Dairy farming is an essential service and therefore can continue to operate during New Zealand’s lock down - but there are strict rules that must be followed to stop the spread of Covid-19.

Dealing with Covid-19 is unlike anything we have dealt with before. And we need to change the way we do things on dairy farms whether we are two people or 10. Doing our bit to stop the spread of the virus is vital - there must be nowhere on farm that facilitates the spread of Covid-19.

The key things to remember are **2m SEPARATION AT ALL TIMES** and **WASH YOUR HANDS**.

Keeping everyone informed about the new way of doing things is critical. Work through the template below with your farm team (outside, with a 2 m gap between each person or using Skype or equivalent!), and then stick it on a wall in the dairy shed. The important thing is not that it looks flash, the important thing is you had the discussion and agreed the new rules so don’t worry if it is handwritten.

1. **How are you caring for anyone on farm who is particularly at risk** (i.e. immune suppressed, pregnant, has respiratory conditions)?

2. **How will everyone get to work whilst managing physical distancing?**

3. **Can you change your roster to reduce contact with different people (i.e. create shifts)?**

4. **How will you communicate?** For short conversations, team meetings and in an emergency?

5. **How will you manage breaks? And where will people have them?**

6. **What is your milking plan? And what tools can you put in place as a reminder** (i.e. milking procedure at the dairy)?

7. **How are you ensuring that Covid-19 doesn’t get passed from one person to another on surfaces** (e.g. what is your Cleaning and Disinfection plan for milking plant, cups etc)?
8. How are you managing vehicles? Is one vehicle per person possible? What vehicle surfaces are being touched and what is your Cleaning and Disinfection plan for these?

9. What personal protection equipment is available, when will you use it and how will you clean it?

10. Who is allowed on to the farm and where?

11. What is the process for when other essential service businesses come on the farm? Ask them what protections they are putting in place.

12. What is your milk processor recommending or requiring?

13. Are you all committed to observing the stay at home rules when you are not working on farm?

14. What is the process for people to report illness or report potential exposure?

15. What will happen if someone tests positive for Covid or is suspected to have Covid? Confirm everyone understands that Covid is a notifiable disease and as such the employer and the dairy company must know of a positive Covid result.