

9 June 2020

## COVID-19 LEVEL 1 GUIDANCE

New Zealand moved to Alert Level 1 at midnight 8 June 2020. There is no longer a limit the size of gatherings. There is no longer any need for churches to use a contact tracing register, although the government has encouraged individuals to track their movements.

The purpose of this document is to summarise the recent changes and answer frequently asked questions.

### 9 June 2020 Changes

1. The only remaining restrictions relate to entering New Zealand.
2. There is no limit to the size of gatherings, no requirement to physically distance, no requirement for businesses or services including churches to use a contact tracing register. There are no restrictions on serving food or drink.
3. The government has encouraged individuals to keep a record of locations they visit where other people are present. This is an individual responsibility and churches are not required to use a contact tracing register. The church may choose to assist individuals to track their movements by providing a QR code for them to scan when they visit a church location.

Although restrictions have eased, churches do not have to start activities again if they do not wish. Decisions should continue to be made at the local level.

### Frequently Asked Questions

1. **Do we need to physically distance when meeting for church activities?** No.
2. **What about singing?** Singing was an activity that was used by the government as an example of an activity with heightened risk. There has never been a ban on singing. As with all activities, churches may decide whether to include singing in worship.
3. **Can I serve food and drink at services?** Yes. As always, you should consider how to do this safely.
4. **Do I still need a safety plan?** No, but you can choose to have one if you wish.
5. **Are there still hygiene rules and rules for at-risk people?** There are no specific rules. A common sense approach should be taken with regards to the separate issues of at-risk people and hygiene measures. Basic hygiene measures include washing your hands and coughing or sneezing into your elbow. People who feel unwell should stay at home.

6. **Can our church offer communion?** Yes, if you choose to do so. As with providing food and drink, consider how you can offer communion hygienically. Those preparing the elements should wash their hands thoroughly and regularly. You may consider pre-cut bread pieces and the use of tongs and individual cups. Some retailers are selling individually packaged communion cups with wafers for use at communion services.
7. **Who decides when we go ahead with services and other church activities?** Decisions should be made locally.
8. **Could there be further changes?** Maybe, it is up to government. Guidance is provided based on the information available at the time. If this information changes, the guidance may change.
9. **I am having trouble obtaining a QR code for my church. Can you help?** Many people have had trouble obtaining a QR code for a church. This is because at the time of writing, the application requires a NZ Business Number (NZBN) which most churches do not have. This is something outside of our control. More information, including contact details for giving feedback about this issue is at [this link](#).
10. **What is this guidance based on?** The COVID-19 Public Health Response (Alert Level 2) Order 2020 has been revoked. The government guidance outlining Alert Level 1 is [here](#).
11. **Who can I speak to if I have any questions?** Speak to your local health and safety representative in the first instance. If you still have questions, contact Matthew Hague ([matthew@presbyterian.org.nz](mailto:matthew@presbyterian.org.nz)).

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