



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

28 January 2021

Current Covid-19 Restrictions

Guidance Note 24 has been updated to reflect changed restrictions for Greater Sydney from Friday 29 January 2021. In summary;

- Places of worship now have **no set maximum number** but are still limited to 4 square metre rule and must be fully seated
- Other restrictions remain including that **masks are still compulsory**, and **no singing** indoors, other than the 5 singers (see 'singing' below)
- Residences – visitors increased from 5 to 30 people
- Outdoor gatherings – increased from 30 to 50 people
- Weddings and funerals – maximum increased to 300 subject to the 4m2 rule.

In all areas of 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 restrictions (including Central Coast, Wollongong and Blue Mountains)

Places of Worship

Maximum numbers are limited by the 4 square metre rule with 1.5 metre physical distancing being maintained, and attendees remaining fully seated.

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 300 people limit (subject to the 4m² rule), 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.

Weddings - Up to 300 people can attend a wedding, fully seated, subject to the 4m² rule. Singing and dancing is not allowed, other than 20 nominated people from the wedding party who are allowed to dance.

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 50.

Residences

Visitors to residences are restricted to a maximum of 30 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 routinely updated into Word format and uploaded to the [Covid-19 Safe Roadmap website](#).

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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