



## COVID-19 Update

Friday 9 July 2021

Good afternoon,

While the announcements made by the Premier in recent days have been positive, COVID-19 has not been eliminated from our communities.

With respect to this weekend, it is important to remember the following.

Congregations across Queensland continue to be operating under different public health directions.

- Places of worship in the impacted areas are required to abide by the requirements of the Restrictions for Impacted Areas Direction.
  - Congregations in these areas are required to complete and display the COVID Safe Checklist: Restricted Business – impacted areas
- Places of worship outside the impacted areas are required to abide by the requirements of the Restrictions on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Direction. They must also complete and display the COVID Safe Checklist: Restricted Business

People from impacted regions who were in the impacted areas must continue to follow the same rules around masks for the period the Restrictions for Impacted Areas Direction is in force.

### Check-In QLD App

- Check-in Qld App will become mandatory for Places of Worship this Friday.
  - For congregations that have not yet trialled the system I would recommend:
    - reminding your members to download the app if they have not already done so before arriving at church
    - having additional greeters on hand on Sunday to assist those who have not downloaded the app before arriving
    - having multiple people capable of accessing the business profile to manually enter details.

### Face masks

- Face masks are mandatory in the impacted region in
  - Outside your place of residence
  - indoor spaces.
  - On public transport
  - In shared private vehicles or taxis
    - A simple reminder sign has been created that can be printed and displayed to remind members and attendees to wear their masks. This poster can be downloaded in colour and black and white.
- There are some exemptions in place for:
  - Children under the age of 12
  - A minister or worship leader where clear enunciation is required or who is communicating with those with hearing difficulties
  - Only the bride and groom during a wedding ceremony
- The use of face masks outside the impacted region continues to be encouraged by the Chief Health Officer but not mandatory when:
  - In indoor spaces where physical distancing is not possible
  - On public transport
  - Highly populated areas such as shopping centres

### Density

- Density restrictions have reverted back to:

**ucaqld.com.au**  
P: (07) 3377 9705  
GPO Box 674 Brisbane QLD 4001

Uniting in Christ  
acting with love  
living with hope  
witnessing in faith  
working for justice

The Uniting Church Centre  
60 Bayliss St Auchenflower QLD 4066  
The Uniting Church in Australia Property Trust (Q.)  
ARBN: 142 498 780

- Non-restricted local government areas:
  - One person to two square metres
- Impacted regions:
  - One person to four square metres.
  - Under 200m<sup>2</sup>, 1 person to 2 square metres to a maximum of 50
- 100 per cent capacity permitted with allocated individual seating under both directions when not locked down

#### **Funerals and weddings**

- In impacted areas – up to 100 people regardless of occupant density but ensure you do not exceed your overall building capacity – if your building is 60m<sup>2</sup> you can have 60 inside and 40 outside to make up the 100 persons.
- In non-restricted areas – one person per two square metres or 100% with ticketed allocated seating

#### **Gatherings in homes and non-residences**

- In impacted region after lockdown ends
  - No more than 30 people in a home
  - No more than 30 people in an outdoor space
  - No more than 30 people in another venue – unless operating in accordance with a COVID Safe Checklist: Restricted Businesses – impacted areas.
- In other areas of Queensland
  - No more than 100 people in a home
  - No more than 100 people in an outdoor space
  - No more than 100 people in another venue – unless operating in accordance with a COVID Safe Checklist: Restricted Business.

#### **Morning tea**

- Morning teas and refreshments are causing some confusion within congregations at the present time. The current expectations around the service of food are as follows:
  - No restriction on self-service food
  - Members need to be seated to consume food and drink in the impacted zones
    - It seems illogical and not completely safe to some congregations to have members masked, sitting further apart and taking extra care to keep their vulnerable safe and then having everyone helping themselves to morning tea.
    - It is a decision for each church council as to how they wish to proceed. I am aware of congregations that decided to continue to serve, others that are not holding morning tea and others that are just abiding by the direction. This is a congregational decision based on your individual risk considerations.



Rev Andrew Gunton  
Moderator  
Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod



Rev Heather den Houting  
General Secretary  
Uniting Church in Australia, Queensland Synod