

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

21 September 2021

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
Maximum number - indoors	Not permitted	Not permitted	100	Unlimited
Maximum number - outdoors	Not permitted	Not permitted	100	Unlimited
Online	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited	Unlimited

## Level 4 – Lockdown

Likely the disease is not contained. For more information please refer to the government COVID-19 website

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/alert-system/>

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS		EDUCATION/EVENTS	
Maximum number - indoors	Not Permitted	Home visits/communion	✗	Study groups	✗
Maximum number - outdoors	Not Permitted	Hospital visits	✗	Conferences	✗
Online	Unlimited	Online/Phone calls	✓	Online	✓
<b>LITURGICAL PRACTICES</b>		Home meals delivery	✗	<b>BUILDINGS</b>	
Holy Communion in one kind	✗	<b>GROUPS</b>		Open for personal prayer	✗
Holy Communion in full	✗	Home groups	✗	Access for cleaners	✗
Sharing the Peace	✗	Choir	✗	Access for admin/ministry teams	✗
Singing	✗	Children's groups	✗	Access for facility users	✗
Use of prayer and hymn books	✗	Youth groups	✗	Building/Property inspections	✗
<b>WELLBEING</b>		Prayer groups	✗	Emergency maintenance	✓
High risk people take extra precautions	✓	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Other maintenance	✗
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Selwyn Centres	✗	Building Projects	✗
Mandatory contact tracing/QR code scanning	✓	Creches	✗	Good venue hygiene	✓
Good personal hygiene	✓	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Maintain physical distancing (2 metres)	✓	Leadership/Team meetings	✗		
Church staff may work in church offices	✗	Governing Body meetings	✗		
Face covering per government requirements	✓	Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
<b>FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS</b>		Virtual communications	✓		
Use of church for these services	✗	<b>OUTREACH</b>			
Funerals/Tangihanga	✗	Op Shops	✗		
Cremation/Burials	✗	Local Food banks	✗		
Prayers in the Time of Death	✗	Community gardens	✗		
Online provision of the above	✓	Community gatherings	✗		
Weddings	✗				

## Level 3 – Restrict

High risk the disease is not contained. For more information please refer to the government COVID-19 website

<https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/alert-system/>

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS		EDUCATION/EVENTS	
Maximum number - indoors	Not Permitted	Home visits/communion	✗	Study groups	✗
Maximum number - outdoors	Not Permitted	Hospital visits	✗	Conferences	✗
Online	Unlimited	Online/Phone calls	✓	Online	✓
<b>LITURGICAL PRACTICES</b>		Home meals delivery	✗	<b>BUILDINGS</b>	
Holy Communion in one kind	✗	<b>GROUPS</b>		Open for personal prayer	✗
Holy Communion in full	✗	Home groups	✗	Access for cleaners	✗
Sharing the Peace	✗	Choir	✗	Access for admin/ministry teams	✗
Singing	✗	Children's groups	✗	Access for facility users	✗
Use of prayer and hymn books	✗	Youth groups	✗	Building/Property inspections	✗
<b>WELLBEING</b>		Prayer groups	✗	Emergency maintenance	✓
High risk people take extra precautions	✓	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Other maintenance	✗
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Selwyn Centres	✗	Building Projects	✗
Mandatory contact tracing/QR code scanning	✓	Creches	✗	Good venue hygiene	✓
Good personal hygiene	✓	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Maintain physical distancing (2 metres)	✓	Leadership/Team meetings	✗		
Church staff may work in church offices	✗	Governing Body meetings	✗		
Face covering per government requirements	✓	Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
<b>FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS</b>		Virtual communications	✓		
Use of church for these services	✓	<b>OUTREACH</b>			
Funerals/Tangihanga (max 10 people*)	✓	Op Shops	✗		
Cremation/Burials (max 10 people*)	✓	Local Food banks	✗		
Prayers in the Time of Death (max 10 people*)	✓	Community gardens	✗		
Online provision of the above (no limits)	✓	Community gatherings	✗		
Weddings (max 10 people)	✓				

\* The maximum total number of people who can be present is 15. The gathered family group cannot exceed 10 people. Up to 5 more people can be present as clergy, funeral directors, or other staff (e.g. AV technician for live streaming).

