food and drink and ideally a cell phone.

### SUN

The sun is much harsher at height because it has less atmosphere to filter it.

Reflection from the snow can also cause nasty sunburn. Apply sun lotion and lip protection liberally to exposed skin, including under the chin and nose, inside the ears, and on the upper eyelids.

### HISTORY OF RUAPEHU SKI CLUB

Ruapehu Ski Club was founded in 1913, making it the first skiing organisation in New Zealand and one of the earliest in the British Commonwealth.

Our founders were William (Bill) Mead, a railway draughtsman stationed at Ngaruawahia, and Bernard Drake, a railway clerk of Wellington. Imbued with an adventurous spirit, they imported two pairs of skis from Switzerland, as well as a British ski instruction book which provided them with the rudiments of their new sport.

They tested their skis in July 1913 on the eastern (Desert Road) slopes of Ruapehu near the Waihohonu Hut, and on their fifth day the pioneers began their first ski tour, reaching the present Whakapapa ski field. Mead and Drake promptly formed the Ruapehu Ski Club, posting a notice at the Waihohonu Hut, and returned in the summer of 1913 to make on Boxing Day the first ascent to the crater with skis. They then made the first runs down the Whakapapa Glacier.

Hut building soon became a priority and our members used bullocks to cart a disused prison hut to Mangatepopo near Mt Ngauruhoe. Deciding that Whakapapa was really the best site, our members then drove a cart track through to what is now the Grand Château site and on behalf of the Government Tourist Department they built the first Whakapapa Cottage in 1919.

Then in 1923 they built R.S.C's first high level home, the tiny Glacier Hut on Hut Flat at 1750m which today is preserved and protected as a mountain museum and is an official category 1 Historic Place. Further buildings followed steadily pre-war with a large hut at 1775m and post-war at intervals with our four current large and comfortable accommodation buildings, two at alpine level and two at drive to the door level. Find out more at [www.rsc.org.nz](http://www.rsc.org.nz)



# VOLCANIC HAZARDS AT WHAKAPAPA MT RUAPEHU



**If there is an eruption  
MOVE OUT OF VALLEYS**



**Eruptions and lahars  
may occur with  
little or NO warning**

**WHAT TO DO  
IF SIRENS SOUND**

**SUMMIT HAZARD ZONE**  
**HAZARDS**  
Flying hot rocks.  
Fast moving clouds of steam and hot ash.  
**IMPACTS**  
Serious injury and can be lethal.

**LEGEND**

Summit hazard zone	
Black Magic/ Outer Limits	
Turnpipe	
Gut-Turtle-Waterfalls	
Other possible paths	
Lifts at risk from lahars	
Schuss Haus	
Knoll Ridge Chalet	
West Ridge Café	
Iwikau Village, club lodges, Happy Valley	
Lifts safe from lahars	

**HAZARDS**

**LAHARS PATHS:** Eruptions generate lahars (volcanic mudflows) that can pass through valleys in the ski area.

**HAZARD ZONE:** During an eruption, flying rocks & fast moving clouds of steam and hot ash may occur.

**IMPACTS:** Serious injury and can be lethal.

Anywhere on this map is at risk from ashfall - this can obscure vision and make it hard to breathe.

A lahar in 1995 narrowly missed the bottom of the Far West T Bar.

**IF YOU ARE:**

**IN A VALLEY**  
Move out of the valley to a ridge top.

**IN THE HAZARD ZONE**  
Move down the mountain following ridges.

If you see flying rocks, or a steam & ash cloud coming towards you, take shelter behind a bank or ridge and cover your head with your pack.

**IN A BUILDING/CAR PARK/HIGH GROUND**  
Stay put and await instructions.

**LAHAR WARNING SYSTEM**

An Eruption Detection System (EDS) is operating in the ski area. The system will set off sirens and loudspeaker messages.

**Disclaimer**  
This map shows areas most at risk in a sudden eruption with little or no warning. Larger eruptions can and do occur. Volcanic activity and other unforeseen factors may alter features on this map, so safe and hazardous areas may change without notice.

Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

# VOLCANIC HAZARDS AT TŪROA MT RUAPEHU



**If there is an eruption  
MOVE OUT OF VALLEYS**



**Eruptions and lahars  
may occur with  
little or NO warning**

**WHAT TO DO  
IN AN ERUPTION**

**HAZARDS**

**LAHARS PATHS:** Eruptions generate lahars (volcanic mudflows) that can pass through valleys in the ski area.

**HAZARD ZONE:** During an eruption, flying rocks & fast moving clouds of steam and hot ash may occur.

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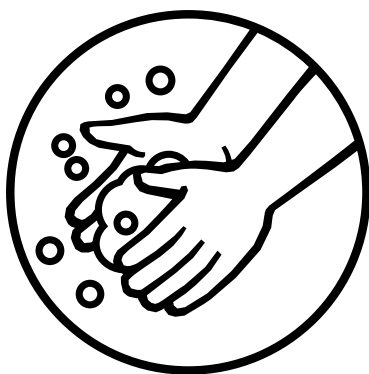
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Department of Conservation  
Te Papa Atawhai

A lahar travelled down Mangaturuturu Glacier during an eruption in 1995



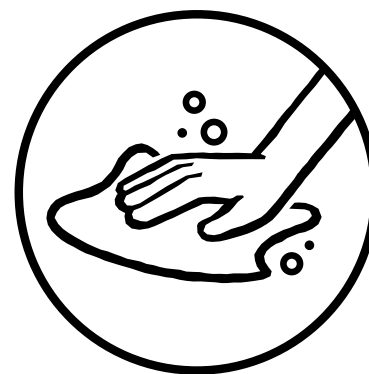
# Protect yourself and others from COVID-19



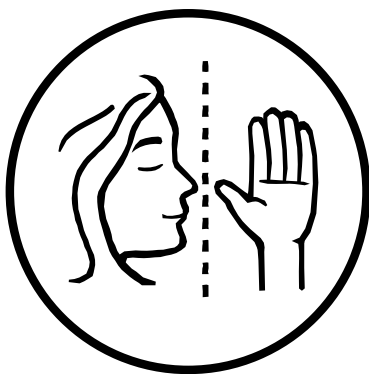
Wash your hands with soap and water often (for at least 20 seconds). Then dry.



Cough or sneeze into your elbow or by covering your mouth and nose with tissues.



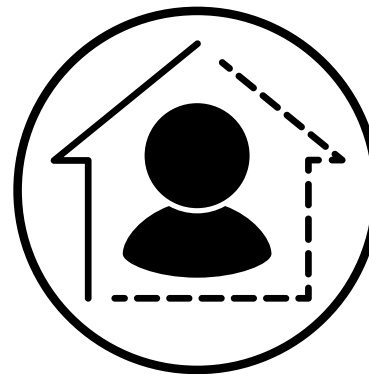
Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects, such as doorknobs.



Don't touch your eyes, nose or mouth if your hands are not clean.



Put used tissues in the bin or a bag immediately.



Stay home if you feel unwell.

For updates and more information on keeping yourself safe, visit [Covid19.govt.nz](https://www.covid19.govt.nz)

[New Zealand Government](https://www.govt.nz/)

Unite  
against  
COVID-19