

Covid-19 Safe management plan

V26, 8 October, 2021 (Updated Perrottet plan)

We thank God for his grace and mercy upon NSW and our church throughout the Covid pandemic. Our priorities as a church have been unchanged through this crisis:

- 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.

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.

Ministry roadmap

Our Sunday services will resume on site on the following dates, and all will also continue online services:

Service	Date returning to site	Ongoing online services
Cantonese 10:30am – Strathfield	October 24, 2021	YouTube livestream and Chromecasting
Cantonese 8:45am – Strathfield	January 2022	Shared with 10:30am service
Mandarin 10:00am – Croydon Park	October 31, 2021	YouTube recording
Mandarin 10:30am - Strathfield	October 24, 2021	Zoom service
English 9am – Strathfield	October 31, 2021	YouTube livestream
English 4:30pm – Strathfield	October 31, 2021	Shared with 9am service
English 10am – Croydon Park	October 31, 2021	YouTube livestream

According to the latest announcement, all of Greater Sydney has been placed under lockdown until (full) vaccination rates reach 70%, 80% and 90%.

At 70% vaccination (expected Oct 11):

- On-site church activities may resume for the **fully vaccinated (only)**.
- Each congregation will choose their date to resume services, and will be announced respectively.
- No congregational singing, and masks required. However up to 10 singers in a choir or music team possible.
- Maximum **1 person per 4 sqm** (see details below).

At 80% vaccination (expected Oct 25):

- On-site church activities will resume for all people, **regardless of vaccination status**.
- No congregational singing, and masks required. However up to 10 singers in a choir or music team possible.
- Maximum **1 person per 4 sqm** (see details below).

At 90% vaccination (expected 1 Dec):

- On-site church activities will resume for all people, regardless of vaccination status.
- Congregational **singing allowed, and no masks** required.
- Maximum **1 person per 2 sqm** (see details below).

We are currently planning our return to on-site ministries. Note that preparation and training by groups (especially at the new buildings in Croydon Park) can only take place from October 11.

We believe that the NSW Government's guidelines are safe, and therefore encourage people to resume gathering together for church in person. However, we understand that some members are unready to return to site. Therefore our online services will continue indefinitely.

Vaccination

We look forward to welcoming all people, regardless of vaccination status, to gather again for church from Oct 25. Between Oct 11 to Oct 25, only fully vaccinated people can attend church activities, as per the NSW Government's public health order.

However, leaders of activities at WSCCC hold a special responsibility for the welfare of our attendees. During this pandemic, we must act in the interests of others, and minimise any chance of exposing our attendees to Covid. Therefore, **all people serving in ministry should be fully vaccinated** before re-commencing activities which involve face to face interaction. It is particularly important that children (who cannot be vaccinated yet) and visitors can join us confidently knowing that our leaders have been vaccinated. This is a loving and considerate gesture to the vulnerable.

Full vaccination is therefore required for safe ministry in our church in the following roles: pastors and staff, deacons, service leaders, Bible study leaders, Sunday school teachers and helpers, music team and choirs, welcoming teams, food preparation and any other church activities which involve leading and serving in face-to-face capacities.

Each worship committee is to ask all leaders/volunteers to declare that they have been fully vaccinated, and a record kept. However, vaccination certificates will not be required to be shown; honesty in church ministry should suffice.

Access to the church buildings

From Oct 25, all people are welcome to our church activities (as per public health order). From Oct 11-24, only fully vaccinated people may do so.

Up to Dec 1, masks must be worn.

Church staff may choose to work from home or from the church offices.

Recording of church services on site are allowed.

Anyone visiting the church sites must still register via QR code until further notice. **Temperature checks are no longer required.**

Hygiene measures

People at risk

Symptomatic people should not attend church, out of consideration for others. They are encouraged to obtain a Covid swab, and when cleared, return to church. The symptoms are fever, cough, sore throat, loss of smell/taste, or flu-like lethargy.

People who have been deemed close contacts with Covid risks, or come from designated hot spots should not attend, until cleared by NSW Health.

Interpersonal hygiene at church

- Masks are required until Dec 1.
 - On-stage presenters do not need to wear mask when speaking on stage.
 - Children under 12y do not need masks.
- Singing:
 - Congregational singing may resume from Dec 1.
 - Until then, only music team (up to 10 singers) may sing. Masks not required.
- Hand hygiene is still recommended.
- **Fellowship on the lawn is allowed.**
 - Masks should be worn until Dec 1.

Ventilation

- Rooms should be well-ventilated to prevent stale air and aerosolised particles.
- Particularly **if singing is to take place, the air-conditioners should be turned on** (and turned off at the end), or windows/doors open.

Distribution of items

- Holy Communion can be conducted, with pre-packaged elements served by servers wearing PPE (mask and gloves).
- Shared reusable items should not be passed around, including church Bibles and offering bags. Offerings should be made via a box at the rear of each hall.
- **Bulletins and literature (single use) may be distributed.**

Baptisms

- Baptisms may take place but not with water reused from a previous candidate.

Food service

- **Food may be cooked and served on site.** Food should be prepared by a designated team with strict adherence to Covid hygiene standards as well as the church's Food Handling guidelines.
- Food must be cooked and served by designated servers who are wearing appropriate PPE (mask and gloves). **There is not to be help-yourself tables of food or drink.**

Cleaning

- The church premises will be thoroughly **cleaned by our church cleaners at least weekly.**
- If there has been a Covid case in church, the premises will be thoroughly cleaned, and subject to advice from the Department of Health, be closed for a period. All affected people will be informed and advised.

Maximum capacity

From Oct 11 until Nov 30:

- The maximum number of people attending on the whole site:
 - 172 (4sqm) at Strathfield, including children
 - 125 (4sqm) at Croydon Park, including children
- Maximum attendance in each room is to be:
 - Strathfield chapel: 85
 - Strathfield upper hall: 75
 - Strathfield upper and lower foyer/hall: 12
 - Croydon Park chapel: 60
 - Croydon Park hall: 75
 - Croydon Park upper foyer: 15
- ***In addition to the above* allowed are designated “staff” to run services, ie pastors, chairpersons, others on stage, music team, ushers and Sunday School teachers. Within each service, we expect this to be roughly 10-15 additional people allowed.**

From Dec 1, these numbers will double.

Off-site ministries

Church ministries held at home may have:

- Oct 11 to 25: **10** fully vaccinated people in addition to the residents.
- Oct 26 to Nov 30: **20** fully vaccinated people in addition to the residents.
- Dec 1 onwards: no restriction to vaccination or numbers.

Rules for external bookings

- All external bookings require special approval by the whole Diaconate (not ad hoc by individual deacons or pastors), and will be considered on a case-by-case basis at the monthly Diaconate meeting. Other booking conditions apply (as per church guidelines).
- All bookings are tentative only, pending changes in Covid restrictions and our church’s internal ministry requirements. The church will endeavour to honour approved bookings, and we will seek to provide at least 2 weeks’ notice of cancellation (but Covid regulations may be more rapid).
- External organisations will be responsible for Service NSW QR code registrations, not the church, although the WSCCC QR code will be available.