



## Communique #8

### COCWA - COVID19 ADVICE UPDATE- PHASE TWO

10 May 2020

#### NATIONAL ROAD MAP

On 8 May, the National Cabinet announced the COVID Safe Australia roadmap to begin to remove baseline restrictions and make Australia safe. Each State will implement the road map according to their specific circumstances. Details are available at:

[Summary Road Map - Three Steps](#)

[RoadMap to COVID Safe Australia](#)

#### PHASE 2 - EASING OF RESTRICTIONS IN WESTERN AUSTRALIA – FROM 18 MAY

Following from the Prime Minister's announcement, Premier Mark McGowan has announced today that from **18 May** restrictions will be further relaxed for Phase 2 as part of [WA's roadmap](#), allowing some businesses and community facilities to reopen. Western Australian's are being encouraged to return to work, unless they are unwell or vulnerable.

Social distancing, good hygiene and the 4sqm rule apply to all activities.

Community facilities - **places of worship**, community facilities and libraries will be permitted to reopen up to **20 patrons**.

Public gatherings - indoor and outdoor non-work gatherings of up to 20 people, weddings and funerals up to 20 people inside or 30 outside.

Regional travel - Restrictions relaxed, with travel allowed between:

- South West, Great Southern, Wheatbelt and Perth-Peel regions
- Mid-West, Gascoyne and Pilbara regions (excluding the biosecurity zone)
- Goldfields-Esperance region (excluding the biosecurity zone)
- within Kimberley Local Government areas (the Commonwealth's biosecurity zone remains in place).

Travel exemptions will be required to travel between these regions.

## **PLACES OF WORSHIP – REOPENING**

From 18 May 2020, places of worship are allowed to open to the public, for religious gatherings, private worship or small religious ceremonies, provided that the following requirements and recommendations are observed. Places of worship:

### **Must:**

- Limit the number of people on site to 1 person per 4 square metres (density requirement)
- Restrict the number of congregants to a maximum of 20 attendees
- Have a prepared COVID Safety Plan in place

### **Should:**

- Observe, and encourage, social distancing (1.5 metres rule)
- Facilitate good hand and respiratory hygiene, including by offering hand sanitiser at entrance and exit
- Frequently clean and disinfect facilities
- Keep records of attendees, including names and contact details, to assist with contact tracing if required
- Implement signage to support compliance with current restrictions and advice (including the use of floor markings to help remind attendees of social distancing requirements)

Larger services (including organised and/or scheduled services) continue to be prohibited.

## **COVID SAFETY PLAN – REQUIREMENT**

For places of worship/community venues seeking to reopen, an official COVID Safety Plan will need to be completed. The WA Government has begun consulting with key stakeholders to develop COVID Safety Plans and Guidelines, which will be available this week.

Once available, COCWA will distribute the information to Churches to enable these to be developed.

## **RECORDING OF ATTENDEES AT PLACES OF WORSHIP**

One of the key aspects to support places of worship reopening in Phase 2 and 3 will be the requirement to record contact details of people attending events (including weddings and funerals). This will assist Public Health authorities in undertaking tracking and tracing requirements.

All three phases of the national roadmap (and subsequent State-based roadmaps) have identified this requirement.

As you develop your COVID19 Safety Plan, please consider how this will be undertaken for your church and any events (including small groups online church recordings etc) that you are undertaking.

To support this initiative, please encourage your members to download the COVIDSafe App. Details are available at: <https://www.health.gov.au/resources/apps-and-tools/covidsafe-app>

## **STAY UP TO DATE**

COVID-19 is a rapidly evolving situation, and all Affiliates are reminded to stay on top of the latest information. Learn more by referring to *trusted* sources, such as:

- [Australian Government](#)
- [Australian Department of Health](#)
- [WA Government - Coronavirus-Community-Advice](#)
- [Prime Ministers Scott Morrison's website](#)

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