



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

GUIDANCE NOTE 42

8 November 2021

NSW Roadmap out of Covid

The NSW Government has again updated their Roadmap and has made changes that come into effect from Monday 8 November 2021. These changes are reflected in the table below, but the main changes are:

- Density limits have now been changed to 1 person per 2sqm
- Singing is now allowed for the congregation but only for fully vaccinated people and masks must still be worn
- No limit to home visitors – fully vaccinated only
- No limit on outdoor gatherings - fully vaccinated only

Further changes are scheduled for 15 December 2021 or at 95% fully vaccinated status of NSW, whichever occurs first. Further advice will issue at that time.

This Guidance Note applies to NSW only. The current restrictions for the ACT were advised in Information Update of 29 October 2021 with the next changes scheduled for 29 November 2021.

Activity	Fully Vaccinated Only	Unvaccinated
Places of Worship	Open, uncapped, subject to 1 person per 2sqm indoors and outdoors. See below for singing	Same as fully vaccinated
Youth and Children's Ministry	Activities of the church that have Church Council approval, and are held on church property, can be held for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.	Same as fully vaccinated
Other Church run activities – eg Bible studies, meetings, adult groups, etc	Activities of the church that have Church Council approval, and are held on church property, can be held for both vaccinated and unvaccinated people.	Same as fully vaccinated
Singing in church	Singing is allowed only by fully vaccinated congregants and masks must still be worn while singing. OR Up to 10 fully vaccinated singers may perform in places of worship (see below for full requirements).	Not permitted
Weddings	Uncapped, subject to 1 person per 2sqm indoors and outdoors. Receptions allowed with 1 person per 2 sqm and eating and drinking allowed whilst standing. Singing and dancing allowed.	Maximum of 11 people including those participating and no more than 5 guests. Must be seated whilst eating and drinking.
Funerals	Uncapped, subject to 1 person per 2sqm indoors and outdoors. Eating and drinking allowed whilst standing. Singing and dancing allowed.	Limited to 10 attendees - not counting anyone necessary for the conduct of the service. Must be seated whilst eating and drinking.

PRESBYTERIES



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Masks	Mandatory in all indoor settings (except office spaces), including places of worship, while on and waiting for public transport, at airports.	Mandatory in all indoor settings, while on and waiting for public transport, airports
Visitors to homes	No limits	Not allowed except in limited circumstances
Gatherings outdoors	No limits	2 person limit, or your household only
Op-shops – retail restrictions apply	Can re-open to vaccinated customers*, subject to 1 person per 2sqm rule. Volunteers and workers in Greater Sydney and Regional and Rural NSW must be fully vaccinated.	Not permitted
Third party hire: Dance, exercise, yoga classes etc – subject to Gym restrictions	Limit to 20 people subject to 1 person per 2sqm	Under 16 years of age only
Third party hire: Non exercise related, eg Probus, Rotary	Uncapped subject to 1 person per 2sqm	Under 16 years of age only

*Op shops may defer re-opening to 15 December 2021 when the vaccination status of customers will no longer be a condition of entry.

Safety Plans require updating to reflect these changes.

Face Masks are required to be worn by all people over the age of 12 years at all times while indoors. The leader may remove their mask during public speaking if it supports clarity, but must put it on again as soon as the reason for removing it has ended. Some ministry activities will also require a mask, such as visiting an aged care facility. See the [Face Mask Rules](#) for more details. **QR Codes** must continue to be used to record attendance details. If guests do not have the means to use a QR Code, details must be taken and entered into a digital format like a spreadsheet.

Morning teas may be considered but please be mindful that this activity is closely aligned with that of a café or restaurant where unvaccinated people are not yet allowed to attend. With this in mind, Synod is recommending that morning teas not be served at this stage. Should you wish to proceed, the Church Council will need to assess the risk and document it in the Place of Worship Covid Safety Plan. Also, please be guided by earlier advice on the safe [Preparation and Service of Food](#).

Singing is allowed by everyone who is fully vaccinated, however, masks must be worn. Those who are not vaccinated can still be part of the service but cannot sing. Alternatively, you may revert to having up to 10 people up the front singing without masks providing they are all fully vaccinated, 1.5m apart and at least 3m from the congregation. In this situation, the congregation is not allowed to sing.

Communion may be served following all hygiene practices for preparation and distribution (gloves, hand sanitiser, tongs). As masks are to be worn indoors, they may only be removed for the partaking of the elements. Congregation remains seated with no physical contact.

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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Baptisms may be conducted subject to all current Covid safety restrictions. Arrangements will need to be made with the parent/s in regard to who may hold the baby/child. 1.5m distancing will need to be maintained as best as possible.

Collections and offerings should be done in a way to avoid physical contact. Prioritise online giving or locate the collection plates in an accessible area for people to give.

Ventilation is now an item that is in the Safety Plans and all congregations are encouraged to review their current practices and equipment to minimise the risk of spreading any virus. This has been identified as an area where improvements in ventilation significantly reduces the spread of Covid-19. The main strategies are to maximise the amount of fresh air inside.

The following resources may assist:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/business/covid-safe-business/ventilation>

<https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/other-resources/heating-ventilation-and-air-conditioning-hvac>

Voting centres. A number of enquiries have been received by congregations who have hired out their premises to the Electoral Commission for pre-poll voting and for voting on the 4th December. The concern was around allowing unvaccinated people onsite to vote, however, as it is a legal requirement to vote, unvaccinated people are allowed to attend for this purpose.

Please continue to:

- Maintain 1.5m physical distancing
- Maintain hand hygiene
- Practice respiratory hygiene (cough into elbow etc)
- Stay home when sick
- Maintain strict COVID Safe cleaning regime
- Get tested if unwell

Helpful links and resources

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/sites/default/files/2021-11/nsw-roadmap-nov8.pdf>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/easing-covid-19-restrictions>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/business/covid-safe-business>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/business/covid-safe-business/vaccination-rules>

If you have any queries, please contact:

covid19@nswact.uca.org.au or Kingsley Murphy - kingsley@nswact.uca.org.au

Regards and blessings,

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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