

The guidance on www.covid19.govt.nz now provides the following:

Gaming machines and pool

At Alert Level 2, you can use the gaming machines as long as you do not eat or drink in the gaming lounge. You must wear a face covering when using the gaming machines, and keep 1 metre apart from others.

You cannot play pool.

We have already had a few questions about sports other than pool, so it is important to look at the wording within the amendment to the Public Health Order <https://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/2021/0244/latest/LMS547621.html>

Gaming Machines

The amendment to the Public Health Order is really clear around gaming machines, with the following being inserted after clause 36(4)(d):

(e) the use of gaming machines operated in a class 4 venue, but only if:

*(i) no food or drink is served or consumed within 2 metres of the gaming machines:
and*

(ii) no person is permitted to use a gaming machines without wearing a face covering.

Other Activities

While the guidance on the Governments www.covid19.govt.nz website is very specific about the pool, the order is more broad:

36(5) of the order has been replaced with the following:

(5) If a business or service specified in subclause (1) holds an on-licence or a club licence and the customers or clients at the business or service are unable to meet the requirements of subclause (2) in relation to an activity, the activity is prohibited.

Subclause 2 mentioned above relates to a person having to be seated at a table, not exceeding the maximum number limits of people and the 1-metre physical distancing rule.

To put this as plainly as possible: if the activity cannot be carried out while the person is seated at a table it cannot be conducted. For a licensed premises this means the likes of pool, snooker & billiards, darts etc are prohibited, because a person must be able stand to participate in the activity.