

GUIDELINES AND POLICY FOR MINISTRY AND WORSHIP DURING COVID-19 ALERT LEVELS

The New Zealand Government Te Kāwanatanga o Aotearoa has issued a COVID-19 Alert Level structure. As a Diocese we have interpreted the implications of these levels in the life of our Church. In doing this, we seek to provide a plan that:

1. complies with the Government instructions including updated changes;
2. creates clarity for those governing, managing and leading in our Ministry Units; and,
3. meets or exceeds minimum requirements to ensure best practice to protect the vulnerable in our communities.

At each level the guiding principle for all gatherings is related to the table below:

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Under 100 people (INDOORS)	✗	✗	✓	✓
Under 500 people (OUTDOORS)	✗	✗	✓	✓
100+ people (INDOORS)	✗	✗	✗	✓
500+ people (OUTDOORS)	✗	✗	✗	✓
Online	✓	✓	✓	✓

Alert Level	Risk Assessment	Range of Measures (can be applied locally or nationally)	
Level 4 – Lockdown	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Community transmission is occurring. Widespread outbreaks and new clusters. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> People instructed to stay at home (in their bubble) other than for essential personal movement. Safe recreational activity is allowed in local area. Travel is severely limited. All gatherings cancelled and all public venues closed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Businesses closed except for essential services (e.g. supermarkets, pharmacies, clinics, petrol stations) and lifeline utilities. Educational facilities closed. Rationing of supplies and requisitioning of facilities possible. Reprioritisation of healthcare services.

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS		EDUCATION/EVENTS	
Under 100 people (INDOORS)	✗	Home visits/communion	✗	Study groups	✗
Under 500 people (OUTDOORS)	✗	Hospital visits	✗	Conferences	✗
100+ people (INDOORS)	✗	Online/Phone calls	✔	Online	✔
500+ people (OUTDOORS)	✗	Rest Home visits/services	✗	BUILDINGS	
Online	✔	Home meals delivery	✗	Open for personal prayer	✗
LITURGICAL PRACTICES		GROUPS		Access for cleaners	✗
Holy Communion in one kind	✗	Home groups	✗	Access for admin/ministry teams	✗
Holy Communion in full	✗	Choir	✗	Access for facility users	✗
Sharing the Peace	✗	Children's groups	✗	Building/Property inspections	✗
WELLBEING		Youth groups	✗	Emergency maintenance	✔
High Risk people able to attend	✗	Prayer groups	✗	Other maintenance	✗
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Online (incl. above groups)	✔	Building Projects	✗
Ensure contact tracing	✔	Selwyn Centres	✗	Good venue hygiene	✔
Good personal hygiene	✔	Creches	✗		
Maintain physical distancing	✔	ADMINISTRATION			
Church staff may work in church offices	✗	Leadership/Team meetings	✗		
FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS		Governing Body meetings	✗		
Use of church for these services	✗	Online meetings (incl. above)	✔		
Funerals	✗	Virtual communications	✔		
Cremation/Burials	✗	OUTREACH			
Prayers in the Time of Death	✗	Op Shops	✗		
Online provision of the above	✔	Local Food banks	✗		
Weddings	✗	Community gardens	✗		
		Community gatherings	✗		

Level 3 – Restrict

High risk the disease is not contained

- Community transmission might be happening.
- New clusters may emerge but can be controlled through testing and contact tracing.
- People instructed to stay home in their bubble other than for essential personal movement – including to go to work, school if they have to or for local recreation.
- Physical distancing of two metres outside home (including on public transport), or one metre in controlled environments like schools and workplaces.
- People must stay within their immediate household bubble, but can expand this to reconnect with close family / whānau, or bring in caregivers, or support isolated people. This extended bubble should remain exclusive.
- Schools (years 1 to 10) and Early Childhood Education centres can safely open, but will have limited capacity. Children should learn at home if possible.
- People must work from home unless that is not possible.
- Businesses can open premises, but cannot physically interact with customers.
- Low risk local recreation activities are allowed.
- Public venues are closed (e.g. libraries, museums, cinemas, food courts, gyms, pools, playgrounds, markets).
- Gatherings of up to 10 people are allowed but only for wedding services, funerals and tangihanga. Physical distancing and public health measures must be maintained.
- Healthcare services use virtual, non-contact consultations where possible.
- Inter-regional travel is highly limited (e.g. for essential workers, with limited exemptions for others).
- People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home. They may choose to work.

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS		EDUCATION/EVENTS	
Under 100 people (INDOORS)	✗	Home visits/communion	✗	Study groups	✗
Under 500 people (OUTDOORS)	✗	Hospital visits	✗	Conferences	✗
100+ people (INDOORS)	✗	Online/Phone calls	✓	Online	✓
500+ people (OUTDOORS)	✗	Rest Home visits/services	✗	BUILDINGS	
Online	✓	Home meals delivery	✗	Open for personal prayer	✗
LITURGICAL PRACTICES		GROUPS		Access for cleaners	✗
Holy Communion in one kind	✗	Home groups	✗	Access for admin/ministry teams	✗
Holy Communion in full	✗	Choir	✗	Access for facility users	✗
Sharing the Peace	✗	Children's groups	✗	Building/Property inspections	✗
WELLBEING		Youth groups	✗	Emergency maintenance	✓
High Risk people able to attend	✗	Prayer groups	✗	Other maintenance	✗
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Building Projects	✗
Ensure contact tracing	✓	Selwyn Centres	✗	Good venue hygiene	✓
Good personal hygiene	✓	Creches	✗		
Maintain physical distancing	✓	ADMINISTRATION			
Church staff may work in church offices	✗	Leadership/Team meetings	✗		
FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS		Governing Body meetings	✗		
Use of church for these services	✓	Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
Funerals (max 10 people)	✓	Virtual communications	✓		
Cremation/Burials (max 10 people)	✓	OUTREACH			
Prayers in the Time of Death (max 10 people)	✓	Op Shops	✗		
Online provision of the above (no limits)	✓	Local Food banks	✗		
Weddings (max 10 people)	✓	Community gardens	✗		
		Community gatherings	✗		

