



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

25 March 2021

Further easing of Covid-19 Restrictions in NSW

The Premier has announced the easing of restrictions across NSW from Monday morning 29th March 2021.- The media release states, 'restrictions to ease but compliance must increase'. We ask that you keep this in mind as you adjust your plans.

This Guidance Note reports the changes and summarises the current COVID state of play for your convenience.

Please note:

- These changes only apply to NSW. We are not aware of any changes for the ACT.
- For the following changes there is no differentiation between Sydney (including Central Coast, Blue Mountains and Wollongong) and Regional and Rural area.
- This information has been sourced from the Premier's media release dated 24th March 2021: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/covid-19-restrictions-to-ease-but-compliance-must-increase>
- This guidance is subject to the publication of the Public Health Order on Monday 29th March 2021.

Summary of Changes:

- No restrictions on singing, including places of worship (hallelujah!).
- No restrictions on dancing, including weddings.
- Masks are no longer mandatory in a place of worship, even when singing.
- All maximum numbers are only limited by the 2 square metre rule.

Details of all applicable restrictions in force from Monday 29 March 2021

Maximum numbers

For Places of Worship, Weddings, Funerals and other functions, the maximum number allowed is limited only by the 1 person per 2 square metre rule for the venue. Physical distancing of 1.5 metres is still required which may affect total capacity. 25 people are allowed before the 1 person per 2 square metre rule applies.

Singing

There are no restrictions on singing, including indoors, and masks are not required.

PRESBYTERIES

CANBERRA REGION

FAR NORTH COAST

GEORGES RIVER

ILLAWARRA

KOREAN

MACQUARIE DARLING

MID NORTH COAST

NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

PARRAMATTA NEPEAN

RIVERINA

SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST

SYDNEY

THE HUNTER

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Masks

Masks are no longer mandatory but remain strongly recommended. This includes public transport.

Dancing

There are no restrictions in place for dancing at weddings (or other events).

Baptisms

Ensure physical distancing is maintained where possible and use hand sanitiser and common sense. Ensure all people involved agree to proceeding in a Covid safe manner.

Communion

Continue to ensure elements are prepared in a hygienic way (using gloves and consider the wearing of a mask due to the close proximity to food). Elements distributed to the seated congregation by server/s also wearing gloves and possibly a mask (see above). Consider using tongs to assist with the distribution of bread and be mindful of the 1.5 metre physical distancing where possible.

Personal Outdoor gatherings

The limit has now been increased to 200.

Visitors in homes

There is no cap on the maximum numbers but if there is more than 100, a Covid-19 Safety Plan is to be completed as well as electronic recording of visitor details.

Youth Related

Care should still be taken to avoid high energy activities indoors.

Covid-19 Safety Plans

These will need to be updated where these new eased restrictions have affected your venue. The Government will not update the plans on their website until Monday 29th. As soon as possible after that, we will update the plans to Word and upload to our website:

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/covid19saferoadmap/>

Attendance records

These are still required (in a digital format). It is highly recommended the free NSW Government QR code be used. Further information can be obtained here: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/covid-safe/customer-record-keeping/qr-codes>

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Service of Food

By following the guidelines in the **Information Update dated 11th March 2021**, most situations involving food should be able to proceed. Individually wrapped servings is still recommended. Please read the Information Update prior to commencing with any service of food to ensure your congregation is aware of any risks: <https://nswact.uca.org.au/media/9973/covid19-information-update-for-preparation-and-service-of-food.pdf>

Cleaning

There has been no easing with the requirements for cleaning. The Synod Office recommends congregations follow the advice and guidance of Government departments in establishing their own cleaning regime specific to their situation. To assist with this, there are several links below for your guidance. The use of collection plates, hymn books and other shared equipment should still be avoided where possible.

- http://www.cec.health.nsw.gov.au/_data/assets/pdf_file/0004/587164/COVID-19-Infection-Prevention-and-Control-Advice-on-Cleaning-and-Disinfection-in-the-Workplace.pdf
- <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/cleaning-prevent-spread-covid-19>
- <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-03/cleaning-table-covid19-11%20March%202021.pdf>

As Always...

- Maintain 1.5 metre physical distancing (except for members of the same household)
- Practice healthy hand hygiene
- Practice healthy respiratory hygiene
- Stay home if unwell
- Get tested if you have [even mild](#) Covid-19 symptoms

*Remember, that in all your considerations, the health and wellbeing of all people is the **most** important thing.*

For further information please contact: covid19@nswact.uca.org.au
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Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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