



COVID-19

GUIDANCE NOTE

4 August 2021

Extension of Covid-19 Restrictions

Greater Sydney Area

Local Government Areas of concern

Three more Local Government Areas (LGA's) have added to the restricted LGA's within the Greater Sydney Area bringing the total to 8. The LGA's of concern are Blacktown, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool and Parramatta.

These 8 LGA's have additional restrictions over and above those of the Greater Sydney Area.

For these LGA's, strict stay at home rules apply and travel outside your LGA is not allowed. If you cannot work from home, and you need to leave your LGA for work, you may only do so if you are classed as an authorised worker:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/authorised-workers>

Recent changes to this list now include:

- Faith leaders broadcasting services and ceremonies at places of worship, or providing end of life care and support

This means that if you need to travel out of your LGA to your place of worship to provide livestreaming or the recording of a service, you are now able to do so. If you live in the Canterbury-Bankstown LGA and travel outside your LGA, you must get tested every 3 days.

For full details of the restrictions for the 8 LGA's of concern, including additional requirements for masks, please click here:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/what-you-can-do-nsw/affected-area>

The rest of the Greater Sydney Area

Stay at home rules apply. You may only leave home if you have a reasonable excuse:

- Obtain food and essential services
- Attend work if you cannot work from home
- For education if it is not possible to do it at home
- Exercise outdoors within your LGA or within 10kms of your home
- Medical or caring reasons

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

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- To provide pastoral care if you are a priest, minister of religion or a member of a religious order
- Other reasonable excuses such as emergencies

Face masks are to be carried with you whenever you leave home and are to be worn in any indoor non-residential premises. Wear a mask any time you cannot stay 1.5m away from people you don't live with.

Places of Worship remain closed except for livestreaming or recording of services (max 5 people).

Livestreaming or recording of a service is permissible but people involved must be kept to an absolute minimum, especially in LGA's of concern. We are recommending no more than 4-5 people only. Up to 2 singers are allowed during recording, provided there are no more than 2 others in the recording space, and they are wearing masks. The singers are not required to wear masks while they are singing but must be 3 metres from anyone else.

Weddings are not allowed in the Greater Sydney area.

Funerals may be held with up to a maximum of 10 people attending. Those essential to the running of the funeral are not included in the 10. This is at the discretion of the Church Council concerned.

Outdoor gatherings are limited to a maximum of 2 people.

For further details for the Greater Sydney Area, please go to the NSW Government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/what-you-can-do-nsw/greater-sydney>

Regional and Rural NSW

Places of Worship may remain open subject to the maximum number of 1 person per 4 square metres (or 25 people, whichever is the greater). There still must be a Covid-19 Safety Plan in place and complied with.

Singing is not allowed by congregants indoors. Up to 5 people may sing from the front but they must wear masks, be 1.5m from each other and 3m from the congregation.

Masks are to be worn by those over 12 years old in all non-residential premises, including Places of Worship and workplaces.

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Weddings are allowed with numbers up to the maximum allowed under the 4 square metre rule. Dancing is only permitted by the bridal party up to a maximum of 20.

Funerals are allowed with numbers up to the maximum allowed under the 4 square metre rule

Outdoor gatherings are permitted up to 200 people.

Visitors to homes are allowed up to a maximum of 5 at any one time.

For further details for Regional and Rural NSW, please go to the NSW Government website:

<https://www.nsw.gov.au/covid-19/rules/what-you-can-do-nsw>

For all areas

- Stay home if at all possible
- Maintain 1.5 metre physical distancing (except for members of the same household)
- Practice healthy hand hygiene
- Practice healthy respiratory hygiene
- Stay home if unwell
- Get tested if you have even mild Covid-19 symptoms
- Maintain attendance records

Financial assistance from the NSW Government

There are several options available for assistance and specific advice is currently being prepared by Finance to guide Congregations and Presbyteries. This will be released as soon as possible.

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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