



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

30 June 2021

Clarification of Covid-19 Restrictions: Greater Sydney Area and Regional and Rural NSW

NSW Health, through the Religious Communities Forum, has provided further clarity around Places of Worship during the current restrictions for NSW.

These restrictions will apply until 9th July at this stage.

Please note that this Guidance Note has two parts:

- **Greater Sydney Area** which includes Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong and Shellharbour
- **Regional and Rural NSW**

Note: No further changes apply to the ACT at this stage.

Greater Sydney Area

The original stay at home order for some inner and eastern suburbs has now been extended to all of the Greater Sydney Area. This came into effect at 6:00pm Saturday 26 June 2021 and is currently set to expire 11:59pm Friday 9 July 2021. Further advice will be issued at that time.

Places of Worship must not be open to the public. All worship must use Zoom, be live-streamed or be pre-recorded.

Numbers during livestreaming or pre-recording. The number involved for this is to be kept at an absolute minimum. Bearing in mind that singing is not allowed (see below) and the short period of time for the restriction, Synod recommends keeping the number to less than 5. Travel for this purpose should only be within your local community and should not happen if you are coming from a known hotspot. There are no exceptions to this rule. NSW Health are concerned with the contagious nature of the current Delta variant and are wanting to minimise the number and closeness of the people involved.

We understand that this poses further restrictions on Congregations being able to worship in a meaningful way, however, the Government has made it very clear that they are extremely concerned with the current outbreak. These restrictions are in place to protect all people within the community, especially those within our congregations. If these restrictions are effective, they will only be in force for one more Sunday as they are due to be lifted on midnight 9th July.

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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Singing is not allowed at all. This applies across all of NSW and includes livestreaming, pre-recording and people singing up the front. Please consider using existing pre-recorded singing or other resources.

Masks must be worn in all indoor areas outside your home by those over 12 years old (only leave home with a reasonable excuse).

Weddings are not allowed to be held from Monday 28th June 2021.

Funerals can continue to be held subject to 1 person per 4 square metre rule and maximum number of 100. Masks are to be worn except for person leading the service. Attending a funeral within these guidelines is classed as an acceptable reason to leave home.

All **third-party hirers** and **face to face meetings** should be cancelled.

Outdoor gatherings are permitted up to 10 people.

Exemptions to remain open include:

- Places providing a service to vulnerable people (such as a food bank or homeless shelter)
- Early education and care facilities
- Funerals (as per restrictions above).

These are subject to face mask rules and 1 person per 4 square metre rule.

Safety plans will not require updating if you are not meeting but may need to be updated for any of the exemptions listed above.

For **full details** on the restrictions that apply to Greater Sydney including a list reasonable excuses to leave home, please refer to the Government website: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney>

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Regional and Rural NSW

Places of Worship can remain open subject to:

- The greater of 1 person per 4 square metre rule or 25 people
- Masks must be worn
- No singing by audience or congregants (not even a few upfront)

Consider online worship options if you have any concerns for the health and wellbeing of your congregants.

Household visitors are limited to 5 at any one time, including children.

Funerals are limited by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule up to a maximum of 100. Masks to be worn.

Weddings are limited by the 1 person per 4 square metre rule. Masks to be worn. Dancing is allowed for the bridal party only up to a maximum of 20.

Masks must be worn in all non-residential places including workplaces by those over 12 years old.

Stay at home apply for if you have been in the Greater Sydney Area including Central Coast, Blue Mountains Wollongong and Shellharbour on or since 21 June 2021. You must abide by these rules for 14 days after you left Greater Sydney.

A person must not enter Greater Sydney including the Blue Mountains, Central Coast, Wollongong and Shellharbour without a reasonable excuse.

Morning teas and service of food is not recommended given the nature of this current outbreak. It is acknowledged that this is not mandatory, but it is a recommendation.

Safety plans will need to be updated if you continue to meet. It is sufficient to attach a copy of the media release below to your current safety plan.

For full details on the restrictions for Regional and Rural NSW, please go to the Government site:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/what-you-can-do-nsw>

For the latest media release, please go to:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/covid-19-restrictions-extended-nsw>

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Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

GUIDANCE NOTE 32B

COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

For all areas

As we seek to safeguard the health and well-being of everyone, we acknowledge the challenge and burden these increased restrictions impose. We thank you for your vigilance in abiding by the Government rules.

Please note that the details above and in the email supersedes any relevant details contained in Guidance Note 32 issued Monday 28 June 2021.

If you have any queries, please contact: covid19@nswact.uca.org.au or Kingsley Murphy - kingsleym@nswact.uca.org.au

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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