



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

8 September 2020

Summary of current COVID Safe Requirements

We understand that trying to keep up with the changes to government requirements can be daunting and confusing. To ensure clarity we have summarised a list of the current requirements for the most common situations. This is not an exhaustive list of every situation, for further details please visit the COVID-19 Safe Roadmap site

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/COVID19saferoadmap/>

In all gatherings and meetings

- Maintain 1.5m physical distancing
- Maintain hand hygiene
- Practice respiratory hygiene (cough into elbow etc)
- Stay home when sick
- Maintain attendance lists for tracing purposes
- Complete COVID Safety Plan and have copy onsite (we are told police are randomly checking – even in rural areas)
- Maintain strict COVID Safe cleaning regime
- Get tested if unwell

Worship

Decide whether the risk of meeting face to face can be confidently managed. Synod cannot decide this for you as it does not have the authority. It is a local Church Council decision.

If you do meet in person:

- Register as a COVID Safe Business
- Max number 100 subject to 4²m rule (whichever is the lesser)
- Masks highly recommended for ages 12 and up especially in areas where there has been community transmission
- Singing is extremely high risk. Synod recommends no singing. This includes no humming, chanting, dancing, or similar activities, even if people wear masks.

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GEORGES RIVER

ILLAWARRA

KOREAN

MACQUARIE DARLING

MID NORTH COAST

NEW ENGLAND NORTH WEST

PARRAMATTA NEPEAN

RIVERINA

SYDNEY CENTRAL COAST

SYDNEY

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- A soloist is allowed but must be at least 5m from anyone and not standing above the congregation.
- For pre-recorded singing or livestreaming, only 1 soloist is now allowed and must maintain 5m physical distancing
- Wind instruments is also high risk. Synod recommends no wind instruments at this time.
- People are asked to stay seated as much as possible.
- Communion – ensure healthy hygiene practices are utilised in preparation. Distributors wear masks, use hand sanitizer and use tongs to distribute. Congregation remains seated with no physical contact.
- Giving should happen via direct debit as much as possible, or have the collection plate at the door – please do not pass the plate/bags around.

Funerals

- Maximum 100 people, subject to 4²m rule
- For small sites, up to 50 is permissible providing members from different households can maintain 1.5m social distancing

Youth Groups, Sunday Schools and KUCA Groups

- Government is still recommending caution. It is up to the local church council to determine whether meeting in person is feasible and if the necessary planning has been done.
- If you do meet face to face, it is advised that people over 12 years of age should wear a mask.
- Maximum 20 people, subject to 4²m rule and social distancing of 1.5 metres
- Avoid high energy activities
- Avoid activities that have shared equipment (eg craft, sport)
- Ensure Covid Safe drop off and pick up arrangements

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Weddings

- Maximum 150 people, subject to 4²m rule and social distancing of 1.5 metres
- No singing, except for soloist with 5m distance
- No dancing, except for wedding couple

Third Party Hirers

- Third party hirers to complete COVID Safe Plan for your Church Council approval
- Show due diligence in continuing to monitor their compliance

Meetings and groups held in homes

- Maximum number of 20 (with a preferred maximum of 10)
- Subject to the 4²m rule and 1.5 metre social distancing

Outdoor gatherings

- Maximum of 20 people
- Maintain social distancing

Different buildings on site

Where there are several buildings on site, the government now allows:

- Occupancy up to 100 for worship and funerals or 150 for a wedding in each of the buildings subject to the 4²m rule and 1.5m social distancing

This is subject to:

- Staggered start and finish times
- No interaction between the attendees of the different activities
- Separate entry/exit for each building
- Workers/volunteers remain within building assigned
- Each building has a COVID Safe Plan

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For further information:

NSW Government Covid-19 site: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19>

ACT Government Covid-19 site: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/home>

Synod of NSW and ACT Website:

<https://nswact.uca.org.au/COVID19saferoadmap/>

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