



COVID-19 virus: update

**This is an update following on previous communication by both the Council of Assembly and the Assembly Executive Secretary.
(View previous documents [here](#))**

Date of issue: 9 June 2020

Life at Alert Level 1

The Government announced yesterday that we would move to Alert Level 1 from today, Tuesday 9 June. As life returns to normal within our borders, we are grateful that we live in a country that has worked hard together to achieve such gains against COVID-19. Thank you to all of our PCANZ family for your contribution towards this end.

I am aware that there has been an increased workload for many in our congregations as they have worked hard to make our facilities, ministries and activities safe places for church and community members to gather. Safety Plans have been written and re-written, amended and updated, as various changes have been made to the requirements under the different alert levels. There are still a few requirements under Level 1, however for the most part we can now focus our time and energy more fully on being the Church in Aotearoa New Zealand and serving the mission of God in our local contexts.

Some of us are looking forward to returning to “life as normal”, and some of us have been challenged to embrace a “new normal” that is different to our previous reality. In discerning what the Spirit is saying to local churches, for some it will be doing what you already were doing, and for others it will be stepping into new opportunities that have opened up. May our gracious God guide, lead and bless you as you resume activities and re-engage with our wider communities after a time of limited interaction.

Attached you will find our Level 1 Guidance, together with a number of frequently asked questions and answers.

These updates have regularly drawn from the words of Psalm 46 for encouragement: “God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore, we will not fear...” (Ps. 46: 1-2). Today we consider verse 10 as well, “Be still and know that I am God; I will be exalted among the nations, I will be exalted in the earth”. We praise God for being in a position to move to Level 1, and we ask God to keep the virus at bay and to keep our people and country healthy and safe, and we pray for the countries of the world who are still being ravaged by this virus.

Richard McLean
Convenor
Council of Assembly
9 June 2020