



# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

3 April 2020

## Movement, gathering and use of premises

This guidance note provides an update on the NSW Public Health Order relating to Gathering and Movement<sup>1</sup> (the **Order**) and how the Order may apply to activities of the Church. The Order is in place from the beginning of 31 March 2020 until June 2020 (unless revoked earlier).

Please note these new restrictions are legally enforceable.

This guidance note update only contains information relating to the church activities. For full details refer to the NSW Public Health Order.

### Who does this guidance apply to?

This guidance is provided for use by Presbyteries and Congregations.

### Movement of people

You must stay at home, unless you have a reasonable excuse.

You may leave your home to:

- ▶ Shop for food or other goods or services for the personal needs of the household and for vulnerable persons
- ▶ Travel for work if you cannot work from home (work includes as a volunteer or for a charitable organisation)
- ▶ Providing care or assistance (including personal care) to a vulnerable person or providing emergency assistance
- ▶ For a minister, going to the minister's place of worship or providing pastoral care to another person

<sup>1</sup> Public Health (COVID-19 Restrictions on Gathering and Movement) Order 2020 dated 30 March 2020

## 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

UAICC



# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

### Essential Gatherings

You must not gather in public with more than 2 people. You may gather in certain circumstances including:

- ▶ For work (work includes as a volunteer or for a charitable organisation)
- ▶ Weddings at which there are no more than 5 persons (including the person conducting the service)
- ▶ Funerals at which there are no more than 10 persons (including the person conducting the service)
- ▶ To provide care or assistance to a vulnerable person
- ▶ To provide emergency assistance
- ▶ To stream or broadcast religious services providing no public are present and the number of people participating in the streaming or broadcasting of religious service should be kept to a minimum, as essential to the religious service

### Use of Premises

You may use or allow others to use the church premises to provide a service to assist vulnerable members of the public, for example a food bank or a service providing for the needs of homeless persons, or as an early education and care facility, subject always to social distancing and infection control measures being in place.

If you use premises to provide such a service, **you must** contact the Synod Insurance team at [insurance@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:insurance@nswact.uca.org.au) so they can discuss whether your insurance arrangements are in place.

Further, certain premises are closed to members of the public, including

- ▶ places of public worship, except for conducting weddings and funerals (following the guidelines for gatherings)
- ▶ recreation facilities (indoor)
- ▶ markets, but not markets that predominantly sell food
- ▶ community facilities
- ▶ any outdoor playground equipment in a public place.

### 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

UAICC



# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

### Infection Control

If your Church Council allows use of premises to provide services to vulnerable people, you must be able to provide adequate infection control, including by

- ▶ Managing numbers of people in the premises at any given time (based on 4 square metres per person);
- ▶ Utilising flexible arrangements where possible, such as working from home or other locations, start/finish times, compressed hours or working week, flexible rostering, bid rostering, or job share;
- ▶ Providing hand sanitiser at ample locations;
- ▶ Providing surface wipes to clean all surfaces, for example, workstations, and workstation equipment such as monitors, phones, keyboards and mice;
- ▶ Cleaning surfaces thoroughly all high contact areas such as doors, handles, kitchen surfaces, bathroom surfaces, printers, lifts, with appropriate cleaning agents;
- ▶ Having reminders and cues about precautions around the premises, for social distances, hand hygiene, cough and sneeze behaviour;
- ▶ Considering physical, distance or other controls to protect people at social interaction points such as counters / service desks to maintain social distancing or provide barrier controls;
- ▶ Understanding how to self-isolate if you need to.

### Other considerations

If premises are used to provide a service to assist vulnerable members of the public, you should:

- ▶ Consider whether your service can be limited or reduced to avoid community contact in the best interests of staff and attendees;
- ▶ Consider whether your activities can be adjusted to enable separation of attendees and to avoid queuing and close confines;
- ▶ Stop travel of attendees, staff and volunteers unless vital for care reasons;
- ▶ Consider the needs of older adults, persons with disabilities, and others with access and functional needs in your response;

## 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

UAICC



**uniting  
church**  
in Australia,  
Synod of NSW & ACT

GUIDANCE NOTE 8

# COVID-19

## GUIDANCE NOTE

- ▶ Other measures to protect vulnerable populations should be taken, including reduction of visitors to residential and aged care facilities for example.

### Supporting information

<https://www.health.gov.au/resources/collections/novel-coronavirus-2019-ncov-resources>

<https://www.health.gov.au/>

<https://www.health.nsw.gov.au/Infectious/diseases/Pages/coronavirus.aspx>

<https://www.health.act.gov.au/about-our-health-system/novel-coronavirus-covid-19>

### Further assistance

If you require further assistance, please contact us at [Covid19@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:Covid19@nswact.uca.org.au) or 02 8267 4300.

## 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

UAICC