



*From the Bishop*

10 December 2020

To all Clergy, Secretaries and Diocesan Councillors

### **COVID-19 Update 15**

Dear Friends in Christ,

South Australia continues to recover well from the latest Covid-19 outbreak in the city and, as a result, the Government has announced that there will be a further easing of restrictions on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December. While this is pleasing as we head closer to Christmas, we need to not get ahead of ourselves with our services on Sunday. For these we will still need to have;

- **Indoors**, 1 person per 4 square metres of space.
- **Outdoors**, 1 person per 2 square metres of space.

From Monday 14<sup>th</sup> December, restrictions will ease as follows;

#### Density Rule

The density requirements for defined public activities will return to 1 person per 2 square metres. There is no set maximum of people that are allowed to be in a space (asides from weddings and funerals below), it will be completely defined by this density rule and the size of your worship space. 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.

#### Masks

Wearing a face mask is not mandatory, but it is recommended to wear a mask when out in public if you are unable to physically distance.

#### COVID-Safe Plan

Religious Ceremonies, weddings and funerals are classed as “defined public activities” and so we still need to have a COVID-Safe Plan completed and available on your premises. Those that have already completed a COVID-Safe plan will not need to complete another one, the Government will continue to email updated versions of your existing plan as changes come in to force. If you do not yet have a COVID-Safe plan for an activity, the link to create one and more information is available on the Government’s website;

<https://www.covid-19.sa.gov.au/recovery/create-a-covid-safe-plan>

#### COVID Marshals

Some activities require a COVID Marshal to be present as outlined in your COVID-Safe Plans. People can complete the relevant online training as prescribed by SA Health, at no cost via this link; <https://marshal.clickontraining.com.au/>



### COVID Safe Check-in and Contact Tracing

The Government has introduced COVID Safe Check-in to enhance contact tracing. This is a feature which has been added to the free mySA Gov app for smart phones. Activities with a COVID-Safe Plan should have a poster with a unique QR code that needs to be printed and displayed prominently. When people arrive at a venue, they can check in by scanning the QR code using their smart phone through the mySA Gov app. If people don't have the app they can use their smart phone camera and a secure web form will open to check in.

If people don't have a smart phone then paper recording can still be used as a back-up. Continue to note the date and time of the activity along with the person's name and contact details. All paper Contract Tracing Records must still be kept in a secure location after the occasion that they have been obtained. They should then be destroyed after 30 days – not simply put in the bin.

### Weddings and Funerals

Weddings and funerals will be capped at 200 people attending, although we still need to consider the density rule of 1 person per 2 square metres in conjunction with this cap.

### Private Gatherings in homes

The number of people allowed to gather at your home will be raised to 50.

### Aged Care Facilities

Restrictions on visitors to Aged Care facilities will be officially removed, however some sites may still leave limits in place so check with the facility before any pastoral visits. Masks will be mandatory while within these facilities.

### Holy Communion

Communion continues to only be permitted in one kind – the wafer.

### Passing of the Peace

There should be 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.” Similarly, any greeters/welcomers should not be shaking hands when people arrive, and neither should the Priest at the conclusion of the service.

### The Collection

Taking a collection during a service is fine but the plate should not be passed from person to person. If possible, the plate should be available for people to use on their way into or out of the service – not on the way up for Communion. People counting money should use gloves and ensure that they wash their hands. If people have been able to give electronically over the last few months, they should be encouraged to continue to do so.

### Singing and Hymn Books

The SA Government has not banned singing during worship as other states and countries have, however if you are 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.

Morning Tea

Morning tea may be held after services but all food and drink should be single served portions and not shared portions from communal containers. It is also important that people do not share utensils so this should be considered.

Cleaning after services and other gatherings

This should be continued as recommended by the authorities and outlined in your COVID-Safe plans.

As we move through the season of Advent, a season of Hope, let us hope and pray that we can continue to make good progress out of these latest Covid restrictions so that we might be able to gather as a faithful community of family and friends this Christmas to celebrate the Nativity of our Lord and Saviour, who came to save us all.

With prayers and best wishes,

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol followed by the name 'Keith' and a flourish.

The Right Reverend Keith Dalby  
Bishop of The Murray