

# Alert Level 2 guidance for marae

**THESE GUIDELINES WILL COME INTO EFFECT FROM 12NOON ON FRIDAY 29 MAY 2020**

These guidelines have been developed to clarify public health measures (eg physical distancing; numbers of people allowed to group etc) in order to assist and support marae to make their own decisions for the safety and wellbeing of their whānau, hapū, and iwi under Alert Level 2. As well, the guidelines provide a basis upon which iwi, hapū and whānau can decide how they might adapt their tikanga and kawa to manage these measures.

With the above in mind, we acknowledge that many iwi have already put together Covid-19 Response Plans for their hapū and marae. We encourage marae to make contact with their tribal authority in the first instance.

Marae are also encouraged to contact their local Hauora or Māori Health Provider if they need assistance with Health and Safety aspects.

Similarly, if you or your whānau feel unwell, stay at home, and contact your GP or call one of two free Healthline numbers:

- For COVID-19 specific enquiries, 0800 358 5453
- For general health enquiries, 0800 611 116.

Regardless, there is a high risk of spreading COVID-19 when large groups get together.

**For marae, under Alert Level 2 all gatherings are allowed up to 100 people.**

This is a temporary measure. Reviews of numbers at gatherings are on-going under Alert Level 2.

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## Any gatherings at marae during Alert Level 2

- Gatherings of up to 100 people at any one time (indoors or outdoors) are permitted at Alert Level 2
  - This number does not include any roles such as kaikōrero and kaikaranga, kaimahi, and ringawera
  - This does not preclude having multiple groups of up to 100 people coming to the marae, however each group of up to 100 people, will be considered as 'one cohort' with the expectation that they will not interact with any other cohort in or around the marae
  - People within each cohort will need to maintain physical distancing, particularly from people they don't normally live with
  - The general requirements for no physical contact for people you do not know, including harirū, hongī, kissing, and hugging, remain in place.
- Where requested, marae are encouraged to only hold one-night stay overs for any hui, tangihanga, hura kōhatu, kawē mate, wānanga, gatherings or events that may take place at the marae
  - Physical distancing will need to be considered for sleeping arrangements, washing and toileting facilities, all of which will impact on the numbers able to stay overnight.
- Organisers of gatherings of any size need to assess the risk to attendees and the community using the following principles to determine whether or not to hold an event or gathering.

If you aren't able to do the following effectively, the event or gathering should not be held:

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- Can your event support physical distancing?
- Can your event allow for appropriate handwashing facilities, and keep communal areas such as bathrooms or high-touch surfaces such as door handles clean?
- Can you keep a record of attendance to enable health officials to do contact tracing if needed?

An accurate record of attendees would include a person's full name, an effective means of communicating with them (for example, an active phone number or email address) and the time at which the person arrived and left the event. These records should be held for two months.

## Holding public events, bookings and gatherings at marae during Alert Level 2

Many marae rely on bookings to supplement their income in order to pay for essential services. Under Alert Level 2 marae can again take bookings for public events such as conferences, business meetings and the like.

However, to slow the spread of COVID-19, public events at marae, just like theatres, stadiums, concert venues and conference venues are allowed up to 100 people, Organisers of private events and gatherings should contact MBIE if they have any queries.

Requirements of public events and gatherings are:

- Physical distancing must be followed
- Details of attendees must be recorded for contact tracing purposes
- Food and drink provided must meet hospitality provisions.

Again, an accurate record of attendees would include a person's full name, an effective means of communicating with them (for example, an active phone number or email address) and the time at which the person arrived and left the event. These records should be held for two months and would be requested for health officials to undertake contact tracing if required.

## Maintaining good hygiene practices

At Alert Level 2 continuing to maintain good hygiene practices is really important. The following key messages should be reinforced regularly:

- Washing your hands regularly with soap and then drying them well – this makes a big difference
- Sneeze or cough into your elbow – not into the air – so you don't spread the virus
- Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects (such as paepae, where kai is prepared and served, ablutions, and tables, chairs and door handles) before and after any gathering with disinfectant
- Undertake a 'deep clean' of all marae facilities at the completion of each gathering.

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## Physical distancing

Tangata whenua and manuhiri must maintain physical distancing of 1 metre from each other at all times.

- Strict physical distancing protocols should be followed and activities such as hongī, kissing, hugging and touching each other should not take place
- In the event one of the rōpū who has attended a gathering at your marae is diagnosed with COVID-19 being able to track down everybody that attended becomes very important
- Having a contact list of people (names and contact details) who have attended a gathering means contact tracing can be easily done to keep whānau safe and ensure they are cared for if unwell
  - An accurate record of attendees would include a person's full name, an effective means of communicating with them (for example, an active phone number or email address) and the time at which the person arrived and left the event
  - These records should be held for two months
  - To find a template for a Contact Tracking information sheet go to:  
<https://covid19.govt.nz/assets/resources/posters/COVID-19-contact-tracing-info-A4.pdf>

## Kai preparation and serving

Clean frequently touched surfaces and objects (such as where kai is prepared and served, tables, and chairs) before and after any gathering with disinfectant.

- COVID-19 can remain on plastic and stainless-steel surfaces for up to about three days and less than that for other types of surfaces
  - If surfaces look visibly dirty they should be cleaned first before using disinfectant.
- Serve kai plated and in individual portions rather than buffet-style
  - Remind whānau not to share drinks, cups, plates, cutlery or other items.

## Alert Level 2 and tangihanga, hura kōhatu (unveilings) and kawē mate at marae

[A factsheet](#) and full guidance for COVID-19: Deaths, funerals and tangihanga is available from the [Ministry of Health's website](#).

Other important information for consideration includes:

- Marae can use the funeral registration form in the link above to also register hura kōhatu and kawē mate that are taking place on the marae and/or urupā
- At tangihanga, hura kōhatu, or kawē mate visiting mourners and manuhiri must maintain physical distancing of 1 metre from tangata whenua
- Groups of visiting mourners must maintain physical distancing and cannot interact with one another

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Mā tātau  
katoa e  
ārai atu te  
COVID-19

- There should be no direct physical contact between the manuhiri and tangata whenua (including close family or whānau pani/kirimate)
- The group that attends the service directly before the burial or nehunga must be the same group of 100 that travels from the service with the tūpāpaku to the cemetery or urupā
- Again, where requested, marae are encouraged to only hold one-night stay overs for tangihanga, hura kōhatu and/or kawē mate that may take place at the marae
  - Physical distancing will need to be considered for sleeping arrangements, washing and toileting facilities, all of which will impact on the numbers able to stay overnight.

## Looking after your health and that of your hapū, marae, and whānau

- Marae will need to implement a Health and Safety Plan and other measures
  - The Health and Safety plan must be displayed and communicated to all attendees
- If you or your whānau are unwell for any reason (COVID-19 or other health issues) please contact your GP or Healthline as soon as possible, your health is important
- Encourage unwell whānau to stay home (and not attend any gatherings), and to contact their GP or Healthline
- There are two free Healthline numbers to call:
  - For COVID-19 specific enquiries, 0800 358 5453
  - For general health enquiries, 0800 611 116.

Further information and collateral to support these guidelines will be available in coming days. You will receive updates as soon as they become available. You can also keep an eye on the All of Government COVID-19 website: [www.covid19.govt.nz](http://www.covid19.govt.nz)