



11th May 2020

Dear Church Family,

It has been nearly two months since we entered into coronavirus restrictions and we as a church family have done very well to support each other and remain united and connected during this unprecedented time. We are happy to see positive progress in the COVID-19 development in the community, resulting in both Federal and State Governments easing up on some of the restrictions.

The South Queensland Conference supports decisions made by both Federal and Local Governments to ease back into a healthy recovery and rebuild back to usual life, ministry and business. So as to be part of the solution and not the problem, and to protect our communities from threats of virus outbreaks, **our churches will remain physically closed**, but our support, services and ministry **remain open** and are **fully operational**.

On Friday 8th May, Prime Minister Scott Morrison addressed the nation, outlining a [three-step plan for reopening Australia](#). The first step sees us connecting more with friends and reopens businesses, educational campuses and sporting facilities.

“Restrictions on gatherings will be relaxed, allowing for:

- *Non-work gatherings of up to 10 people in public*
- *Up to five visitors to your home*
- *Up to 10 guests at a wedding, in addition to the couple and the celebrant*
- *Up to 20 mourners allowed at a funeral if indoors, and 30 if outdoors*
- *Religious gatherings with up to 10 attendees*

Employees should continue to work from home if it is suitable for them and their employer, though all businesses should develop a Covid-safe plan to prepare for staff returning to the workplace.”

A full 3-Step Framework for a COVIDSafe Australia can be downloaded [here](#).

Queensland State Government has provided an additional roadmap to easing restrictions, providing a time frame, which can be downloaded [here](#).

This roadmap indicates that Stage 1 will begin on the **15th May** and will last for 4 weeks. Stage 2 will begin on the **12th June** and will last 4 weeks, gradually increasing restrictions even further and stage 3 will commence on **10th July**, should everything go as planned.

The Crisis Management Team will continue to monitor and review these conditions and provide weekly updates to our churches.

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited

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What will the next four (4) weeks look like for the church?

As of **15th May**:

- Church physical locations will remain closed for worship and all church affiliated meetings
- Sabbath church services will be accessible online only. Please visit your local church website for details
- Members in the church community can gather together for:
 - home group worship and bible studies with a **maximum of 5 visitors** allowed from separate households
 - outdoor gatherings and non-contact activities of up to 10 people
 - service live-streaming or recording in churches of up to 10 people
- Funerals with a maximum of 20 people indoors or 30 people outdoors
- Weddings with a maximum of 10 people

General Precautionary Standards apply at all times, which include:

- washing your hands often and thoroughly with regular soap and water for at least 20 seconds
- using a tissue to cover your mouth or cough and sneeze into your elbow
- avoiding close contact with others, such as touching and shaking hands
- Discard used tissues in a bin or bag immediately and wash your hands immediately
- Don't touch your eyes, nose, or mouth with unwashed hands
- Frequently clean and disinfect regularly used surfaces and public areas, such as hand rails, door handles and benches
- Maintain social distance at all times with a distance of at least 1.5 meters between yourself and the next person (for public interactions)
- Stay home, self-quarantine and call your doctor if you feel unwell

Home Gatherings:

- Home owners hosting gathering are expected to ensure homes are cleaned and sanitized
- Household members and visitors are to:
 - confirm if they are healthy and no fever
 - maintain 1.5m social distancing
 - follow general precautionary standards listed above

Church service live-streaming and recording:

- Follow social distancing practice by keeping 1.5m – 2m distance at all times
- Follow General Precautionary Standards listed above
- Frequently clean and disinfect regularly used surfaces and public areas, such as hand rails, door handles and benches
- If hand sanitizers (hand gels or sprays) are not available then wash your hands every 20 minutes (take a break)
- Clean or sanitize any equipment, tools or stationary that is shared between people using sanitizing (alcohol) wipes. Cleaning and sanitizing must be done each time before a new person uses these items:
 - Microphones
 - Headsets/ head pieces/ ear pieces
 - Pens, clip boards, folders

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- Electronic screens, mobile phones, ipads or anything similar
- Other electronic equipment that may be used
- Sanitize (with spray and wipe bottle or wet wipes) shared surfaces. Cleaning and sanitizing must be done each time before a new person touches or uses these items:
 - Tables and or benches
 - Chairs
 - Hand rails and door knobs

