


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 policy that:

1. complies with the Government instructions including updated changes;
2. creates clarity for those governing, managing and leading in our Parish and 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:

Key to Symbols: ✕ = No, ☑ = Yes.

A Checklist Icon  indicates an [Action Plan for Provision of Ministry](#) (risk assessment) must be submitted to the Bishop before proceeding

	Level 4	Level 3	Level 2	Level 1
Under 100 people (INDOORS)	✕	✕		
Under 500 people (OUTDOORS)	✕	✕		
100+ people (INDOORS)	✕	✕	✕	
500+ people (OUTDOORS)	✕	✕	✕	
Online	☑	☑	☑	☑

Please Note: This information on these pages is subject to review and alteration. Thanks to the Diocese of Auckland who provided an original template that has been adapted for the Diocese of Dunedin



Alert Level	Risk Assessment	Range of Measures (can be applied locally or nationally)
Level 4 – Lockdown Likely the disease is not contained	<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. 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-SERVICES		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	✗
After service hospitality	✗	Youth groups	✗	Emergency maintenance	✓
WELLBEING		Prayer groups	✗	Other maintenance	✗
High Risk people able to attend	✗	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Building Projects	✗
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Day Programmes	✗	Good venue hygiene	✗
Ensure contact tracing	✓	Creches	✗		
Good personal hygiene	✓	ADMINISTRATION			
Maintain physical distancing	✓	Leadership/Team meetings	✗		
Church staff may work in offices	✗	Governing Body meetings	✗		
FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS		Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
Use of Church Buildings	✗	Virtual communications	✓		
Funerals	✗	OUTREACH			
Cremation/Burials	✗	Op Shops	✗		
Prayers in the Time of Death	✗	Food banks or Co-ops	✗		
Weddings	✗	Community gardens	✗		
On-line provision of all above	✓	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	✗
After service hospitality	✗	Youth groups	✗	Emergency maintenance	✓
WELLBEING		Prayer groups	✗	Other maintenance	✗
High Risk people able to attend	✗	Online (incl. above groups)	✓	Building Projects	✗
People who are sick able to attend	✗	Day Programmes	✗	Good venue hygiene	✗
Ensure contact tracing	✓	Creches	✗	<i>Please note: we are not recommending our buildings are used for funerals at this level.</i>	
Good personal hygiene	✓	ADMINISTRATION			
Maintain physical distancing	✓	Leadership/Team meetings	✗		
Church staff may work in offices	✗	Governing Body meetings	✗		
FUNERALS AND WEDDINGS	✗	Online meetings (incl. above)	✓		
Use of Church Buildings for these services	✗	Virtual communications	✓		
Funerals (max 10 people)	✗	OUTREACH			
Cremation/Burials (max 10 people)	✗	Op Shops	✗		
Prayers in the Time of Death	✗	Food banks or Co-ops	✗		
Weddings (max 10 people)	✗	Community gardens	✗		
On-line provision of all above	✓	Community Gatherings	✗		