

11 May 2020

Dear colleagues and friends,

Kia ora.

The impact of COVID-19 sees us in unprecedented times, making hard decisions for the wellbeing of our churches and communities. Over the past seven weeks, we have all made sacrifices and limited our lives for the greater benefit of our wider community. Thank you for what you have done to keep yourself and those in your bubble safe.

The Government has announced that while NZ will take a graduated approach to entering Level 2, gatherings at this level during this time remain limited to 10 people (this will be reviewed by the Government in 14 days).

In the light of this, I want to refer you to my communication of [23 March 2020](#), and to restate that all physical gathering for public services of worship in the Presbyterian Church remain suspended.

We will evaluate this as the Government reviews its guidelines in the weeks to come.

Later in the week, we will provide some further advice to assist you as you prepare for the lifting of restrictions so that gatherings of larger sizes can take place safely.

In these times, can I encourage you to be people of prayer and of pastoral care.

Our Moderator – Right Rev Fakaofu Kaio – will continue to produce a [weekly video](#) including prayer, reading the Scriptures, and reflections to encourage us all.

We have information and advice for our churches on Covid-19 on our [Church website](#) that we are regularly updating, and on this [Facebook](#) group page, where people can find ideas for resourcing ministry.

Please continue to follow the best advice provided by the [Ministry of Health](#), and on the special [COVID19](#) information website.

‘Ko te Atua to tatou te piringa, te kaha, te awhina i nga wa katoa. Na reira, kaore tatou e matakū ...  
”/God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...”

Psalm 46: 1

Yours sincerely,



**Wayne Matheson**