



7 September 2020

Dear Church Family,

Welcome to issue **#19** of the South Queensland Conference Corporate Crisis Management Team communication.

Church update

Not a lot has changed since our last update issued on 25 August (issue #18). However there are some points we need to re-iterate and/or clarify:

1. **Keep up 1.5m social distancing practices**, good hand and personal hygiene and to get tested at the first sign of symptoms
2. **Indemnification** cannot be provided and churches leave themselves personally exposed if they choose not to follow current regulations given by the Government and South Queensland Conference
3. Some churches have decided to remain closed, while other churches have remained open. We wish to thank our churches who have remained open and are compliant with all Conference and Government regulations
4. As of 22 August 2020:
 - a. **Extra restrictions** have been put in place to the following local areas:
 - i. Greater Brisbane
 - ii. Scenic Rim,
 - iii. Somerset
 - iv. Lockyer Valley
 1. These areas have a gathering limit so a maximum of **10 people** in private homes and public spaces (e.g. Shopping malls, parks)
 2. There are also restrictions on visitor numbers to residential aged care homes and both public and private hospitals
 - b. All other local areas in the state of Queensland have a restriction of a maximum of **30 people** in private homes and public spaces
 - c. These restrictions do not apply to Businesses and churches
5. Maximum number of customers for a business at any one time is determined by the 4 square metre rule
6. For smaller venues below 200 square metres, businesses can have one person per 2 square metres up to 50 persons at a time
7. The following businesses and areas may re-open with a COVID Safe Plan:
 - a. [Places of Worship](#)
 - b. [Outdoor Recreation Activity Providers](#)
8. **Singing** is permitted during services, with the same distancing requirements listed above, based on your venue size.
9. **Baptisms** may proceed, however you must comply with the following:
 - a. Only 1 person per baptism in the water (water must contain a minimum of 1.0 mg / L of free chlorine)
 - b. Pastor and member to be in water for minimal amount of time (reduce the time spent in water to bare minimum – no ‘appeals’ with two in the water at the same time)

Seventh-day Adventist Church (South Queensland Conference) Limited

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- c. Physical distancing practices to continue:
 - i. Physical distancing 1.5 meters between people at all times
 - ii. No kissing, hugging and hand shaking
 - d. **Record of Attendance:** must be maintained (date, name, address, phone number and email address)
10. **Ministry programs and community services providing food and drink:** only individually pre-packed foods and drinks can be provided (nothing prepared at home or in the church kitchen, and no shared foods)
11. **Cleaning of church facilities:** Full Clean of facilities should occur between services if different groups are meeting at different times in the same day (multiple services per day). If there is only one service per Sabbath, a full clean and disinfect is required prior that service. Contact the Conference Compliance Department if further clarification is needed.
12. **Tithe and offerings** continue via flexible tithe options

Church Communion Services:

- Churches may conduct communion service avoid direct physical contact where practical. Where this is not practical, limit contact to hands. Ensure participants' hands are washed with hand sanitiser before and after each interaction.
- Consider holding Agape meals (no foot washing)
- All church members to give adequate time for attention to hygiene practices before and after the communion.
- If foot washing, Wash hands after foot washing for 20 seconds and dry thoroughly and follow up with hand sanitiser.
- Pastors and Elders breaking and distributing the emblems (bread and wine) are advised to wash hands as indicated above, use a hand sanitizer and wear gloves.
- Use dispensable communion cups
- Place individual bread pieces in dispensable wraps or cups (i.e. small paper cupcake cups)
- Practice proper disposal of communion cups and use gloves.
- If Pastors, Elders, Deacons or Deaconesses are suffering from a cold or flu symptoms, they should not be serving communion.

Church Shared Luncheons / Potluck lunches:

- These are prohibited.
- Church members wishing to stay together for lunch, must bring their own packed lunch boxes/family picnic boxes and eat only their own lunch. Under no circumstances should lunches and drinks be shared between individuals of different households. Lunches can be eaten in the church hall or in the park, however disposable cutlery should be used. Church kitchens are to remain closed. Clean and disinfect tables after use.

Children's Sabbath Schools and Adventurer or Pathfinder Activities:

- Sabbath Schools and other children's programs run under the same requirements as Adults
 - 1.5m physical distancing at all times
 - Physical distancing 1.5 meters between people at all times
 - Hand hygiene (washing hands or using alcohol based sanitiser)
 - Respiratory hygiene (coughing or sneezing into elbow)

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- Tracking, tracing, rapid response (keeping contact details for 56 days for each service)
- Frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection
- All South Queensland Conference and AdSafe policy, procedures and guidelines apply
- **Note:** the Church environment is not the same as the School Environment and therefore cannot be treated the same way.

Weddings & Funerals:

- A maximum of 100 people depending on the size of the venue – 1 person per 2 square metres, up to 50 people for venues or spaces of 200 square metres or less, and no more than 1 person per 4 square metres for venues or spaces of more than 200 square metres.
- No buffet meals allowed
- No shared food or drinks to be served

Please see Queensland Government [Fact Sheet for Places of Worship](#)

Key Public Health Rules to continue:

- If unwell, stay at home
- Physical distancing 1.5meters between people at all times
- Hand hygiene (washing hands or using alcohol based sanitiser)
- Respiratory hygiene (coughing or sneezing into elbow)
- Tracking, tracing, rapid response (keeping contact details for 56 days for each service)
- Frequent environmental cleaning and disinfection

ADRA South Queensland

ADRA Australia projects, op shops and community centres are classified as essential services and as such are able to operate following the QLD State Gov't guidelines. Our projects have been provided with PPE equipment - face masks, sanitizer, and gloves - and actively encourage social distancing. The safety of our volunteers and clients is the main priority and we have adapted services to accommodate this. Should you have any concerns or questions please do not hesitate to contact ADRA Director Irena Pule.

Convention Centers / Camp sites

The centers are open for Family camping, Caravan and Accommodation options following State Government Guidelines.

ABC Bookstores

ABC book centers 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.

Coronavirus cases update

Today, two new case has been recorded. Queensland's total confirmed cases of Coronavirus is 1,133. Currently, Queensland has 27 active cases, 13 hospitalizations, 0 in ICU and 6 deaths.

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

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Schools update

Schools are fully opened with all students back in their classrooms and measures in place. Seventh-day Adventist Schools continue to release statements to parents informing them of any updates and changes.

Aged Care update

Victoria point and Melody Park Adventist Retirement Plus sites are now closed to visitors. Changes to visitations will be communicated immediately.

Capricorn Adventist Retirement Village and Caloundra Adventist Retirement Village 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 want to thank and affirm our Pastoral Team and their families for their ongoing work and support that they provide to church members and church ministry. We pray for God's peace and blessing upon you and all that you do during this challenging time.

Our staff remain committed to and work tirelessly in ensuring that our church members are connected, cared for and spiritually supported. We continue to play our parts in minimizing the risk of spreading COVID-19 and preventing a second wave from occurring. We keep our Nation and church community in daily prayer. Thank you for your co-operation and understanding, and for taking note of this update.

Yours sincerely
SQC Crisis Management Team

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