

13 December 2021

NSW Roadmap out of Covid

The NSW Government updated Roadmap comes into effect from Wednesday 15 December 2021. The main changes are:

- No density limits for all settings. (Social distancing still applies)
- COVID-19 Safe check-ins only required for hospitals, aged and disability care facilities, places of worship, funerals or memorial services.
- No limit to home visitors
- No limit on outdoor gatherings

This Guidance Note applies to NSW only.

Activity	15 December 2021
Places of Worship	Places of worship open to all with no density limits. Covid-19 Safe Check-in required (by QR Code if possible). See below for singing
Youth and Children's Ministry	Activities of the church, approved by Church Council and held on church property, are open to vaccinated and unvaccinated people. Covid-19 Safe Check-in is required.
Other Church run activities – eg Bible studies, meetings, adult groups, etc	All activities of the church are open to vaccinated and unvaccinated people. For events held on church property, Covid-19 Safe Check-in is required.
Singing in church	Singing is permitted indoors and outdoors for all (no masks required).
Weddings	Weddings are permitted with no person limit. Eating and drinking allowed while standing, and dancing is now permitted.
Funerals	Funerals permitted with no person limit. Eating and drinking is allowed while standing. Covid-19 Safe Check-in required.
Masks	The Government strongly encourages the wearing of masks in settings where you cannot social distance.
Visitors to homes	No limits
Gatherings outdoors	No limits
Op-shops – retail restrictions apply	Can re-open to all customers with no density limits. If on church property, Covid-19 Safe Check-in required
Third party hire: Dance, exercise, yoga classes etc – subject to Gym restrictions	No limits. Covid-19 Safe Check-in required
Third party hire: Non exercise related, eg Probus, Rotary	No limits. Covid-19 Safe Check-in required

In case of Covid-19 outbreak: Several congregations have had recent Covid-19 outbreaks. It is a stressful time which demands immediate action. Please review your [Response Plan](#) to enable a fast response. Please advise the details to covid19@nswact.uca.org.au as well as to your Presbytery. **Please note the Synod office will be closed 24th December 2021 and will reopen 10th January 2022. During this time, no staff will be available to support Covid matters.**

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



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

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Cleaning. There has been no indication from the Government that your Covid-19 cleaning regime can be relaxed as the restrictions ease. Please refer to [Safe Work Australia](#) for their recommended cleaning guide:

Safety Plans are optional and will now be supported by SafeWork NSW. In light of recent cases within congregations we recommend updated safety plans for all congregations. While they are not required legally, they demonstrate diligence. At time of writing, the NSW Government website for Safety Plans has not been updated. Please check regularly for updates: <https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/business/safety-plans>

Face Masks are strongly encouraged by the Government in settings where you cannot social distance. They are still required on public transport, planes and at airports.

QR Codes must continue to be used to record attendance details on Church property. Service NSW confirms that this extends to third party hirers as well. 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.

Further clarity is trying to be obtained as to whether check-in is required for all activities on church property and an update will be sent when received. Until then, if it is on Church property, Covid-19 Safe Check-in is required.

Morning teas and meals may be served following all hygiene practices for preparation and distribution of food. Refer to Synod's earlier advice on the safe [Preparation and Service of Food](#).

Singing is allowed by everyone, and no masks are required to be worn.

Communion may be served following all hygiene practices for preparation and distribution.

Baptisms may be conducted subject to all current Covid safety restrictions. Social distancing of 1.5m will need to be maintained as best as possible.

Collections and offerings. Synod recommends continuing in a contactless way via online giving or locating the collection plates in an accessible area. You may return to using collection plates/bags if you can navigate the risk appropriately.

Ventilation. Proper ventilation in your premises reduces the risk of the spread of Covid-19. All congregations are encouraged to review their current practices and equipment. The goal is 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://covid19.swa.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/other-resources/heating-ventilation-and-air-conditioning-hvac>

As we move into this phase of minimal restrictions, we urge you to resist complacency as we learn to live with Covid-19. Recent case numbers indicate the threat is still there, despite the high vaccination rate.

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Uniting Church
SYNOD OF NSW & ACT

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With this in mind, please continue to:

- Maintain 1.5m physical distancing where possible
- 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/reopening-nsw-95-per-cent-roadmap-december.pdf>

If you have any queries, please contact:

covid19@nswact.uca.org.au

I sincerely thank you all for your vigilance and care through the difficulties of this year.
As we again celebrate the coming of God in Jesus Christ, may you find rest and renewal.

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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