

24 December 2021

To all Clergy, Secretaries and Diocesan Councillors

COVID-19 Update 27

Dear Friends in Christ,

The SA Government has issued a new COVID-Ready plan in line with South Australia reaching 90% full vaccination of people over 12 years of age. This plan will come into effect on Tuesday 28th December 2021. The new guidelines affect singing and density.

Please note that this **does not** affect Christmas services which continue under the current guidelines. Refer to Covid-19 Pastoral Update 26 for more Diocesan guidelines.

From 28th December 2021 singing will only be allowed indoors if all attendees are Fully Vaccinated. Therefore, to keep in line with my previous circulars, and to ensure that we can continue to be welcoming of all people who wish to enter our churches and practice their faith, there should be **no singing** from Tuesday onwards. We will not currently require COVID Marshals to check the vaccination status of anyone. The density rule will remain at 3 people per 4 square metres.

It is understood that no singing means no singing. This includes all choirs and soloists. In all cases masks must still be worn indoors as per previous directions.

We are advised that spot checks by Compliance officers will continue across the State and Police will continue spot checks regarding compliance.

Many may find these new rules perplexing and contrary to community expectations regarding easing of restrictions at 90% fully vaccinated, however the arrangements have been confirmed directly by SA Health. As always restrictions are kept under constant review by the SA Government as the situation evolves and I encourage you to keep an eye on the SA Health COVID website and media coverage of Government announcements.

With prayers and blessings,



The Right Reverend Keith Dalby
Bishop of The Murray

