

COVID-19 (CORONAVIRUS) UPDATE – Anglican Diocese of Wellington

Latest information

The risk posed by COVID-19 to our Diocesan family remains **moderate**. As at 5pm today, New Zealand has 52 confirmed cases of COVID-19. More information is available on the Ministry of Health's [current cases page](#). We are constantly monitoring this situation. The Ministry of Health's website continues to note that "with continued vigilance the chance of widespread community outbreak is expected to remain low."

The Government has implemented a [four-level COVID-19 alert system](#). These alert levels specify the health and social measures to be taken. Importantly, the threat levels can apply to the whole country or to specific regions, depending on what is happening on the ground. We are constantly monitoring the alert level and will send out an alert should it escalate nationally or locally.

New Zealand is currently at **Alert Level 2** due to the growing number of cases including single/isolated cases of community transmission. Alert Level 2 has implications for individuals/groups that include:

- Limit non-essential travel around New Zealand
- High-risk people advised to remain at home (e.g. those over 70 or those with other existing medical conditions).
- Further restrictions on mass gatherings (no gatherings of more than 500 people outdoors, or 100 people indoors)
- Physical distancing on public transport (e.g. leave the seat next to you empty if you can)

Despite being unable to gather together as local faith communities, we will continue to worship as family. Bishop +Justin will be hosting our first livestreamed church service **this Sunday at 10am**. Join us at movementonline.org.nz for this festival.

General guidance

As a Diocesan family, we all have a role to play to ensure that our most vulnerable are kept safe and cared for during this difficult time. We recommend consulting the Ministry of Health's [dedicated COVID-19 webpage](#) for the latest information, including how we can practise good personal hygiene.

Advice for individuals

The Ministry of Health recommends that individuals should adhere to the following precautions:

- Avoid close contact with people with cold or flu-like illnesses
- If you feel unwell, stay at home. Use Healthline's dedicated number for COVID-19 health advice and information (0800 358 5453)
- Avoid handshakes and direct physical contact – 'no hugs, hongis or handshakes'
- Cover coughs and sneezes with disposable tissues or clothing.
- Wash hands for at least 20 seconds with water and soap (for 20 seconds) or using hand sanitiser gel to kill germs:
 - before eating or handling food
 - after using the toilet
 - after coughing, sneezing, blowing your nose or wiping children's noses
 - after caring for sick people.
- Stay at home **and self-quarantine for 14 days** if you have returned from **any** overseas destination. Refer to the Ministry of Health's [Countries and areas of concern](#) and [Advice for travellers](#) webpages for the latest information.

Advice for households

We recommend developing a household plan of action. Having a plan in place can help protect the health of everyone in your home, and ensure that you can continue to be Christ's hands and feet in your neighbourhoods. Check out the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention's [webpage](#) on developing this plan.