

19 August 2020

COVID-19 ALERT LEVEL GUIDANCE: ALERT LEVELS 2 AND 3

Greetings

As we continue to respond to fast changing developments around COVID-19 Alert Levels, the Church appreciates the important role that you provide regarding compliance for your church, its people and all who use your facilities.

This letter provides further guidance about some Alert Level rules, as well as requesting your church Health and Safety Representative to complete a brief form.

Health and Safety Representative Communication

Your church Health and Safety Representative is the first point of contact within a church for people with questions about the COVID-19 Alert Level rules. Please can you pass this letter to your Health and Safety Representative and ask them to complete the brief form [at this link](#). This form asks for contact details which I will use to provide targeted support. If you do not have a specific Health and Safety Representative, please pass this request to the person best placed to receive COVID-19 guidance.

Government Guidance

Helpful guidance is available from several places, mainly the [covid19.govt.nz website](https://www.covid19.govt.nz). Government guidance reflects legal requirements and recommendations. Sometimes it is not clear what is a recommendation and what is a legal requirement. I am also aware of contradictory advice being given to people who contact government agencies. Please take a common-sense approach to what rules apply to church activities and if you need help, contact your Health and Safety Representative or me.

Physical Distancing

At Alert Level 3, everyone must physically distance from people who are not part of their bubble.

At Alert Level 2, there is no legal requirement for people at faith-based gatherings to physically distance from each other, but one meter physical distancing between bubbles is recommended especially for activities that are open to the public. Remember that gatherings at Alert Level 2 are limited to no more than 100 people.

For churches that incorporate a commercial or workplace area, for example a café or office space used by paid employees, [the rules that apply to businesses and services](#) should be followed for that area. Faith-based gatherings in other areas of the building do not have to follow the rules that apply to businesses and services.

Contact Tracing Record Keeping

For faith-based gatherings, contact tracing records must be kept. This could be in the form of a physical register or a QR code poster, or preferably both.

For churches that incorporate a commercial or workplace area, that area must display a QR code poster. It is ok to use the same poster at multiple locations within a building.

Thank you for your cooperation in helping your church to be a safe place for your community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MH', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Matthew Hague
Compliance Director
Presbyterian Church of Aotearoa New Zealand