Level 2 – Reduce

The disease is contained, but the risk of community transmission remains

- Household transmission could be occurring.
- Single or isolated cluster outbreaks.
- Physical distancing of one metre outside home (including on public transport).
- Gatherings of up to 100 people indoors and 500 outdoors allowed while maintaining physical distancing and contact tracing requirements.
- Sport and recreation activities are allowed if conditions on gatherings are met, physical distancing is followed and travel is local.
- Public venues can open but must comply with conditions on gatherings, and undertake public health measures.
- Health services operate as normally as possible.
- Most businesses open, and business premises can be open for staff and customers with appropriate measures in place. Alternative ways of working encouraged (e.g. remote working, shift-based working, physical distancing, staggering meal breaks, flexible leave).
- Schools and Early Childhood Education centres open, with distance learning available for those unable to attend school (e.g. self-isolating).
- People advised to avoid non-essential inter-regional travel.
- People at high risk of severe illness (older people and those with existing medical conditions) are encouraged to stay at home where possible, and take additional precautions when leaving home. They may choose to work.

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS		EDUCATION/EVENTS	
Under 100 people (INDOORS)	✓	Home visits/communion	✗	Study groups	✓
Under 500 people (OUTDOORS)	✓	Hospital visits	✗	Conferences	✓
100+ people (INDOORS)	✗	Online/Phone calls	✓	Online	✓
500+ people (OUTDOORS)	✗	Rest Home visits/services	✗	BUILDINGS	
Online	✓	Home meals delivery	✓	Open for personal prayer	✓
LITURGICAL PRACTICES		GROUPS		Access for cleaners	✓
Holy Communion in one kind	✓	Home groups	✓	Access for admin/ministry teams	✓
Holy Communion in full	✗	Choir	✓	Access for facility users	✓
Sharing the Peace	✗	Children's groups	✓	Building/Property inspections	✓
WELLBEING		Youth groups	✓	Emergency maintenance	✓
High Risk people able to attend	✗	Prayer groups	✓	Other maintenance	✓
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Building Projects	✓
Ensure contact tracing	✓	Selwyn Centres	✗	Good venue hygiene	✓
Good personal hygiene	✓	Creches	✗		
Maintain physical distancing	✓	ADMINISTRATION			
Church staff may work in church offices	✓	Leadership/Team meetings	✓		
FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS		Governing Body meetings	✓		
Use of church for these services	✓	Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
Funerals	✓	Virtual communications	✓		
Cremation/Burials	✓	OUTREACH			
Prayers in the Time of Death	✓	Op Shops	✓		
Online provision of the above	✓	Local Food banks	✓		
Weddings	✓	Community gardens	✓		
		Community gatherings	✓		

Level 1 – Prepare

The disease is contained in New Zealand

- COVID-19 is uncontrolled overseas.
- Isolated household transmission could be occurring in New Zealand.

- Border entry measures to minimise risk of importing COVID-19 cases.
- Intensive testing for COVID-19.
- Rapid contact tracing of any positive case.
- Self-isolation and quarantine required.
- Schools and workplaces open, and must operate safely.
- Physical distancing encouraged.

- No restrictions on gatherings.
- Stay home if you're sick, report flu-like symptoms.
- Wash and dry hands, cough into elbow, don't touch your face.
- No restrictions on domestic transport – avoid public transport or travel if sick.

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS		EDUCATION/EVENTS	
Under 100 people (INDOORS)	✓	Home visits/communion	✓	Study groups	✓
Under 500 people (OUTDOORS)	✓	Hospital visits	✓	Conferences	✓
100+ people (INDOORS)	✓	Online/Phone calls	✓	Online	✓
500+ people (OUTDOORS)	✓	Rest Home visits/services	✗	BUILDINGS	
Online	✓	Home meals delivery	✓	Open for personal prayer	✓
LITURGICAL PRACTICES		GROUPS		Access for cleaners	✓
Holy Communion in one kind	✓	Home groups	✓	Access for admin/ministry teams	✓
Holy Communion in full	✗	Choir	✓	Access for facility users	✓
Sharing the Peace	✗	Children's groups	✓	Building/Property inspections	✓
WELLBEING		Youth groups	✓	Emergency maintenance	✓
High Risk people able to attend	✓	Prayer groups	✓	Other maintenance	✓
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Building Projects	✓
Ensure contact tracing	✓	Selwyn Centres	✓	Good venue hygiene	✓
Good personal hygiene	✓	Creches	✓		
Maintain physical distancing	✓	ADMINISTRATION			
Church staff may work in church offices	✓	Leadership/Team meetings	✓		
FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS		Governing Body meetings	✓		
Use of church for these services	✓	Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
Funerals	✓	Virtual communications	✓		
Cremation/Burials	✓	OUTREACH			
Prayers in the Time of Death	✓	Op Shops	✓		
Online provision of the above	✓	Local Food banks	✓		
Weddings	✓	Community gardens	✓		
		Community gatherings	✓		