



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

GUIDANCE NOTE 37

27 August 2021

Clarification of Covid-19 Restrictions

Summary of recent changes

- Shellharbour and Central Coast are now included in Regional and Rural NSW
- Regional and Rural restrictions set to expire 11:59pm Friday 10th September
- Greater Sydney Area restrictions set to expire end of September
- A curfew between 9:00pm and 5:00am has been imposed on the 12 LGA's of concern
- Masks are to be always worn outside, right across NSW, except during strenuous exercise

Current specific areas of restrictions

- **Greater Sydney** – includes Blue Mountains and Wollongong
- **LGA's of concern** - Bayside, Blacktown, Burwood, Canterbury-Bankstown, Campbelltown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool, Parramatta, Strathfield, and [some suburbs of Penrith](#)
- **Regional and Rural NSW** – the rest of NSW not included in above. This now includes Central Coast and Shellharbour
- **ACT**

Greater Sydney Area

Current restrictions are set to expire end of September.

Stay at home rules apply. You may only leave home if you have a reasonable excuse:

- Obtain food and essential services
- Attend work if you cannot work from home (and the business is allowed to be open)
- For education if it is not possible to do it at home
- Exercise outdoors within your LGA or within 5kms of your home (limited to 1 hour within LGAs of concern)
- Medical or caring reasons including obtaining a Covid-19 vaccination
- To provide pastoral care if you are a priest, minister of religion or a member of a religious order
- Other [reasonable excuses](#) such as emergencies or attend a funeral (see below)

Mask wearing will be mandatory when outside your home, except when exercising.

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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Places of Worship remain closed except for livestreaming or recording of services (max 5 people).

Livestreaming or recording of a service from church is permissible but people involved must be kept to an absolute minimum, especially in LGA's of concern. Only people directly involved in the service or the operation of equipment are allowed to attend. We are recommending no more than 4-5 people only. Up to 2 singers are allowed during recording, provided there are no more than 2 others in the recording space, and they are wearing masks. The singers are not required to wear masks while they are singing but must be 3 metres from anyone else.

Weddings are not allowed.

Funerals may be held with up to a maximum of 10 people attending. Those essential to the running of the funeral are not included in the 10. This is at the discretion of the Church Council concerned.

Outdoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 2 people.

For further details for the Greater Sydney Area, please go to the NSW Government website:

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

Local Government Areas of concern

These 12 LGA's identified above must abide by the same restrictions for the Greater Sydney Area, however, they have **additional restrictions** that apply.

Curfews have been introduced and are in force from 9pm to 5am daily, except for authorised workers, emergencies or medical care workers.

Outdoor exercise is limited to one hour per day.

Strict stay at home rules apply and travel outside your LGA is not allowed. If you cannot work from home, and you need to leave your LGA for work, you may only do so if you are classed as an authorised worker:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/authorised-workers>

Recent changes to this list now include:

- Faith leaders broadcasting services and ceremonies at places of worship, or providing end of life care and support

This means that if you need to travel out of your LGA to your Place of Worship to provide livestreaming or the recording of a service, you are now able to do so.

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Additionally, effective 30 August 2021, if you live in or are temporarily staying in a LGA of concern, you must not leave your local government area for work unless you have:

- had at least 1 dose of a COVID-19 vaccine or
- evidence of a medical exemption or
- evidence of COVID-19 testing as part of a COVID-19 rapid antigen testing program approved by the Chief Health Officer.

Evidence of the above (or exemption) must be carried with you at all times.

Masks must be worn at all times whilst outside your home, except during strenuous exercise. Children 12 years and under are exempt.

For full details of the restrictions for the 12 LGA's of concern, including additional requirements for masks, please click [here](#):

Regional and Rural NSW

Restrictions have been extended and are now set to expire on Friday 10 September 2021 at 11:59pm

Stay at home rules apply. You may only leave home if you have a reasonable excuse:

- Obtain food and essential services
 - Attend work if you cannot work from home
 - For education if it is not possible to do it at home
 - Exercise outdoors within your LGA or within 5kms of your home
 - Medical or caring reasons
 - To provide pastoral care if you are a priest, minister of religion or a member of a religious order
 - Other reasonable excuses such as emergencies
- If you must leave home, stay within your local area. Do not travel outside your local area if you can avoid it.

Mask wearing is mandatory when outside your home, except when exercising.

Places of Worship remain closed except for livestreaming or recording of services (max 5 people).

Livestreaming or recording of a service from church is permissible but people involved must be kept to an absolute minimum. We are recommending no more than 4-5 people only. Only people directly involved in the service or the operation of equipment are allowed to attend. Up to 2 singers are allowed during recording, provided there are no more than 2 others in the recording space, and they are wearing masks. The singers are not required to wear masks while they are singing but must be 3 metres from anyone else.

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Weddings are not allowed.

Funerals may be held with up to a maximum of 10 people attending. Those essential to the running of the funeral are not included in the 10. This is at the discretion of the Church Council concerned.

Outdoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 2 people.

For further details for Regional and Rural NSW, please go to the NSW Government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/affected-regions>

ACT

Current stay at home restrictions for the ACT have also been extended and are now set to expire 5:00pm Thursday 2nd September 2021.

To summarise for congregations:

- Places of Worship are closed.
- Weddings can be held with 5 people present – the couple, celebrant and 2 witnesses.
- Funerals can be held with maximum of 10 people (excludes persons necessary to conduct funeral).

For full details of the restrictions, please refer to the advice that was sent from the Canberra Region Presbytery on 12th August 2021 or refer to the ACT Government [website](#).

For all areas

With the current levels of Covid-19 cases, we urge everyone right across the Synod of NSW and the ACT to take extra care and to stay at home unless it is absolutely necessary for you to leave home.

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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