

## Administrator Communique

Stage 3 – COVID Update - 22<sup>nd</sup> August 2020

Dear Church Family,

Over the last month we have all witnessed from afar the rapid spread of the Coronavirus in Victoria. Two days ago in Ipswich there was a positive COVID case detected, source unknown and so it is a case of community transmission. Therefore, from today, 22<sup>nd</sup> August, the State Government has updated the restrictions for our communities which came into effect immediately. These changes directly affect many Local Government Areas in Brisbane and Ipswich, but they have also introduced some changes for us in Central Queensland as well. This link takes you to what is relevant for the rest of QLD from 8am this morning, 22<sup>nd</sup> August.

<https://www.qld.gov.au/health/conditions/health-alerts/coronavirus-covid-19/current-status/public-health-directions/movements-gatherings>

This Communique summarises the current changes. I will do my best to inform you as quickly as possible of all future changes that are applicable for our church communities, as soon as is practically possible. If we see evidence of further community transmission, then you can expect further restrictions to be introduced quickly.

This Communique updates all previous versions.

1. **Parishes/Ministry Centres WITHOUT a COVID Safe Plan**

Every Parish should have these in place already. *I will do an audit of all Parish COVID Plans this week. If your Parish has still not submitted a COVID Safe Plan, then the full force of the new QLD restrictions applies to your church effective immediately.* (In particular, your church meetings are immediately limited to 30 people.)

2. **Parishes/Ministry Centres With a COVID Safe Plan**

If your Parish/Ministry Centre has a COVID Safe Plan, then your restrictions remain unchanged. If there is **ANY** deviation from the plan then numbers are limited to 30. (Less if the worship space is under 60m<sup>2</sup>.)

3. **Re-Evaluate Your Risk**

The Government is concerned about community transmission. So in areas with greater tourist and nomad numbers, there is an increased risk of community transmission. Consequently, each Parish/Ministry Centre needs to re-think all of their current exemptions that they might have in place for people who are more vulnerable to the virus. (Those over 70, those with health conditions, the indigenous.)

4. **Social Gatherings and Outdoor Events = Maximum of 30 people**

All *social gatherings* or *outdoor events* such as Picnics, BBQ's, Cake Stalls, Knitting Groups, Card Groups, Birthday Parties, etc **are now restricted to 30 people until further notice.** (Less where the room is under 60m<sup>2</sup>.) This now applies to all functions/events **in your home**, regardless if it is outdoors. Gatherings are capped to 30 people. Children are people! Physical contact is only permissible with people you live with.

5. **Activities in Church Halls**

As long as there is an **Industry COVID Safe Plan** in place, then restrictions are currently unchanged. Again, if you have no COVID Safe Plan, then your numbers are capped at 30 people. (Less where the room is under 60m<sup>2</sup>.) No deviations from the Industry COVID Safe Plans are permissible.

## 6. **Op Shops and Bargain Shops**

As long as there is an Industry COVID Safe Plan in place, then restrictions are currently unchanged. Again, if you have no COVID Safe Plan, then your numbers are capped at 30 people. (Less where the room is under 60m<sup>2</sup>.) No deviations from the Industry COVID Safe Plans are permissible.

## 7. **Monitor Health → Unwell = Stay Home (Get Tested)**

If anyone has any flu-like symptoms (no matter how mild) then they MUST stay at home. If anyone has a fever, they should immediately visit a COVID Clinic and get tested.

## 8. **Contact Tracing is a MUST**

I remind everyone that keeping records to enable **immediate Contact Tracing** is a **legal requirement!** You must collect the name and contact details of **everyone who attends** every Church Service, Church activity (onsite and offsite), Bible study groups, committee meeting, playgroup, op shop visitor, soup kitchen participant, mother's union meeting, morning prayer service, funeral, baptism, church working bee etc. This information must be kept for 56 days.

## 9. **Residential Aged Care/Hospital/Disability Accommodation Visiting**

<https://www.health.qld.gov.au/system-governance/legislation/cho-public-health-directions-under-expanded-public-health-powers/aged-care>

Entry is prohibited if:

- Visitor has been overseas in previous 2 weeks
- Visitor has been in a COVID-19 Hotspot in previous 2 weeks
- Visitor has had known contact with a confirmed COVID case in previous 2 weeks
- Visitor has a temperature of 37.5 degrees or higher
- Visitor has symptoms of acute respiratory infection
- Visitor has not had a current influenza vaccination (unless there is a medical exemption)

Care and Support Visitors are limited to 2 people maximum – unless it is an end of life visit.

Normal Social Distancing rules and hygiene practices must be observed.

Visitors are to limit their contact with other persons in the facility.

And still remember to abide by and enforce:

- **Flu-like Symptoms** → stay at home, get tested.
- **Physical Distancing** → is to the extent possible. Maximise if you can. Minimum 1.5m.
- **Hand Hygiene** → continue to wash hands thoroughly or use alcohol-based sanitiser.
- **Respiratory Hygiene** → continue to cough/sneeze into elbow.
- **Tracking, Tracing, Rapid Response** → must keep attendee contact lists for 56 days/event.
- **Frequent Environmental Cleaning + Disinfection** → must clean between events/usage.

Thank you for your ongoing attention and cooperation with all these restrictions. I must say my prayer thoughts more often turn to "Come Lord Jesus, come!" Again, please don't hesitate to ask questions if you need something clarified. A huge shout out to our **Safe Ministry Coordinator**, Rev Jennifer Hercott, for helping us all stay on top of these changes. And please watch for further updates, as I suspect we may soon be back to online services only.

In Christ,

*Tom Henderson-Brooks*

**Ven Tom Henderson-Brooks**

Administrator/Bishop's Commissary