Tithes and Offerings

Support through flexible tithe and offering remains. Alternatives outlined are:

- Access to Electronic Giving (e-giving) via the internet website
- Access to e-giving by the new APP that can be easily downloaded to your mobile phone and/or ipad
- Details on Manal Credit Card Sheet that can be completed and emailed to us to allow for giving via credit or debit cards
- Access to Phone Service, should you wish to phone your credit card details through for our staff to assist you in your tithes and offerings
- Details for Direct Bank Transfers to our Conference bank account, should you prefer to give in this way
- Details on a personal Deposit system, available here at our Administration and Resourcing Centre (Spring Hill)
- Details on Mail Delivery for giving donations

Convention Centers / Camp sites

Our Convention centers (Camp Somerset & Watson Park) and Lake Monduran will remain closed.

ABC Bookstores

Our ABC book centers have been **re-opened** on **Wednesday 6th May**. All customers are expected to sanitise their hands prior to entering the stores and follow 1.5m social distancing rules with limited number of customers permitted in store, following guidelines of 4sqM per person.

Hours of Operation:

Adventist Book Centre (Watson Park Convention Centre, 337 Old Gympie Road, Dakabin, 4503)

- Wednesday – Thursday 8:45 am – 5:00 pm

Christian Life Resources (2422 Logan Road, Eight Mile Plains Q 4113)

- Monday – Wednesday 9:00 am – 5:00 pm
- Thursday 9:00 am – 6:00 pm
- Friday 9:00 am – 4:00 pm

We will continue to offer resources if you are unable to visit either of our stores, BY POST, through the following options:

1. **Visit** <https://adventistbookcentre.com.au> website and place your order to be mailed.
2. **Email** orders to be mailed:
 - clr@adventist.org.au

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- abcsqc@adventist.org.au
 - gloriapaun@adventist.org.au
3. **Phone Orders:** (07) 3340 4700 or (07) 3886 1316 and leave a message for our return call to you.

Coronavirus cases update

As of today, Queensland's total confirmed cases of Coronavirus is 1,045 with zero (0) new cases recorded for 4 days in a row. Queensland has 18 active cases, 44 community transmissions, 8 hospitalizations, 3 in ICU and 6 deaths.

Resource: <https://www.covidlive.com.au/state/qld>

Schools update

Today schools have opened for regular business with students in Kindy, Prep, Year 1, Year 11 and Year 12 returning to the classrooms. Students in Years 2-10 continue to learn from home. This situation will be reviewed on 15th May, with the goal to return remaining students on May 25, should all go as planned.

Children of essential workers and vulnerable children are still able to attend school.

Seventh-day Adventist Schools will release a statement to parents informing them of any updates and changes.

You can also access Queensland Government Department of Education Frequently asked questions for parents [here](#).

Aged Care update

Adventist Retirement Plus sites have opened up to visitors on a booking basis and for those who can present with an up to date flu vaccination certificate.

Church members may access regular updates and latest communication from Aged Care CEO, Eric Anderson via the following link: <https://www.arplus.org.au/news/>

Conclusion

We continue to pray for each other and the rest of the Nation as we move through this difficult time and play our parts in minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19. Here in South Queensland we remain committed in ensuring that our church members are cared for and spiritually supported. Our staff are working tirelessly at keeping us connected as a church family, ministering to all of our churches in regional areas as well as city, even if it does look different.

SQC remains proactive in these uncertain and difficult times. We appreciate that some of these measures will cause inconvenience and disappointment where expected programs are cancelled. We thank all in advance for your co-operation and understanding as we seek to deal as appropriately as possible with this constantly changing major and serious health threat.

With these comprehensive responses put in place, the SQC will continue to monitor, change and adapt as the virus changes and escalates. The SQC understands that the current situation is fluid and requires extensive monitoring and will update and inform both staff and members as additional information comes to hand and/or additional measures

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are required in our response.

Thank you for noting this update.

Yours sincerely
SQC Crisis Management Team

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