

COVID-19 (Coronavirus)

update for the

Parish of Papakura Anglican

Church

With the onset of cases of COVID-19 being reported, the following are the action responses of the Parish following advice from the Diocese and general common sense alongside the general guidelines of the Ministry of Health.

Following consultation with the bishops, the Archbishops released a statement with regards to public worship ([this can be viewed on the Anglican Taonga site](#)).

The decision has been made to suspend all public services of worship following those services being held this coming Sunday 22 March.

The Archbishops have released a notice stating that no public events such as baptisms, weddings or funerals should be conducted by clergy.

Diocesan Request

The Diocese have requested we report any incidents among parishioners of COVID-19 infection for Health & Safety reasons.

If you have tested positive to COVID-19, please be in touch with us confidentially. Your details will not be passed onto the Diocese, rather it is a collation of data on how many within Parish/Ministry Units have been affected.

Closure of the church

With the closure of the church, the below guidelines will remain in effect for a period of time in the event of the Diocesan all clear.

General Health and Safety

These general implementations have been enforced with those who are in contact with items that are handled by the congregation during communion.

Welcoming People

1. Welcomers will mark off those in attendance as they enter services. The downstairs door will be locked and have a notice on it, asking all people to enter through the upstairs door. Visitors to the church will be required to supply a name and phone number.
2. Personal distance will be maintained by the Welcomers of 2m. Hugging or like is discouraged.
3. Newsletter bulletins will be handed to people as per usual.
4. Those who have newsletters are requested to take them home.
5. At each service during the offertory or notices, a photo will be taken of the congregation, this is to further back up the attendance list. The photo will be deleted after two weeks and will be used for no other purpose. The Liturgist will take this photo just before we stand to sing or give out notices. Please wipe down the ipad with a wipe from Janice's stock after use.

Pre & Post Communion

1. Hands are to be washed thoroughly with soap and hot water before touching any consumable item, e.g. communion wafers, chalices, carafes, and any other communion items. Hand sanitiser is to be used prior to distribution of communion.
2. Handling of communion wafers to be kept to a minimum.
3. Servers and liturgists are no longer to robe as robes are communal and therefore unsafe at this time. As the cross is communally handled we will forego the carrying for the near future.
4. No more than two people are to be in the vestry at any given time, gathering for prayer prior to the service will now take place at the back of the church.

During services

1. The passing of the Peace will either NOT take place or worshippers are encouraged to acknowledge those around them in an appropriate manner. Moving from where you are seated is important to maintain the 2m distancing rules.
2. Offertory will not be collected, but people will be invited to place their financial gifts into the basket at the back of the church as they enter or leave worship.

Congregants will be encouraged to move to automatic payments and online banking to reduce cash and cheque handling.

3. Those who count the offerings are expected to wash their hands before counting and again after counting and are welcome to wash them at any time during.
4. No more than two people are to be in the vestry at any given time as money is counted and use of gloves is strongly encouraged when handling items.
5. When praying for people at the back of the church, please observe the 2m social distancing rule, and refrain from hand holding, hugs and touching those you are praying for. Trust that God is holding them in this challenging time.

Receiving Communion

1. Encourage all members to wash hands with hot soapy water and to example to our children the correct way to wash hands before and after the service.
2. Members are encouraged to hold their hands open and flat to receive the communion wafer.
3. Communion will be taken by wafer only.
4. Congregation members are to sit 2m apart from each other, or in family groups, but also observe the 2m rule apart from others during worship, and observe this social distancing practice at all times when connecting over morning tea, at meetings and small group gatherings.

Food & Morning Teas

Currently suspended

1. Hands are to be washed prior to setting up and serving morning tea. Keep sanitiser handy for any time you wish to wash them again during the serving of morning tea.
2. Food to be served to people by using tongs and serving into napkins held by the person receiving the food.
3. When pouring people's tea or coffee avoid touching the cup, and put any milk or sugar in for them, leaving them the spoon to stir.
4. Encourage the use of gloves while preparing food.

Children & Youth

1. Children's ministry leaders are asked to get children to wash their hands at the beginning and end of their teaching time, and of course at any time during the lesson that they may deem necessary.
2. Children are encouraged to sit the required 2m apart from each other during lesson time

3. Youth group and other small group gatherings are expected to abide by hygiene and social distancing rules, observe safe food handling practices and ensure all surfaces are wiped down with anti-bacterial wipes at the end of meeting times.

Other Parish Sites

1. For services held at other Parish sites, all precautions will be observed as above to ensure the health & safety of all members of the Parish and community
2. Summary of these are:
 - a. Hands washed before and after the services especially if handling communion or cash
 - b. communal robes not to be worn
 - c. cross carrying to be deferred
 - d. all attendees will be noted
 - e. visitors to the church will be required to supply a name and phone number in the event we need to pass the information on to health authorities.

Feeling unwell

1. If you think you may have symptoms of coughs or colds, we strongly encourage you to stay away from Church and let us know by leaving a message with the office.
2. If you have been to church and feel unwell within 3-4 days after, contact us and medical authorities.
3. Any persons who have been outside of the country are **strongly** recommended to 'self-isolate' for a 14 day stand down period. If we are aware of a situation, contact will be made with those who are known to have been away and ensure they have enough to get by on or if possible, we can assist to make those arrangements.

Outside Premises

We, along with other churches, lead services at venues outside our church on occasion. These venues will have their own rules and regulations.

1. Follow all instructions of the venue. If they say no visitors or services, then we must respect that.
2. If we do have access to venues, all health and safety requirements are to be followed along with the basic hand washing and sanitiser (where available) are to be used.
3. In the event of feeling unwell prior to going to the venue, to contact the venue and cancel the service.

4. If after having visited and feeling unwell, please inform the venue so they are aware and can enact their contingency plans. Follow all medical authority instructions and report to them.

Latest Information & updates

As information and updates become available, we will update this information. This can be found on our website at www.papakuraanglican.org.nz for the latest document update.