

Parish Agreed Practices for Services in Covid-19 Alert Level Delta 2

PART 1: Government Advice for Faith-based Gatherings at Alert Level Delta 2

Faith-based gatherings at Alert Level 2

At Alert Level 2, places of worship can host services and ceremonies to a maximum of 50 people in any defined space if the service is indoors, and 100 people if the service is outdoors. The indoor and outdoor gathering limits do not include staff — for example, clergy.

Advice for places of worship

- All places of worship must have ways for attendees to record their visit. This can be done by asking everyone to scan in using the NZ COVID Tracer app, or by recording their contact details manually.
- Offer online services so people who cannot attend in person can participate.
- Some religious rituals or practices need close contact — for example, a christening. Try to keep the time spent in close contact to a minimum.
- Remove communal resources such as prayer mats or prayer books.
- Encourage attendees to wear a face covering.
- Clean and sanitise musical instruments and other shared surfaces thoroughly before and after use.
- Singing, for example church choirs and other types of performance can go ahead. Performers do not need to wear a face covering.
- You can serve food and drink and host events or functions such as catered morning tea — as long as you keep to the gathering limits.
- Encourage contactless donations instead of a cash collection box.

PART 2: Specific advice from the Bishops:

- If gathering, communion remains in one kind.
- Exercise caution around singing.
- Smaller group gatherings give a unique opportunity to grow our communities and strengthen relationships. If it is relationally too difficult to hold services whilst adhering to number limits and other requirements, start small. Consider smaller group gatherings, either in person or via Zoom.
- The diocesan livestream will continue this week whilst we are in Level 2, to assist us all to worship - whatever situation we are in locally.
- Please direct any practical questions to the Diocesan Manager, Ben Pringle, on ben@anglicanmovement.nz.

PART 3: Parish Agreed Practices for Services in Level-2 Delta

- All government legislation and advice must be followed:
 - All attendees must sign in using the covid tracer app, or sign in sheets.
 - All attendees must sanitise their hands on entry.
 - All attendees are strongly encouraged to wear a face covering - these must remain on for the duration of the service, except for the moment of putting the elements of communion into their mouth.
 - Singing is permitted, and those leading it (eg choir) do not have to wear face coverings.
 - 1m physical distancing is to be adhered too at all time.
- The presiding minister will be primarily responsible to ensure all guidelines and rule are followed - not greeters or liturgical assistants.
- The presiding minister and liturgical assistant may remove their face covering once the service has begun, to lead the service and preach, but these must be put back on before presiding over the eucharist and serving communion.
- During eucharist the presiding priest will cover the elements with a corporal.
- The presiding priest will sanitise their hands prior to the eucharist.
- All surfaces must be sprayed with sanitiser once the service is over.
- There will be no passing of the peace or offering plate.
- Communion will be standing rather than kneeling to refrain from using the altar rails, and will be in one kind only (bread)
- No common hymns/prayer books will be in the church pews, and no cushions either.
 - The presiding minister may take the prayerbooks etc home between services to sanitise them, and bringing to the next service.
 - It is not permissible for congregants to share prayerbooks or any other common materials.
- Morning tea is permitted to be served; provided the usual guidelines of physical distancing, signing in, hand hygiene, and mask wearing are observed.
 - Those serving morning tea must wear facemasks.

In all this it is encouraged by the Bishops to keep services short, simple, and meaningful. We can always add elements back in as we go, but we would not want to start at a level we cannot maintain.