



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

15 July 2021

Ongoing Covid-19 Restrictions

As you will have heard in the news, the lockdown has been extended until 30th July. The stay-at-home order applies to anyone in the Greater Sydney region (including the Central Coast, Blue Mountains, Wollongong, Shellharbour). People can only leave the home for four reasons:

- shopping for essential items (one person only, once per household per day)
- care and compassionate reasons (one visitor only)
- exercise (in groups no more than 2 - excluding groups of household members)
- essential work and education that cannot be conducted remotely.

The extension to 30th July also applies to the current restrictions for **Regional and Rural NSW**.

We do not understand there to be any further changes for the **ACT**.

TRAVEL FOR ESSENTIAL PURPOSES in NSW

Anyone required to travel into regional NSW from the Greater Sydney Area must get tested weekly (have a negative test within the prior 7 days of travel). You have until the end of Sunday 18 July 2021 to get tested so you can work 50km or more outside the area.

Additionally, if you live in or are staying in the Fairfield local government area but you work outside this area, you must have a COVID-19 test once every 72 hours (3 days) and have proof of a negative test in order to be allowed to enter a workplace. You have until the end of Friday 16 July 2021 to get tested so you can work outside the Fairfield local government area. Please note that this applies to travel for livestreaming or recording purposes.

LIVE STREAMING

The Premier and Chief Medical Officer have repeatedly warned that the delta variant is transmissible via households, and so requires a different response to the first outbreak.

As you provide for live-streaming, or recording worship, please consider the number of households who are being asked to mix. Even if you have the bare minimum, this process could easily mix 4-5 households, highly increasing the risk of exposure. If one person is exposed to the virus or becomes a close contact, several families will be placed at risk.

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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Wherever possible, create household-specific teams to run the livestream, the PowerPoint and/or the sound desk. It may require some zoom sessions of training, and the experienced people might be present via zoom to oversee and guide the recording. It may even be that you look to partner with another congregation and take turns providing the live-streamed material.

In the current Delta outbreak across Greater Sydney, involving a single household is far safer than mixed.

All churches should be closed for face-to-face worship, relying on minimal live streaming or online gatherings. The Synod recommends recorded music as it minimises the mixing of family groups.

FUNERALS - limited to 10 people

SCHOOLS - Home learning during lockdown period (except for the children of essential workers). Parents and carers – we pray for you!

Information sourced from:

For Greater Sydney:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/greater-sydney>

Regional and Rural NSW:

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

Media release:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/media-releases/lockdown-extended-to-30-july-2021>

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

I think this lockdown is even harder than the last one. Then we were in crisis mode – this time the threat is far more real, and we know what it means.

We need to support and encourage one another. May you feel able to take the time you need to care for yourselves, even as you care for everyone else.

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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