



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

15 February 2021

Further easing of Covid-19 Restrictions

The Premier, Gladys Berejiklian has announced the further easing of restrictions for Churches in the Greater Sydney region. For rural and regional areas, and the ACT no changes have been made.

These came into effect from Friday, 12th February 2021.

Square Metre Rule:

Places of public worship/worship services may have one person per 2 square metres. Up to 25 people are allowed before the 2 square metres rule applies. Social distancing still applies.

Maximum capacity

Maximum capacity for worship is determined by the sq m/social distancing rule.

Weddings and Funerals are capped at 300 (or the square meter rule limit, whichever is less)

Signage for your premises will need to be updated to reflect the new maximum capacities.

Singing

Singing and chanting remains a high-risk activity and the restrictions remain. Churches should ensure that:

- no more than 5 singers perform together indoors
- all singers face forwards and not towards each other
- there is a space of 1.5 metres between performers
- there is a space of 5 metres between performers and other people including the conductor and the audience.

In indoor areas, audience members and congregants should not participate in singing or chanting.

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



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Masks

Masks are no longer mandatory in services, but strongly encouraged where 1.5 metre distancing is difficult, or if caring for a vulnerable person (a person whose age or health make them more likely to become acutely unwell if infected).

Safety Plans

All plans will need to be updated to reflect changes applicable to your premises. The updated plan will need to be approved by your Church Council and will need to be submitted to your Presbytery and to Synod as is the current requirement.

If these changes alter your plan significantly, you will need to do a new plan. If it is simply a change of numbers, please make your change, initial it, and keep a copy onsite ready for any visiting authority.

There is no need to send slightly amended plans to the Synod.

New plans or significantly amended plans should still go to Presbytery and then to Synod.

Sign-in

The requirements for signing-in have not changed; people attending a service should provide their name and contact details when they enter so that they can be used for contact tracing.

Information sourced from: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/what-you-can-and-cant-do-under-rules/greater-sydney#weddings-funerals-and-religious-services>

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Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

GUIDANCE NOTE 25

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To be clarified

There are a few changes that we are waiting to be clarified/confirmed. It is expected that the information for these will not be available until Monday.

- 1.5 metre social distancing - it is unclear if this is still a requirement or not
- Singing inside - All congregation/audience or just 50 performers up front
- Wearing of masks - are these still required if not singing (inside and outside)

For further information, please contact:

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Presbytery Service Manager

kingsleym@nswact.uca.org.au

It is our hope that this will bring some joy as people gather for Christmas.

Your patience and resilience have been deeply appreciated and the staff of the Synod Office join me in wishing you a very happy and holy Christmas.

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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