



6 October 2020

Dear Church Family,

Welcome to issue **#20** of the South Queensland Conference Corporate Crisis Management Team communication.

We feel the excitement from our churches who are now open and meeting again. We all share in the desire to have more people attend our churches and enjoy fellowship together, however, we need to remain patient as we progressively move through the easing of restrictions. We still have a responsibility to comply with the regulations that the Government has set out for us.

Queensland Government has released an updated [roadmap](#) to the easing of restrictions.

As of **1 October 2020**:

- Standing and eating and drinking is permitted in outdoor and indoor venues
- For outdoor venues, one person per 2 sqm is allowed with a COVID-Safe Plan
- Board approved home worship must follow the [COVID-Safe Industry Plan](#)

Church update

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. **Food** at church:
 - You may bring your own food/drink and eat/drink it (do not share)
 - Church ministry programs and community services may provide pre-packed food and drink options
 - No use of kitchen facilities for personal food preparations or ministry food preparations
4. **Home** worship / bible studies / gatherings:
 - **ALL** requirements outlined in the COVID-Safe Industry Plan apply and are the responsibility of the person hosting the worship service in their home
 - If board approved then visitors may bring their own food/drink and eat/drink (do not share and host shall not provide)
 - If private gathering then eat/drink at own risk and liability
 - Special Density requirements and rules for determining maximum attendance apply where a home residence is being used as a place of worship. The requirements of both the most up-to-date [Places of Worship Industry plan](#) and the most up-to-date [Movement and Gathering Direction](#) will both apply, with the number of individuals permitted to attend a home worship service being limited to the lesser of the two.

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5. **Singing** is permitted during services, with the same distancing requirements listed, based on your venue size:
 - Venues bigger than 200 square metres: one person per 4 square metres
 - Venues smaller than 200 square metres: one person per 2 square metres, up to a total of 50 people
6. **Baptisms** may proceed, however you must comply with the following:
 - Only 1 person per baptism (do not use the same font and water for multiple people before cleaning and sanitizing in between)
 - Pastor and member to be in water for minimal amount of time (reduce the time spent in water to bare minimum)
 - Physical distancing practices to continue:
 - i. Physical distancing 1.5meters between people at all times
 - ii. No kissing, hugging and hand shaking
 - **Record of Attendance:** must be maintained (date, name, address, phone number and email address)
7. **Registration and attendance records:** Registration of attendees is optional, however, each Sabbath a record of attendance must be recorded (with a minimum of date and name for regular church members and date, name, address, phone number and email address for visitors)
8. **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.
9. **Tithe and offerings:** Please use the flexible options for tithes and offerings
 - 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

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

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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.

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 1.5meters 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
- 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 Government 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.

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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, zero new cases have been recorded. Queensland's total confirmed cases of Coronavirus is 1,160. Currently, Queensland has 7 active cases, 6 hospitalizations, 1 in ICU and 6 deaths.

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

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

All Adventist Retirement Plus sites are now 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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