08 September 2021

Dear Church Council Officebearers

There has been some good news today.

Premier Dan Andrews has just announced the lifting of lockdown for **Regional Victoria** with the exception of the Greater Shepparton area. This is not a total reopening yet. Capacity limits remain in place.

Regional Victoria (excepting Greater Shepparton): With regard to **gathering in worship** this is permitted for UP TO 20 persons and the workers necessary to conduct the ceremony. The indications are that the density limit is 1 per 4 square meters.

Regional Victoria (excepting Greater Shepparton): **Funerals** (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 20 people (and those workers necessary to conduct the funeral). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.

Regional Victoria (excepting Greater Shepparton): **Weddings** (indoor and outdoor): Permitted with no more than 10 people (and those workers necessary to conduct the wedding). Children under 12 months old are not counted towards this cap.

Face coverings: must be carried at all times and must be worn indoors and outdoors by Victorians aged 12 years or over except if at home, or when visiting an intimate partner's place of residence or if an exception applies.

There will be no limit on the distance regional Victorians (except from Greater Shepparton) can travel from home (in Victoria) – other than restrictions on entry to metropolitan Melbourne.

The summary of the restrictions and the Premier's statement are attached. The Victorian Government website has not yet been updated to reflect changes.

We rejoice with those who will experience a degree of freedom and continue to pray for all who remain in lockdown, have been exposed to COVID 19, health care workers, aged care worker, those who are hospitalized, those in isolation and the more vulnerable among our communities, particularly the homeless.

Table of Restrictions

Victorian Premier's press release

Please call the COVID hotline for further information 1 800 675 398.