

People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi

Memo to our wider networks

29 April 2020

Organisational update:

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the rapidly changing situation, People First New Zealand will remain closed while New Zealand is at Alert Level 3.

This means:

- no local or regional People First meetings
- no National Committee meetings
- no Learn With Us courses
- all People First New Zealand staff will continue to work from home. Staff will do their best to maintain contact with Members. Wherever possible, staff (including volunteers) will be communicating via email, video messaging or phone.
- no Members or staff (including volunteers) are to travel or attend functions in person as representatives of People First NZ – including:
 - EXPOs
 - conferences
 - advisory group meetings
 - meetings in person
 - large gatherings, such as awards ceremonies.

These changes will be in place from 1st May 2020 until 11th May 2020, and will be reviewed on Tuesday 12th May 2020.

What are we asking of you?

If you know someone who is a People First Member, please:

- Assist us to get the attached Easy Read message to them about the temporary changes we are making
- Assist them to understand why this decision has been made. It may be upsetting as People First meetings are often a big part of peoples' lives and a way for them to stay in contact with friends.
- Make sure they are not dropped off to any People First events that were scheduled to take place during this time.

- Share with them any Easy Read information about COVID-19 available on either:
 - the People First New Zealand website: <https://www.peoplefirst.org.nz/>
 - the COVID-19 website:
<https://covid19.govt.nz/communities/accessible-information/easy-read/>

We will keep you updated as things change for us as an organisation.

Thank you in advance for your support and assistance during these uncertain times.

People First NZ helpline

People First New Zealand, IHC and the Personal Advocacy and Safeguarding Adults Trust are working together to respond to people with learning disability during COVID-19.

We are using the People First NZ 0800 (free phone) number to assist people with learning disability and their families/ whānau. While People First NZ staff will respond to calls in the first instance, the three organisations will work together to make sure all people get the help they need.

The People First NZ COVID-19 Helpline number is **0800 20 60 70** and messages will be responded to several times a day.

Easy Read translation service

Additionally, please note that our Easy Read translation service remains active and available for translations relating to COVID-19. You can contact the service on **makeiteasy@peoplefirst.org.nz**

Cindy Johns

National Manager

People First New Zealand Ngā Tāngata Tuatahi