



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS FOR CONGREGATIONS¹

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

Complete a [COVID-Safe Plan](#) and submit to the SA Government, print and display this in your building.

Does our worship centre need a COVID Marshal?

All places of worship require at least one trained Marshal to be present at a worship service, however we recommend that you have several people trained so that you don't have to rely on one person.

If your COVID Safe Plan says you can have 200 or less people at your venue you can have a prescribed Marshal (ie they can be the Marshal and be doing another job at the same time).

If your COVID Safe Plan says you can have more than 200 people at your venue you must have a dedicated Marshal (ie they cannot be doing a second job at the same time).

Marshals must have completed the required training and be easily identifiable – [click here](#) for more information.

How many people can attend worship?

From 29th June 2020 there is no restriction on the number of people who can attend, provided you have the appropriate space to adhere to social distancing requirements and the 2m² rule.

How do I calculate the 2m² rule?

Measure the floor space of your room and divide this number by 2. Eg your room is 5m x 4m = 20m², therefore you can have 10 people in this room.

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

Please ensure you have sufficient spacing to adhere to the 1.5m distancing rule and the 2m² rule. Food and drinks may be served, but please do so safely. There is a limit on 50 people who can attend any event held in a private home.

Is there a time limit on how long our activities can be?

Currently this is a two hour limit on all indoor activities.

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?

Yes, but with some limitations on how it is served. Please refer to [this poster](#) for more details.

¹ Current as at 28th August 2020

How will we encourage good hygiene?

Please provide hand sanitizer 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?

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

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

Please visit <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/doc/signage-and-posters-covid-19> 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 <https://www.safeworkaustralia.gov.au/covid-19-information-workplaces/industry-information/general-industry-information/cleaning>.

Can I receive Holy Communion?

South Australian Government have advised that Holy Communion can be practiced, with some guidelines.

One person is to prepare the elements, the wine must be in individual cups (the common cup is not to be utilised), the bread is to be distributed by one person who is wearing gloves or using tongs and they must not touch the hand of the recipient. Individual cups should be single use only.

What about baptisms, funerals and weddings?

There is no restriction on the number of people allowed for a baptism, other than adhering to the 2m² rule.

For weddings and funerals there is a limit of 100 people who may attend, or less if your church's COVID Safe Plan states this. Contact tracing records must be kept for both of these events.

Remember:

- Your space should allow for no more than 1 person per 2 square metres
- 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 Government's regulations as they are updated. Please also refer to the [LCA's COVID-19 page](#) for additional information.