



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATIONS (current as at 16 June 2020)

What do we need to do before we open up our buildings?

Please check with your local state or territory website in relation to rules about the number of people allowed in your church buildings. If you are required to complete a plan or document before opening, please ensure that you do this and have a copy available if asked to produce it.

- [South Australia](#)
- [Victoria](#)
- [New South Wales](#)
- [Australian Capital Territory](#)
- [Queensland](#)
- [Northern Territory](#)
- [Western Australia](#)
- [Tasmania](#)

How do I calculate the 4m² rule?

Measure the floor space of your room and divide this number by 4, eg your room is 5m x 4m = 20m², therefore, you can have 5 people in this room.

How can I do worship at home safely in a small group?

Please ensure you have sufficient spacing to adhere to the 1.5m distancing rule and the 4m² rule, and please don't serve any food or drinks.

What if I wake up in the morning and don't feel well?

Please do not go to worship or another person's home for gatherings. Instead, you should seek appropriate medical advice.

Physical distancing (no handshakes or hugs)

If you are meeting with people at home or at church, please remember to not hug or shake hands in greeting. An 'elbow bump' can be an alternative.

Can food and drink be served after worship?

Current government advice says that this cannot happen at the moment. If people wish to bring their own food or drink (in personal containers) to consume this is OK.

Layout of seating and entry/exit points

Consider moving the seating in your worship space to allow for the 1.5m distancing between people or family groups. You may need to section off every other pew or row of chairs to achieve this. Also consider if you have the possibility of having a separate entry and exit door to your space so that foot traffic can move in one direction. Arrows marked on the floor can assist with this.

How will we encourage good hygiene?

Please provide hand sanitiser at all entry and exit points to your worship space. Cleaning wipes should be used after each gathering to disinfect frequently touched surfaces, including chair backs, door handles, railings, offering baskets, toilet facilities and any other surfaces that may have been touched by multiple people.

How will we record contact details of attendees?

This [sheet](#) must be placed at the entry point of your worship space and be completed by everyone who enters the building. This record should be signed by the responsible person at the completion of worship and retained in your church office for a minimum of four weeks after the date.

How will we ensure the person per room limit is not breached?

Please communicate with your members regarding arrangements for attending worship. You may need to consider placing a sign on the door stating that your church building is currently in use and has reached capacity.

What signage should I put up around the church premises regarding social distancing etc?

Please visit [Safe Work Australia](#) to download various posters that can be used. Some have spaces that you can use to note specific details relating to your worship centre, eg maximum number of people per room.

What is our plan for cleaning of communal areas?

The Safe Work Australia website has detailed information on cleaning that will assist you with this. Please visit [Safe Work Australia](#).

Remember:

- Please measure your spaces to adhere to your person per room limit (1 person per 4m² density requirement).
- Keep 1.5 metres distance from others.
- If you have a cold or flu symptoms, seek testing and stay home until you are well.
- Wash your hands often, wipe frequently touched surfaces, and cover coughs and sneezes.
- Vulnerable people like the elderly and people with chronic health conditions should talk to their doctor about what is appropriate for them.

Please check your local state or territory government's regulations as they are updated. Please also refer to the [LCA's COVID-19 page](#) for additional information.