



25th May 2020

Dear Church Family,

We encourage and support you as you continue in your ministry to the Church during this time of Stage 1 of the Queensland Government [Roadmap to easing Queensland's restrictions](#). We still have another three weeks remaining in Stage 1.

The South Queensland Conference supports decisions made by both Federal and Local Governments to ease back into a healthy recovery and rebuilding 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 and second waves, **our churches will remain physically closed**, but our support, services and ministry **remain open** and are **fully operational**.

Currently, our **churches** are adhering to the following requirements:

1. Church physical locations remain closed for worship and all church affiliated meetings and activities
2. Sabbath church services will be accessible online only. Please visit your local church website for details
3. Members in the church community can gather together for:
 - a. home group worship and bible studies with a **maximum of 5 visitors** allowed from separate households
 - b. outdoor gatherings and non-contact activities of up to 10 people
 - c. service live-streaming or recording in churches of up to 10 people
4. Funerals with a maximum of 20 people indoors or 30 people outdoors
Weddings with a maximum of 10 people
5. **Pathfinder meetings and activities:**
 - Meetings and activities can occur with a maximum of up to 10 people at the following locations:
 - Outdoors
 - SQC Convention Centers / Camp Sites (See Convention Centers / Camp sites section below)
 - Church premises are closed for worship and church (including pathfinder) affiliated meetings and activities
6. **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

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited

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between yourself and the next person (for public interactions)

- Stay home, self-quarantine and call your doctor if you feel unwell

7. Home Gatherings:

- Home owners hosting gathering are expected to ensure homes are cleaned and sanitized
- Maximum of 5 visitors allowed from separate households
- 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

8. 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
 - 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

9. 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

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The Crisis Management Team is seeking to re-open churches as soon as possible within the restrictions provided by Federal and Local Governments. The current goal is to gradually re-open churches during Stage 3 of the Roadmap to easing Queensland's restrictions, beginning **10th July 2020**, which will allow for a maximum of **100 people** to gather with the following public health rules to **maintain**:

- Physical distancing (1.5-2m)
- 4 square meters per person when indoors
- General standard precautions
- Frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection

The Crisis Management Team has heard and considered concerns raised by churches regarding the re-opening of church premises and facilities, including:

- Hygiene, cleaning and disinfection
- Offering bags, communion services, baptisms and church luncheons
- Management of vulnerable people... etc.

And will endeavor to have a plan in place for the gradual re-opening of churches, together with supporting guidelines, policies and procedures.

Convention Centers / Camp sites

Camp Somerset, Watson Park and Lake Monduran **remain closed** during Stage 1 of the roadmap to easing Queensland's restrictions.

The Centers and camp sites will open up on **12th June 2020** for Family camping, Caravan and Accommodation options to group sizes of maximum of 20 people* (Stage 2 of the roadmap).

The Centers and camp sites will open up on **10th July 2020** for Church, School and Group Camping and Caravan and accommodation options to group sizes of maximum 100 people*. Following social distancing measures on 1 person per 4 square meters for each of the accommodation facilities, dining and meeting halls (Stage 3 of the roadmap).

(* Unless Government social distancing exemptions are applied to the hirer).

ABC Bookstores

ABC book centres are open. 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:

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1. **Visit** <https://adventistbookcentre.com.au> website and place your order to be mailed.
2. **Email** orders to be mailed:
 - clr@adventist.org.au
 - 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 1,056, an increase by 12 since our last cases update. Case numbers fluctuate up and down on a daily bases. Our longest record of zero (0) new cases in a row has been 4 days. Currently, Queensland has 12 active cases, 41 community transmissions, 4 hospitalizations, 1 in ICU and 6 deaths.

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

Schools update

Today schools have opened for regular business with all students returning to the classrooms. Seventh-day Adventist Schools continue to release statements to parents informing them of any updates and changes.

Aged Care update

Adventist Retirement Plus sites are open 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 and preventing a second wave from occurring. 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. As we become accustomed to new ways of running our ministries and business, we wish to thank you for your co-operation and understanding as we adjust to this constantly changing environment and managing this major and serious health threat.

With these comprehensive responses put in place, the SQC continue to monitor, change and adapt as the virus and environment changes and escalates. The SQC will continue to update and inform staff and members as additional information comes to hand and/or additional measures are required in our response.

Thank you for noting this update.

Yours sincerely
SQC Crisis Management Team

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