

Dear pastors. Lay workers, Church Council Chairpersons, Secretaries and Office Administration Staff and SP3 coordinators

An extension of lockdown for Metropolitan Melbourne **including a curfew** has been announced today and is in effect from **11.59pm tonight until 11.59pm Thursday 02 September**. In addition, a further caveat to the **broadcasting of services** has been advised – that the limit of 5 people must be contained to that group – must be the same (up to) five people each time. **Authorised workers will be required to carry permits** when working, and when travelling for work, from 11:59pm on Tuesday August 17. The permits need to be certified by an employer. Permits will be available on the coronavirus website before these directions come into effect.

The summary of restrictions is attached.

- **NEW: Curfew:** From 9pm to 5am, a person is not permitted to leave their home except for limited reasons

Stay at home unless:

- shopping for necessary goods and services (one person per household, once per day, a support person can accompany if required)
- caregiving or compassionate reasons
- authorised work or permitted education, or work interstate
- exercise (up to two hours, with one other person plus dependants if they cannot be left unattended. The other person can be from another household)
- receive a COVID-19 vaccination
- other specified reasons (specific exemptions apply)

Religion and Ceremony:

- **Religious gatherings and ceremonies:** No in-person gatherings permitted. Broadcast permitted with maximum five people, **NEW** must be the same (up to) five people each time.
- **Funerals** (indoor and outdoor): permitted with no more than 10 people (and those workers necessary to conduct the funeral) Children under 12 months are not counted towards this cap
- **Weddings:** not permitted unless for end of life or for deportation reasons. Involves only 5 persons (including the two being married, the celebrant and two witnesses)
- **NEW Permits:** permits will be required to leave the house for authorized work from 11.59pm Tuesday 17th August, consistent with the arrangements that were in place last year.

Please call the COVID hotline for further enquiries 1 800 675 398

Yours in Christ

Kate Burke