



21 October 2021

NSW Roadmap out of Covid Update

Now that NSW has reached the 80% fully vaccinated milestone, the NSW Government has eased further restrictions which came into effect 18th October 2021. A summary of the current restrictions is set out in the table below.

This information applies to all of NSW. A separate Information Update will be issued for the ACT when applicable.

The key change is that unvaccinated people are now allowed to participate in worship and church related activities. Caps for weddings and funerals have also been lifted for fully vaccinated people.

Activity	Fully Vaccinated only	Unvaccinated
Places of Worship	Open, uncapped. Maximum 10 singers upfront (see below). Subject to 1 person per 4sqm indoors, 1 person per 2sqm outdoors. No singing by congregation.	Same as fully vaccinated
Youth and Children's Ministry	Activities of the church that have Church Council approval, and are held on church property, can be held for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.	Same as fully vaccinated
Other Church run activities – eg Bible studies, meetings, adult groups, etc	Activities of the church that have Church Council approval, and are held on church property, can be held for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.	Same as fully vaccinated
Singing groups in church	Up to 10 fully vaccinated singers may perform in places of worship and at religious services.	Not permitted
Wedding Ceremonies	Uncapped, subject to 1 person per 4sqm indoors, 1 person per 2sqm outdoors.	Limited to 5 guests.
Funerals	Uncapped, subject to 1 person per 4sqm indoors, 1 person per 2sqm outdoors.	Limited to 10 attendees - not counting anyone necessary for the conduct of the service.

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Masks	Mandatory in all indoor settings, while on and waiting for public transport, airports.	Same as fully vaccinated
Visitors to homes	Max of 20, where all adults are fully vaccinated	Not allowed except in limited circumstances
Gatherings outdoors	50 where all attendees are fully vaccinated.	2 person limit, or your household only
Op-shops – retail restrictions apply	Can re-open to vaccinated customers*, subject to 1 person per 4sqm rule. Volunteers and workers in Greater Sydney must be fully vaccinated. In regional areas volunteers and workers may return if they have one vaccination shot, as long as full vaccination is achieved by 1st November 2021.	Not permitted
Third party hire: Dance, exercise, yoga classes etc – subject to Gym restrictions	Limit to 20 people subject to 1 person per 4sqm	Under 16 years of age only
Third party hire: Non exercise related, eg AA, Probus, Rotary	Uncapped subject to 1 person per 4sqm	Under 16 years of age only

*Op shops may defer re-opening to 1 December when the vaccination status of customers will no longer be a condition of entry.

In relation to **third party hirers** where children under 16 years of age are involved, the NSW Government website says:

Children under 16 years of age who are not fully vaccinated can generally follow the rules for fully vaccinated people so long as they visit **certain businesses** with a fully vaccinated member of your household.

Certain businesses no longer include Churches as defined on P.14 of the [Public Health Order](#). This enables third-party hirers to have unvaccinated children under 16 years of age participate in their group without regard for vaccination status. For example, a third-party hirer can run their group for any child under 16, regardless of whether they or their carer/parent are fully vaccinated. Third party groups can only include people 16 years and over if they are fully vaccinated.

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Please also be guided by the following:

Outdoor singing is still allowed subject to 1 person per 2sqm and all other Covid safe practices in place. **Woodwind instruments** are still allowed inside.

Safety plans have again been updated by the NSW Government and now no longer have the requirement to check for vaccination status at a Place of Worship. These are to be updated and can be found here: [Covid Safety Plans](#).

QR Codes must be used to allow people to check in. If guests do not have the means to use a QR Code, details must be taken and entered into a digital format like a spreadsheet.

Morning teas may be considered but please be guided by earlier advice on the safe [Preparation and Service of Food. And consider requirements for mask wearing](#).

Communion may be served following all hygiene practices for preparation and distribution (gloves, hand sanitiser, tongs). As masks are to be worn indoors, they may only be removed for the partaking of the elements. Congregation remains seated with no physical contact.

Baptisms may be conducted subject to all current Covid safety restrictions. Arrangements will need to be made with the parent/s in regard to who may hold the baby/child. 1.5m distancing will need to be maintained as best as possible.

Collection should avoid contact. Prioritise online giving or locate the collection plates in an accessible area for people to give.

Ventilation is now an item that is in the Safety Plans and all congregations are encouraged to review their current practices and equipment to minimise the risk of spreading any virus. This has been identified as an area where improvements in ventilation significantly reduces the spread of Covid-19. The main strategies are to maximise the amount of fresh air inside.

The following resources may assist;

[NSW Covid19 guidance on ventilation](#)

Air treatment system options ([OHAir](#))

As the state continues to open up and with a sense of freedom in our minds, we urge you to not be complacent as the threat of Covid-19 is still very real. The safety and wellbeing of all our community remains of the highest priority.

Please continue to:

- Maintain 1.5m physical distancing
- Maintain hand hygiene
- Practice respiratory hygiene (cough into elbow etc)
- Stay home when sick
- Maintain strict COVID Safe cleaning regime
- Get tested if unwell

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Sources

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules/fully-vaccinated>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/stay-safe/rules/not-fully-vaccinated>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/business/covid-safe-business>

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

Grace and peace,

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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