



13 October 2021

NSW Roadmap out of Covid Update

Further to Guidance Note 39 the following information clarifies the easing of restrictions as of 11 October 2021. Further changes will be announced once the 80% milestone has been reached. Further updates will be circulated as they apply.

In Guidance Note 39, the Synod Office recommended that congregations don't regather for worship until the 80% fully vaccinated milestone is achieved and there is permission for all people to attend worship. This is because monitoring who is vaccinated and unvaccinated is challenging and can cause tension and stress. As you make your decisions about when to return to face to face worship, please be conscious of your resources and potential impact on the congregation members who will take responsibility for implementing your Covid plans.

Please note: this update is for NSW only. Changes/updates for the ACT will be circulated as they are released.

Activity	Fully Vaccinated only	Unvaccinated
Places of Worship	Open, uncapped, fully vaccinated only. Maximum 10 singers. Subject to 1 person per 4sqm indoors, 1 person per 2sqm outdoors. No singing by congregation.	Not allowed.
Youth and Children's Ministry	Under 16 yrs: Can attend worship with fully vaccinated members of their household. Over 16 yrs: must be vaccinated to attend any church related activity	Under 16yrs permitted (see note below) Over 16yrs not permitted
Singing groups in church	Up to 10 fully vaccinated singers may perform in places of worship and at religious services.	N/A
Wedding Ceremonies	Limited to 100 guests. Subject to 1 person per 4sqm indoors, 1 person per 2sqm outdoors.	Limited to 5 guests.

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Funerals	Limited to 100 guests. Subject to 1 person per 4sqm indoors, 1 person per 2sqm outdoors.	Limited to 10 attendees not including anyone necessary for the conduct of the service.
Masks	Mandatory in all indoor settings, public transport, airports, business premises	Mandatory in all indoor settings, public transport, airports, business premises
Visitors to homes	Max of 10, where all adults are fully vaccinated	Not allowed except in limited circumstances
Gatherings outdoors	30 where all attendees are fully vaccinated.	2 person limit.
Op-shops – retail restrictions apply	Can re-open to vaccinated customers*, subject to 1 person per 4sqm rule. Volunteers and workers in Greater Sydney must be fully vaccinated. In regional areas volunteers and workers may return if they have one vaccination shot, as long as full vaccination is achieved by 1 st November 2021.	Not allowed.
Third party hire: Dance, exercise, yoga classes etc – subject to Gym restrictions	Limit to 20 people Subject to 1 person per 4sqm.	Not allowed
Third party hire: Non exercise related, eg AA, Probus, Rotary	Limited to maximum of 1 person per 4sqm	Not allowed

*Op shops may wish to defer re-opening to 1 December when the vaccination status of customers will no longer be a condition of entry.

Please note that for the fully vaccinated column, every individual person 16 years and over attending must be fully vaccinated. The attendees in this category must have vaccination evidence and should produce it when requested.

People under the age of 16 who are not fully vaccinated are allowed unaccompanied in their workplaces and all outdoor settings, but must be with a fully vaccinated member of their household in hospitality venues and places of worship.

Service NSW has confirmed that those under 16 who are unvaccinated, may attend certain activities, like dance classes, if they have been dropped off by a fully vaccinated person. They do not have to be accompanied by a fully vaccinated person

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for the duration of the class. This includes church related activities like youth groups and kids clubs.

We have also had confirmation that outdoor singing is allowed subject to outdoor Covid safety measures being in place and 1 person per 2sqm being adhered to. They have also confirmed that woodwind instruments are allowed indoors.

Covid-Safe Check-in

Check-in requirements continue, as previously. In addition, proof of vaccination is required if opening prior to 80%. Congregation representatives should sight vaccination evidence. Vaccination evidence includes:

- an online immunisation history statement
- a COVID-19 digital certificate from the [Australian Immunisation Register](#)
- a medical exemption, which includes either:
 - a medical contraindication certificate or
 - a medical clearance form.

The NSW government is working to ensure access to vaccination evidence in the Service NSW app.

Third Party Hire

Congregations with hall hirers should contact the hirer so that the updated Covid Safety Plans can be shared. The congregation should note what arrangements the hirer has in place to comply with the health orders, in particular;

- Group limits
- Sign-in arrangements including Covid Safe Check in.

Youth and Children's Ministry

Children under 16 years can attend children's ministries if unvaccinated;

- During church when attending worship with (fully vaccinated) members of their household
- For groups held at other times, they may be dropped off by a fully vaccinated adult.
- Children over the age of 12 years must wear a mask inside.

Young people – 16 years or over who are members of the group;

- Can attend during church if vaccinated
- Can only attend youth group at other times if vaccinated.

Groups onsite and hospitality

Ministry groups onsite for people 16 years and over, should be for vaccinated people only (see note on accompanying children). Refreshments can be served outside, following Covid-Safe guidelines.

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Food ministries

Congregation food ministries should not yet commence as it appears eating onsite at a venue is restricted to vaccinated people. The Synod will seek further clarity for congregations on this requirement.

Source:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/easing-covid-19-restrictions/70-percent>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/rules-for-fully-vaccinated-people-nsw>

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/rules-for-people-who-are-not-fully-vaccinated>

If you have any queries, please contact: covid19@nswact.uca.org.au or
Kingsley Murphy - kingsleym@nswact.uca.org.au

Rev. Bronwyn Murphy
Associate Secretary

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