## Level 2 – Reduce (updated for Delta variant)

The disease is contained, but the risk of community transmission remains. For more information please refer to the government COVID-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/alert-system/>

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS	EDUCATION/EVENTS
Maximum number – indoors	100	Home visits/communion	Study groups
Maximum number – outdoors	100	Hospital visits	Conferences
Online	Unlimited	Online/Phone calls	Online
<b>LITURGICAL PRACTICES</b>		Home meals delivery	<b>BUILDINGS</b>
Holy Communion in one kind	✓	<b>GROUPS</b>	Open for personal prayer
Holy Communion in full	✗	Home groups	Access for cleaners
Sharing the Peace	✗	Choir	Access for admin/ministry teams
Singing	✗	Children’s groups	Access for facility users
Use of prayer and hymn books	✗	Youth groups	Building/Property inspections
<b>WELLBEING</b>		Prayer groups	Emergency maintenance
High risk people take extra precautions	✓	Online (incl. above groups)	Other maintenancesa
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Selwyn Centres	Building Projects
Mandatory contact tracing/QR code scanning	✓	Creches	Good venue hygiene
Good personal hygiene	✓	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>	
Maintain physical distancing (2 metres)	✓	Leadership/Team meetings	
Church staff may work in church offices	✓	Governing Body meetings	
Face covering per government requirements	✓	Online meetings (incl. above)	
<b>FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS</b>		Virtual communications	
Use of church for these services	✓	<b>OUTREACH</b>	
Funerals/Tangihanga	✓	Op Shops	
Cremation/Burials	✓	Local Food banks	
Prayers in the Time of Death	✓	Community gardens	
Online provision of the above	✓	Community gatherings	
Weddings	✓		

## Level 1 – Prepare

The disease is contained in New Zealand. For more information please refer to the government COVID-19 website <https://covid19.govt.nz/covid-19/alert-system/>

CHURCH SERVICES/GATHERINGS		PASTORAL VISITS		EDUCATION/EVENTS	
Maximum number – indoors	Unlimited	Home visits/communion	✓	Study groups	✓
Maximum number – outdoors	Unlimited	Hospital visits	✓	Conferences	✓
Online	Unlimited	Online/Phone calls	✓	Online	✓
<b>LITURGICAL PRACTICES</b>		Home meals delivery	✓	<b>BUILDINGS</b>	
Holy Communion in one kind	✓	<b>GROUPS</b>		Open for personal prayer	✓
Holy Communion in full	✓	Home groups	✓	Access for cleaners	✓
Sharing the Peace	✓	Choir	✓	Access for admin/ministry teams	✓
Singing	✓	Children’s groups	✓	Access for facility users	✓
Use of prayer and hymn books	✓	Youth groups	✓	Building/Property inspections	✓
<b>WELLBEING</b>		Prayer groups	✓	Emergency maintenance	✓
High risk people take extra precautions	✓	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Other maintenance	✓
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Selwyn Centres	✓	Building Projects	✓
Mandatory contact tracing/QR code scanning	✓	Creches	✓	Good venue hygiene	✓
Good personal hygiene	✓	<b>ADMINISTRATION</b>			
Maintain physical distancing (2 metres)	✗	Leadership/Team meetings	✓		
Church staff may work in church offices	✓	Governing Body meetings	✓		
Face covering per government requirements	✓	Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
<b>FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS</b>		Virtual communications	✓		
Use of church for these services	✓	<b>OUTREACH</b>			
Funerals/Tangihanga	✓	Op Shops	✓		
Cremation/Burials	✓	Local Food banks	✓		
Prayers in the Time of Death	✓	Community gardens	✓		
Online provision of the above	✓	Community gatherings	✓		
Weddings	✓				