

PCANZ COVID-19 virus: update

This is an update following on from previous communication by both the Council of Assembly, the Compliance Director and the Assembly Executive Secretary. View previous guidance [here](#).

Date of issue: 22 September 2021

Life at Alert Level 3

On Monday the Government updated information on COVID alert levels outside Auckland. A reminder, Auckland is now at Level 3 and this will be reviewed by Cabinet on Monday 4 October. Restrictions remain in place and full details are here:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/alert-levels-and-updates/alert-level-3/>

Information relating to faith-based gathers can be found here:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/activities/faith-based-gatherings/#faith-based-gatherings-at-alert-level-3>

Life at Alert Level 2

Outside of Auckland, the Government announced the remainder of the country would remain at Level 2 – with some slight changes - effective from midnight 21 September. The current guidelines (as at 22 September 2021) can be found here:

<https://covid19.govt.nz/activities/faith-based-gatherings/#faith-based-gatherings-at-alert-level-2>

Level 2 changes - worship

I your draw attention to the key aspects of these guidelines; the size of gatherings both indoors and outdoors is now set at 100 people – excluding clergy. All places of worship must record attendees – either scan in using the NZ COVID tracer app or record details manually. Note, attendees are encouraged to wear a face covering.

Enabling worship to take place safely in our church buildings is a way of ‘loving our neighbours as ourselves’ – caring for everyone, especially vulnerable people. If a church is to host a worship service, our expectation is that all government issued guidelines will be fully complied with.

For information – here is the link to generate a contact tracing code:

<https://qrform.tracing.covid19.govt.nz/>

It is acknowledged, many will continue to find these guidelines are not possible to comply with and so the strong advice is to continue to offer online services while these current restrictions are in place.

Cabinet will again review the settings of Alert Level 2 on Monday 4 October. Further advice following any changes may be shared after this date.

Finally, as we continue to live in these changing and at times, uncertain times, let us be reminded of these words:

“He aha koe i piko ai, e toku wairua? He aha koe i ohore ai i roto i ahau? Tumanako ki te Atua: tera ano ahau e whakawhetai ki a ia, ko te ora nei ia o toku mata, ko toku Atua.” “ Why, my soul, are you downcast? Why so disturbed within me? Put your hope in God, for I will yet praise God, my Saviour and my God.” Psalm 42:11

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Wayne Matheson". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped initial 'W'.

Rev Wayne Matheson
Assembly Executive Secretary