

MEMO



TO CHURCH LEADERS / MEMBERS

FROM CTJ CHURCH COVID-19 MARSHALL / CTJ LEAD PASTOR

SUBJECT COVID-19 UPDATE - FRIDAY OCTOBER 22 2021

Please find the updated COVID-19 UPDATE provided by ACC in coordination with NSW Health.

Based on the easing down of the restrictions:

CHURCH RE-OPENING

- We will still stick to our Sunday December 5, 2021, church reopening for members with the following safety plan in place:
 - QR code still required upon entry and exit of the building premises
 - Reminding our members if they are not feeling well to stay at home.
 - Wearing mask is highly recommended (we will refer to the December 2021 roadmap if this will change)
 - Hand sanitizing stations will still be available and strongly recommended upon entry and anti-bacterial handwash will be available in every toilet,
 - Surface cleaning by each ministry (i.e., tech, livestream, KW area) after every use. Disinfectant spray such as Glen 20, anti-bacterial wipes to be provided.

CONNECT GROUPS

- **OUTDOOR GATHERINGS**
 - Connect can resume meeting up outdoors (preferred) within the NSW Health and ACC guidelines.
 - Communicate to the members that since we are working within these guidelines, those who can attend for now are the fully vaccinated
- **INDOOR GATHERINGS**
 - If you are to meet indoors, the following must be adhered to
 - Communicate to the members that since we are working within these guidelines, those who can attend for now are the fully vaccinated
 - COVID safety plan in place by the host: i.e., mandatory masks, 4sqm distancing, surface cleaning sanitize (before and after the meeting), members not to attend if not feeling well, do a manual check-in.
- **ONLINE GATHERINGS**
 - Provide a virtual option/gathering for those who are unvaccinated or who are not confident in meeting face-to-face yet.

Blessings,

Andrew Romero
CTJ Church COVID-19 MARSHALL

Ps. Jim Yap
CTJ Church Lead Pastor

For more information, head to our website at www.cometojesus.com.au

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Please find the updated COVID-19 UPDATE provided by ACC in coordination with NSW Health.

Based on the easing down of the restrictions:

Who can attend a Place of Worship (Church)

- **Outdoors**
 - **ALL PEOPLE (ADULTS AND CHILDREN).**
 - Density limit of **one person per 2sqm of space rule on “the premises that is outdoor area”** (if at a Place of Public Worship - The Order defines a Place of Public Worship as ‘a building or place used for the purpose of religious worship by a congregation or religious group and can not be a place of residence) **OR**
 - Up to **50 people maximum** (if not a Place of Worship).
 - All church gatherings are included on the church premises, whether connect groups, demographic groups etc (*After clarification was sought with the NSW Health Legal Department they have clarified that the Order applies to the premises (places of public worship) rather than religious services*).
- **Indoors**
 - **ALL PEOPLE (ADULTS AND CHILDREN).**
 - Density limit of **one person per 4sqm of space rule on “the premises that is indoor area”** (if at Places of Public Worship - The Order defines a place of public worship as ‘a building or place used for the purpose of religious worship by a congregation or religious group’ and can not be a place of residence)
 - All church gatherings are included on the church premises, whether connect groups, demographic groups etc (*After clarification was sought with the NSW Health Legal Department they have clarified that the Order applies to the premises (places of public worship) rather than religious services*).

NB: For those groups that meet on school premises, you come under the Department of Education rules, and are currently not allowed back on school sites until the school is operating at Level 2 (which currently is not expected to be until after the end of October)

Singing in a Place of Worship

- **In Person**
 - Up to **10 fully vaccinated singers** may perform in Places of Worship and at religious services. No congregational singing allowed in indoor areas.
 - *After clarification was sought with the NSW Health Legal department they have clarified that “Congregational singing is permitted in outdoor areas”.*
- **Livestreaming a Service ...**
 - The rules around Live Streaming in Places of Public Worship will be the same as for “In Person” gatherings:
 - Religious services may be live-streamed with a Covid-19 Safety Plan in place.
 - People directly involved in the service itself and the operation of the recording equipment may be present for the service.
 - Singing and chanting - Up to **10 fully vaccinated** singers are allowed during live-streamed services.

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You must also:

- Use [the Service NSW QR code](#) (or alternate sign-in method) for their public gatherings (services) and for Pastors, staff and volunteers who enter the property (to work in the office, run a Foodbank, when assisting in a Livestream, etc).
- Have [COVID-19 Safety Plans](#) (physical distancing, mask wearing for over 12s, ventilation, good hygiene, contact recording, cleaning regularly used surfaces). You should review practices regularly to ensure compliance.

Connect/Bible Study/Home Groups in homes

- The number of visitors allowed in **one household is limited to 20**, not including children 12 or under, providing all adults 18 years and over are fully vaccinated.
- The PHO states *“For an event that is a large residential gathering, the person who is required to develop a COVID-19 Safety Plan for the event... is taken to be the occupier of the premises...”*

Weddings and Funerals

- Wedding ceremonies permitted with no person limit but a density limit of **one person per 4sqm** still applies (5-person limit for people who are not fully vaccinated).
- Funerals permitted with no person limit but a density limit of **one person per 4sqm** still applies. (10-person limit for people who are not fully vaccinated) and eating and drinking allowed while standing,

Masks

- Masks are **mandatory indoors** for everyone over 12 years of age.
- Masks no longer required in office buildings (unvaccinated persons must still wear a mask in the office).
- Masks no longer required in outdoor settings (except for unvaccinated and for food service)
- Wearing of masks are **not required to be worn only during the parts of the service for those “engaging in work if...enunciation or visibility of the person’s mouth is essential.”** I.e.: preaching, service leading, announcements, offering, communion, etc.

Ventilation

- Gatherings should utilise outdoor settings where possible and increase ventilation indoors where possible by opening windows or through other means.

Children and Youth Programs

- A church who is desiring to have children and youth activities at this stage need to consider in their planning the high percentage of those under 16 who will not be fully vaccinated.
- Parents must use [the Service NSW QR code](#) (or alternate sign-in method).
- [COVID-19 Safety Plans](#) are required for the program.
- The ACC *strongly recommends* that if you decide to hold a program for children or young people under 16 that...**unaccompanied young people over 16 in the program and all leaders are fully vaccinated**, this is due to the fact many children and young people under 16 are currently unvaccinated meaning they are a highly vulnerable group.

Where Employees can Work from

- **Vaccinated:** Must be allowed to work from home if reasonably practical.
- **Unvaccinated:** Required to work from home unless not reasonably practical.
- **If a worker in a regional area** (outside of Greater Sydney/Blue Mountains/Central Coast/Wollongong/Shellharbour areas) they are able to return to working from their office/location if they have **had 1 vaccination and are having the 2nd vaccination prior to November 1 2021.**

Travel between NSW Regions and Greater Sydney

- This is **not allowed until November 1** because of the risk to those communities where vaccination rates are low

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Blessings,

Andrew Romero
CTJ Church COVID-19 MARSHALL

Ps. Jim Yap
CTJ Church Lead Pastor