

Covid-19 Safe management plan

V24, 30 July, 2021

The latest lockdowns in Sydney have radically changed how we conduct church ministry. Nevertheless, our priorities remain:

- To **honour God** in all we do, seeking to grow Christians spiritually, and continue to share the gospel of hope and joy.
- To **continue ministry**, but in necessarily new and adaptive forms. Our priority is faithful preaching of God's Word.
- We recognize that **fellowship and unity** are important, but to be nurtured in safe ways.
- The Bible instructs Christians to **gather** together as a church. Ideally, this is in person. However, under current circumstances, it is still meaningful to gather and interact through online means. Our online services should thus encourage interaction as much as possible.

This Covid-19 Management Plan forms the policy by which our church will operate our activities during the Covid period. The plan is updated regularly, as per government directives, and all members (especially leaders and coordinators of events) must comply with these rules.

WSCCC has been registered with the NSW Government as a Covid Safe Organisation.

Current worship services - suspended

According to the latest announcement, all of Greater Sydney has been placed under lockdown until August 28, 2021. The Public Health Order is as follows:

[https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/file/Public%20Health%20\(COVID-19%20Temporary%20Movement%20and%20Gathering%20Restrictions\)%20Order%202021_210730.pdf](https://legislation.nsw.gov.au/file/Public%20Health%20(COVID-19%20Temporary%20Movement%20and%20Gathering%20Restrictions)%20Order%202021_210730.pdf)

Therefore, all services will be online only, until at least August 28.

Resuming on-site worship services

With the current extent of Covid in Sydney, it is unknown whether the lockdown may be extended beyond August 28. However, we can expect that resumption of gatherings will be gradually allowed only in small numbers, and public services for places of worship may not be possible for weeks or months after lockdown is lifted.

Therefore our online services will continue indefinitely, and foreseeably until the end of 2022. We encourage people to find means for meaningful worship and fellowship as a church, in new ways, utilising the blessings of technology or other methods

Access to the church buildings

No church gatherings are allowed on site for now. This includes worship services, ministry gatherings or meetings. Because we have online ministries available, visiting our church buildings is not considered an essential activity. Recreation activities should not take place at church. Gatherings for “singles’ bubbles” should not take place at church.

Church staff should work from home. Exceptions (allowable by current regulations) are:

- If any staff member is unable to work from home, due to their setup/size/resources at home. Any staff member who wishes to work regularly in their church office must be approved by the Chairman of Diaconate and Coordinating Minister of the church.
- Staff members may go to church on occasions when required for their work, eg getting resources, picking mail etc.
- Cleaners are allowed to continue to clean the church.

Recording of church services on site are allowed. See guideline below.

Tradesmen are allowed to continue their work as required on site, and a church member may supervise them.

Anyone visiting the church sites must still register via QR code. Masks must be worn by all people on site.

Special restrictions for people from listed Local Government Areas

As of 30 July 2021, the NSW Government has designated 8 LGAs as areas of concern (Blacktown, Campbelltown, Canterbury-Bankstown, Cumberland, Fairfield, Georges River, Liverpool and Parramatta). This list may change any time.

If you live in any of these LGAs, you should stay at home. You should not attend the church site under any circumstances. This includes people involved in recording church services – leaders, preachers, support team.

Church staff who live in these areas must work from home. The only exception for leaving home is to attend a member in end-of-life circumstances (deathbed or funeral). This should also only take place when no other pastor is able to do so.

Video-recording of services

Video recording of services is allowable on site, under the following conditions:

- No more than 4 people are allowed in that room at one time, including speaker, cameraman etc).
- Only 2 singers are allowed in each recording. At least 3m distancing is required from a singer to anyone else (whilst they are singing).
- Masks are not required for singers or speakers when being recorded.

Off-site ministries

No small group church gatherings are currently allowed in homes (but online gatherings encouraged).

Pastoral care visits to members by ministers are allowed at this time.

Rules for bookings (as of 26th June, 2021)

The Diaconate is not currently considering any external bookings until the government restrictions are made clearer.

Existing external bookings are currently suspended.

Screening of all attendees

1. All attendees at church premises, whether staff, other attendees or contractors, must be screened as per below. If any of the following conditions are met, those people should not enter the building, and self-isolate:
 - a. Respiratory symptoms (cough, sore throat, shortness of breath, colds).
 - b. Temperature of 37.5 degrees C or higher (as tested by church).
 - c. Have visited a venue in NSW with a confirmed Covid case, as listed by NSW Govt.
 - d. Close contact with someone known to have tested positive for Covid.
2. Those people should immediately be tested for Covid at a testing unit.
 - a. People awaiting the outcome of a Covid test should not attend church on site.
3. People with persistent respiratory symptoms, despite a negative Covid test, should still isolate from church until symptoms resolve.
4. We strongly encourage attendees to be vaccinated for Covid.
5. Anyone who lives or works in a declared region under lockdown should be staying at home and not visit or attend church activities.

Hygiene checklist – to be followed by all groups

1. A leader/coordinator is to be listed as responsible for each activity on site. They will be responsible for all of the following.
2. Mandatory registration via Service NSW QR Code by all attendees at all activities at church.
 - a. This is available in English and Chinese.
 - b. Ushers or other regulars must assist others who have trouble with registration.
3. Hand sanitizer will be provided by church at each hall or entrance.

Police inspections and fines

- From time to time the police inspect churches to ensure that they are complying with the regulations. If we are inspected, all members are to comply with the instructions of the

police. The leaders (pastors and deacons) present should be informed immediately to work with the police.

- The church is responsible for applying Covid regulations to our activities. If there is a systematic breach, the church will be responsible for paying the penalty (eg fines or other restrictions).
- If the police deem that an individual has breached the regulations (especially the Covid regulations stipulated by the church), that individual will be responsible for their transgression and liable to pay the fine personally. The church will not be responsible for paying the fines for individuals who breach the regulations.