

**From:** [Bishop's Assistant](#)  
**To:** [Bishop's Assistant](#)  
**Subject:** COVID update  
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Hi all

I am thankful that most of you were able to help people hear the word of God either in person or via video over the weekend with all the last minute changes.

My thoughts and prayers are with those of you who have had to miss out on holidays, or visits by family and friends planned for the holidays, as a result of the restrictions.

Just a few comments to help clarify things from our end-

1-With regards to people leading singing from up the front, the regulation states that -

**You may only sing in non-residential indoor premises if the singers are performers and they are performing or rehearsing.**

My take is people up the front can sing with musicians, just we can't sing with them. Previously singers were able to sing without masks, but there is no clear direction this time(except you can remove the mask for clear enunciation), so I'll leave it up to you to make a decision for your church if your song leaders wear masks or not.

2- Creeds and responses are allowed as they aren't singing, there are no restrictions with regards to chanting, and we are all wearing masks anyway.

3-There are no limits for outdoor gatherings outside of Sydney.

4- The regulations are still allowing consumption of food and drink- the only change to outer Sydney areas is that alcohol can't be consumed standing up. So you can continue to serve morning teas, but we encourage it to be consumed sitting down- but not a regulation. In the face mask restrictions it says

#### **Eating and drinking**

You can take your face mask off when you are eating or drinking.

To avoid the risk of contamination, NSW Health recommends you put on a new, clean mask when you have finished eating or drinking. If this is not possible, remember to wash or sanitise your hands.

You should always use hand sanitiser or wash your hands before and after changing your face mask.

Remember, stay 1.5 metres apart from people you don't live with.

5- With the 4 sqm rule, you may want to encourage people to think about spacing out again as the 1.5m distancing rule is still the ideal.( so to save a lot of extra work, perhaps

something simple like every second pew rather than re-organising all the seating again?)

6- Funerals are limited to 100 people, but no changes to weddings other than the 4sqm rule.

7- Because of the changes, we should all be updating our COVID plans- eg- 1 person per 4 sqm, masks mandatory upon entering, signage(capacity of building) etc.

I realise it is a lot of effort, for hopefully only another week, but we live in a time where change has become part of our life and having an updated COVID plan is a mandatory requirement. (which you'll have to change back again when restrictions are lifted-sorry)

Thanks for all your hard work in decision making and implementing the necessary changes.

Regards

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