



AD CLERUM

The Right Reverend John Stead
Bishop of Willochra

8th October 2020

UPDATE #11

RESPONDING TO THE CORONA VIRUS (COVID-19)

N.B. The Anglican Church of Australia has issued National Guidelines concerning the church's response to COVID-19 which are updated regularly; they can be found at <https://anglican.org.au/resources/covid-19/>

Since releasing the first update concerning the Diocesan response to COVID-19 on the 17th March, the situation has continued to be dynamic. This update reflects the Roadmap for Easing COVID-19 Restrictions issued by the SA Government that come into force on the 19th June:

As of the 8th October, the guidelines are as follows:

1. Two (2) Square metres is to be allowed for each person for any gathering
2. 1.5 metres between people still applies
3. Weddings and Funerals are now limited to **150 people** in attendance (N.B. the actual capacity below is determined by adhering to 1 and 2 above)
4. Your authorized COVIDSafe Plan is still to be followed
5. There is to be a clearly designated person who monitors the implementation of the COVIDSafe plan. The SA government has announced that a COVIDSafe Marshall is to be appointed for 'ceremonies', i.e. worship. This role is identical to the COVIDSafe Warden that you were requested to appoint as part of the COVIDSafe Plan for each church. The government has now required that the designated COVIDSafe Marshall complete a thirty minute online training, the following link will take you to that training, which was only made available late yesterday (Monday 17th August): <https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/business-and-work/covid-marshals>. Please ensure that the people who have been acting as COVIDSafe Warden undertake the training. The person exercising this role should be easily identified.
6. The guidelines require that a COVIDSafe Marshall:
 - a. Promote and take practical steps to ensure infection control practices (e.g. frequent handwashing) are followed by people involved in the operations (patrons, employees and contractors);

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- b. Promote and take practical steps to ensure people participating in the operations are complying with density requirements, physical distancing principle;
 - c. Must ensure that all COVID Safe Plans and COVID Management Plans (where relevant) or specific polices/protocols in relation to the prevention of coronavirus are effectively implemented and monitored;
 - d. Ensure the environment is appropriately established and there is sufficient seating, hand washing facilities and cleaning regimes; and
 - e. Be present supervising prescribed operations at all times (except with respect to 24 hour sites where staff are not always present, at all times of high patronage).
7. **Congregational Singing** – while the advice from the Deputy Chief Public Health Officer remains the same I am suggesting that congregational singing be allowed in church as the state has not had any community transmission for some 170 days. I would recommend that the distance between people be increased to two metres in light of the potential for droplet spread. N.B. Were there to be a case of community transmission I will issue a directive that singing not be allowed in church.
 8. A live-streamed service is available on Sunday mornings on the diocesan Facebook page, the location from which the service is made available will vary as will the time, this will be announced on the dioceses' website and Facebook page (these can be accessed at a later time on Facebook and YouTube)
 9. Morning Prayer is live-streamed at 8:00 am each day except Sunday on the diocesan Facebook page (these can be accessed at a later time on Facebook and YouTube)
 10. Morning Tea may occur ensuring that the authorized COVIDSafe Plan is followed and that no utensils are shared (see previous communication about this)
 11. Op Shops, Cafes and Mission to Seafarers may operate as long as they have a COVIDSafe Plan which has been authorized
 12. **Having the church building open** – I would encourage you to have the church building open during the day with clear instructions for people to maintain physical distancing, to sign an attendance sheet (Covid tracing, if required) and to be asked to wipe down any surfaces they have touched with an appropriate wipe. Wipes will need to be provided and be available in a prominent position with a clear means of disposal. Were there to be any community transmission in the state I would be asking that churches not remain open during the day.

As things continue to develop, I will issue further updates.

Yours in Christ,



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