



Last updated 8th July 2021



ECCLESIA MISSION

Eastern

COVID-19 Safety Plan

Mandatory face coverings

The [Public Health \(COVID-19 Mandatory Face Coverings\) Order \(No 3\) 2021](#) commenced on 26 June 2021. This Order creates some additional requirements for Greater Sydney (including Sydney, the Central Coast, Shellharbour, and Wollongong).

Under the Order, a person must wear a mask (covering the nose and mouth of the wearer) if they are places being used for public worship or religious services.

Temporary restrictions across NSW, including in regional areas

Restrictions apply across all of NSW, including regional areas. These restrictions are to be read in conjunction with the [additional restrictions that apply during the Greater Sydney lockdown](#). People from Greater Sydney (or who have been in Greater Sydney since 21 June and it has been less than 14 days since they were last in Greater Sydney) cannot leave their residence unless they have a reasonable excuse. Certain venues are closed to the public in Greater Sydney, such as gyms, nightclubs, places of public worship (unless being used for funerals or education/childcare), and entertainment facilities.

The restrictions which apply across NSW include:

- The one person per four square metre rule applies for indoor and outdoor settings. The occupier of non-residential settings must ensure the number of persons on a premises is limited to the greater of 25 persons or 1 person per four square metres. If any attendees are from Greater Sydney, funerals and memorial services must be limited to a maximum of 100 people.
- Singing by audiences at indoor shows or by congregants at indoor places of worship is not allowed.
- Events held in entertainment facilities and major recreation facilities are now limited to the greater of 1 person per 4 square metres or 50% seated capacity.

Current exemptions to the [Public Health \(COVID-19 Temporary Movement and Gathering Restrictions\) Order 2021](#)

- An [exemption](#) is in place concerning singing and chanting in places of public worship.

Direction of Minister about singing on non-residential premises

1. (1) The Minister directs that the occupier of non-residential premises must ensure that persons in an indoor area of the premises do not sing.
2. (2) Subclause (1) does not apply if—
 1. (a) the persons singing are performers engaged in a performance or rehearsing for a performance, or
 2. (b) the premises are an educational establishment, or
 3. (c) the persons are singing for the purpose of instruction in singing.

Wellbeing of staff, volunteers and visitors

- Condition of Entry signage and QR Code to be placed at venue entry and online.
- Visitors will be encouraged to wear face masks as per NSW Health guidelines
- Face masks will be made available for all visitors, staff, and volunteers
- Signage to advise staff, volunteers and visitors to get tested for COVID-19 if they have fever; cough; sore/scratchy throat; and shortness of breath.
- Online streaming of church service will be made available to cater to the vulnerable members and those who are unable to attend the service physically.

Physical distancing

- Physical distancing rules must be observed when entering and exiting the Church.
- All persons will need to sit at least 1.5 metres apart with the exception for members of the same household who may sit together. Host team will monitor seating (filling front to back) and allowing family and household groups to sit together.
- Signages on keeping 1.5 metres apart will be placed around the building to reduce crowding.
- The maximum capacity of the Church will be limited as per NSW Health guidelines. This maximum capacity will apply to the whole of the venue.
- Signage will be used to communicate maximum safe capacity for the whole venue and for each room.
- Host Team member/s will be assigned to count the entry numbers and monitor physical distancing requirements to ensure no over-crowding.
- A CovidSafe Warden will be allocated to oversee monitoring of numbers and identifying anyone who displays. Once the limit for the room is met, the doors must be closed, and entry denied.
- Chairs and tables will be arranged to meet physical distancing requirements as per NSW Health guidelines
- Zoom meetings will be made available for meetings such as small groups and prayer meetings.
- Singing in the church will comply with NSW Health guidelines.
- Sunday School program will be conducted in accordance with the NSW Government guidelines on Schools and Childcare.

Hygiene and cleaning

- Signage will be used to communicate good hygiene practices.
- Hand sanitiser stations, hand soap and paper towel will be made available.
- Visitors will be provided pre-packaged elements for communion.
- Tea/Coffee etc to be served in disposable cups and queues/numbers monitored by the 'Warden'.
- Bins provided to dispose of plates and rubbish
- Giving will be predominantly online and offering box will be made available with disposable envelopes.
- Venue will be cleaned weekly and ensure that frequently touched areas such as door knobs, stairs railing, water taps are thoroughly cleaned.
- Disinfectant wet wipes will be used for cleaning and disposable gloves will be made available.

Record Keeping

- All visitors will be required to sign-in at venue entry using their mobile phone to access the Services NSW app (or manual sign-in for those without mobiles). Lining up with 1.5m distancing.
- Visitors will be encouraged to download and use the COVIDSafe app.
- Host team will refer congregants to the conditions of entry sign and check the temperature of visitors with a contactless thermometer
- Visitors be refused entry if:
 - they have a fever or are feeling unwell
 - maximum safe capacity is reached.
- In line with the Privacy Laws, personal information will be kept confidential and only used for Covid19 reporting purposes. Information will only be kept on file for 28 days.