



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

12 January 2021

Current Covid-19 Restrictions

In view of recent changes by the NSW Government, **Guidance Note 24** outlines current restrictions for NSW and ACT.

Please note the following two important matters affecting NSW:

- NSW is divided into two areas:
 - 1) Greater Sydney including Central Coast, Wollongong and Blue Mountains. Please see map from Public Health that defines this area.
 - 2) Regional and Rural NSW – areas not included in area 1 above.
- Northern Beaches area no longer has separate restrictions and is included in the Greater Sydney Area

In all areas in NSW:

- 1.5 metre physical distancing is to be maintained (except by members of the same household)
- Covid Safety Plans to be completed or updated, for services and including arrangements for funerals and weddings if these are conducted
- Places of Worship, and funerals must be registered as Covid Safe
- Attendance records at the place of worship are to be maintained, ideally in a digital format such as a QR Code from Service NSW or using the template provided by NSW Health (see funerals below regarding funerals that are not held at a place of worship)
- Monitor for symptoms and get tested with even the slightest sign of illness.

Greater Sydney, Central Coast, Wollongong and Blue Mountains restrictions

Places of Worship, Weddings and Funerals

Maximum numbers are limited by the 4 square metre rule up to a maximum of 100 with 1.5 metre physical distancing being maintained. If held outdoors, the 2 square metre rule applies but maximum is still limited to 100.

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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Face masks are mandatory for the congregants/audience. Leaders and those participating in the service may remove their mask while they are up the front leading or presenting. This includes those doing a reading, giving a eulogy, or singing (see other singing restrictions below). Masks must be worn whilst going to and from the front. Face mask must be refitted as soon as practical following the participation or leading the service. For weddings, those in the wedding party are not required to wear a face mask.

Singing is not allowed by the congregants/audience and is only allowed by a maximum of 5 people up the front, 1.5 metres from each other (and other musicians), all facing the same direction and at least 5 metres from the audience. Singing by the audience is allowed outside providing those 12 years and older are wearing a mask.

Musical instruments – players of non-reeded instruments must maintain a distance of at least 3 metres in direction of airflow and 1.5 metre in other directions. All other players must maintain 1.5 metre distancing.

Funerals – In addition to the other restrictions, patron check-in at crematoria, funerals, funeral homes, memorial services, gatherings after funerals and memorial services must be completed using electronic methods such as a QR code if they are conducted somewhere other than a place of worship.

Halls – Capacity must not exceed one ‘customer’ per 4 square metres of publicly accessible space. Children count towards the capacity limit. Note that hire groups may also be subject to other limits applicable to them.

Outdoor gatherings – in a public place are limited to a maximum of 30.

Residences

Visitors to residences are restricted to a maximum of 5 at any one time on any given day.

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Regional and Rural NSW

Places of Worship, Weddings and Funerals

Maximum numbers are limited only by the 2 square metre rule and 1.5 metre physical distancing.

Face masks are strongly recommended for the congregants/audience. Leaders and those participating in the service may remove their mask while they are up the front leading or presenting. This includes those doing a reading, giving a eulogy, or singing (see other singing restrictions below). For weddings, those in the wedding party are not required to wear a face mask.

Singing is not allowed by the congregants/audience and is only allowed by a maximum of 5 people up the front, 1.5 metres from each other, all facing the same direction and at least 5 metres from the audience. Singing is allowed outside by the audience providing those 12 years and older are wearing a mask.

Musical instruments – players of non-reeded instruments must maintain a distance of at least 3 metres in direction of airflow and 1.5 metre in other directions. All other players must maintain 1.5 metre distancing.

Halls – are subject to the 2 square metre rule, however, hire groups may be subject to other restrictions applicable to them.

Outdoor gatherings – in a public place are limited to a maximum of 100.

Residences

Visitors to residences are restricted to a maximum of 50 at any one time. Note. NSW Health recommends a maximum 30 visitors if the place of residence does not have any outdoor space.

ACT

There have been no changes in restrictions from the ACT Government for venues, however, there may be travel restrictions in place depending on where you live. Please visit the ACT Government site for more information: <https://www.covid19.act.gov.au>

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

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Covid Safety Plan Templates

These are currently being updated into Word format and will be uploaded to the [Covid-19 Safe Roadmap website](#) **within a few days.**

Further information

Please continue to monitor the NSW Government website <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19> and the ACT Government website

<https://www.covid19.act.gov.au/> as the situation continues to change quickly.

For further information, please [contact covid19@nswact.uca.org.au](mailto:contact_covid19@nswact.uca.org.au) or kingsleym@nswact.uca.org.au

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