



COVID-19 Update

Tuesday 3 November 2020

Dear friends in Christ,

Over the weekend many of you might have seen announcements from the Premier regarding interstate travel as Queenslanders are able to venture further into New South Wales. We anticipate that many will take advantage of this in the coming months. In doing so, please be mindful that there are still some restrictions in place and refer to the [Border Restriction Public Health Direction](#) prior to making arrangements.

- As always, a reminder that we all have a part to play as we endeavour to prevent an increase in COVID-19 cases in Queensland. We must always remember to:
 - Maintain physical distancing of 1.5 metres.
 - Maintain good hand hygiene (washing hands or using alcohol-based sanitiser).
 - Maintain good respiratory hygiene (coughing or sneezing into elbow).
 - Maintain tracking, tracing and rapid response (keeping contact details for 56 days for each service and ensuring it is readily available if requested).
 - Frequently clean and disinfect our spaces.

One issue that was raised during last week's COVID Warden briefing was, "How long is this going to be around for?" In short, things like contact tracing, hygiene, cleaning and physical distancing are here for the long term. Whilst we are blessed to live in Queensland, there is a resurgence of COVID-19 in the northern hemisphere. The numbers that are reported in the United States of America on a daily basis are staggering, and the United Kingdom has recently entered into a one-month lockdown period in order to prevent a second wave.

Questions have also been raised around that the need for COVID Wardens to hold a blue card. Unless a COVID Warden is undertaking activities with children and youth (i.e. ensuring physical distancing or ensuring good hand hygiene is being maintained), they do not need to obtain a blue card.

Christmas

As the Christmas season nears, congregations should be considering what adjustments they need to make to their normal events in order to make them COVID safe. It is recommended that all events have a separate COVID event plan in place.

Also, if you anticipate up to 500 people per day attending an indoor event or 1000 per day for an outdoor event, a [COVID Safe Checklist](#) must be completed, in addition to the safety management plan for the event. If you anticipate more than these numbers, additional requirements are to be met. Refer to the Synod COVID-19 [Safety Management Plan for church events](#) for guidance.

Mandatory Notification of COVID Warden and communication

Even if you are not physically worshipping at your church at this time, it is important to keep up to date with the latest COVID information from the Synod.

It is now mandated that each place of worship adopt the Industry Plan for Places of Worship. Even if your congregation has not resumed physical gathering, you must formally adopt the Industry Plan to assist with your return to physical worship plans.

This means each place of worship must have a COVID Warden or team to oversee and guide COVID safe measures at the congregation. The name and contact details of the Warden or team members, including email, is to be sent to COVID19@ucaqld.com.au. All persons on our COVID contact list receive the Synod COVID updates to ensure they are receiving the latest information.

We have noted that there is a delay by the government in updating the publicly available information. Sometimes this means that our Synod COVID Team obtains the latest information from the government which may be different to that available to the public. The Synod COVID Team shares this information through these letters and at the weekly warden briefings.

Warden briefings

The COVID Warden briefings continue each Wednesday at 11am. They are very well attended and lots of information is shared. If you require a link to this voluntary meeting, please email COVID19@ucaqld.com.au. If you have not notified us of the name and contact details of your COVID Warden, please email them to COVID19@ucaqld.com.au.

Our next COVID-19 update is planned for Tuesday 10 November 2020. Your questions or feedback about this update or COVID-19 are welcome—please email COVID19@ucaqld.com.au.

Our sincere thanks for your ongoing work and support as we navigate our way through this time.



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