



From the Bishop

17 November 2020

To all Clergy, Secretaries, Diocesan Councillors and Synod Representatives

COVID-19 Update 11

Dear Friends in Christ,

It has been some time since I have needed to send out a Covid-19 update to you all as SA had been doing really well. Unfortunately, over the last couple of days, a cluster has formed in Adelaide and so the State Government is re-introducing some restrictions in the hopes that this will reduce the ability for this virus to spread and hopefully we won't be affected like our brothers and sisters in Victoria were recently. As we learnt earlier in the year, Covid-19 is a fast changing situation, so I am sure we will be receiving updates regularly as the Government and SA Health try to contain the spread. All of the following restrictions have been put into place, effective as of 12:01am this morning. If we all try to follow these renewed restrictions, hopefully they will only be in place temporarily for two weeks.

Attached with this letter is a graphic of the restrictions that have been put into place as of today, but some further details are as follows;

How everyone is affected

Density requirements have been returned so that the total number of people at a place must not exceed 1 person per 4 square metres. Physical distancing, or social distancing principles apply and every person should attempt to stay at least 1.5 metres from other members of the public. However, this does not apply to people who live together, who are friends or family members, or people who regularly associate with each other.

Defined Activities

Ceremonies, weddings (including ceremonies and receptions), funeral services (including wakes) and indoor public meetings are classed as "Defined Activities" and so must still have a Covid-Safe Plan in place and operate accordingly. Current advice is that if you have an existing Plan, you will not need to complete a new Plan. It is likely that your existing Plan will be updated and emailed to your recorded contact person in due course.

As a Defined Activity, we will still be required to make and retain records of attendees for Contact Tracing purposes. Some of these activities will require a COVID Marshal to be present. A COVID Marshal is required to complete the relevant training as prescribed by SA Health. This is a quick and easy online course, offered at no cost, and can be accessed via this link <https://marshal.clickontraining.com.au/>



Religious Ceremonies

Religious Ceremonies (not weddings or funerals) will be capped at a maximum of 100 people but the actual number within our buildings will be subject to the 1 person per 4 square metres of space. As a Diocese we should still be mindful of the following;

- Contact Tracing Records – This should be a record of all people who attend a service or activity and should include the date, the person's name, the time, and a means of contact (ie. a phone number) should contact tracing be necessary. It is important that all Contract Tracing Records are kept in a secure location after the occasion that they have been obtained and should then be destroyed after 30 days – not simply put in the bin.
- Greeting/Passing of the Peace – Greeters/welcomers should not be shaking hands when people arrive, and neither should the Priest at the conclusion of a service. Similarly, we should still have NO passing of the peace during the service. The phrase, “the Lord be with you” should simply be responded to with “and also with you.”
- Singing and Hymn Books – If you have singing during worship then remember that we are encouraged to maintain a greater social distance between people to reduce the possibility of transmission. If hymn books (or bibles, prayer books or service sheets) are being used then they cannot be handed out at the door or passed from person to person. If there is a subsequent service in the same building, then fresh books should be provided.
- The Collection – A collection plate should not be passed from person to person. The plate should be available for people to use on their way into or out of the service, or people be encouraged to give electronically. Those who count the money should use gloves and ensure that they wash their hands.
- Holy Communion – Communion continues to only be permitted in one kind – the wafer.
- Morning Tea – Food and drink should be single served portions and avoid shared portions from communal containers. It is also important that people do not share utensils so this should be considered.
- Cleaning – This should be continued as recommended by the authorities and outlined in your COVID-Safe plans.

Weddings

The maximum number permitted to attend a wedding (ceremony and reception) is 150 people, but the 1 person per 4 square metres rule applies within the venues. Please note that all attendees must now be registered in advance with SA Health via their [Digital contact tracing record form - Weddings](#)

Funerals

Funerals are capped at 50 people with 1 person per 4 square metre rule applying. Contact Tracing details will still need to be recorded.

Private Gatherings

Gatherings at private residences are capped at 10 people.

Aged Care

Aged care facilities have had visitor restrictions of two people per day reintroduced, but some sites are imposing greater restrictions. These are not part of the direction but are choices made by the individual site so you should phone ahead of any pastoral visits.

Op-Shops

At this stage, Op-Shops can remain open however, the number of people allowed within the space will need to be in line with the 1 person per 4 square metre rule. All Op-Shops should have a Covid-Safe Plan in place and Contact Tracing records should be kept where possible.

Hall Hire

A number of Hall Hires had managed to recommence over the last few months, but with these recent restrictions being temporarily imposed, it is important to be mindful of the activity. Card or craft groups etc are probably ok to continue, as long as the 1 person per 4 square metres is applied. People should be encouraged to wash or sanitise their hands regularly and possibly wear a mask if physical distancing is not possible. Indoor fitness activities (dance, yoga, aerobics etc) are currently not permitted. This temporary cancellation is expected for a duration of two weeks and we will need to wait for further instructions beyond that.

Synod

We are currently assessing all of the logistics around Synod but will advise you as soon as a decision has been made about whether it will be able to go ahead as planned.

The overarching advice is that if you are feeling unwell or show any Covid-19 symptoms then you should get tested. Vulnerable people are encouraged to stay home and visits and travel should be minimised. Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser frequently and wear a mask where it is not possible to physically distance. Together, we will be able to get through this latest outbreak.

With continued prayers and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a cross symbol followed by the name 'Keith' and a large, stylized initial 'D'.

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby
Bishop of The Murray