

Queensland Baptists COVID-19 Update 14 December 2020

We are pleased to share today's update that was issued with the release of the [Restriction on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Direction \(No.11\)](#), as well as some further clarifications we have been working on.

Two main implications exist in this new Direction for Places of Worship in relation to ticketed seating and the collection of details for contact tracing purposes.

Ticketed Allocated Seating

Occupant density refers to how many people are permitted at a venue, and it is calculated as:

- no more than one person per 2 square metres for areas open to or used by attendees, whether indoors or outdoors, or
- up to 100% of seated venue capacity provided attendees are in **ticketed and allocated seating**.

The updated definition of 'ticketed and allocated seating' means fixed seating where an attendee is:

- given a record of their assigned seat number by way of a ticket; and
- remains in their assigned seat to the extent possible while they are present at the venue or event.

Venues operating at 100% capacity with ticketed and allocated seating must require attendees to wear masks on entry and exit.

Collection of Contact Information

The information required to be collected from people attending is:

- the name, phone number, email address, and the date and the time period of attendees and staff; and
- provided to a public health officer within a stated time, if requested by a public health officer; and
- securely stored, not used for any other purpose; and
- deleted after not less than 30 days and not more than 56 days.

Release date of revised Industry Plan

We have been advised that the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs is currently working with Queensland Health on a revised release of the COVID Safe Industry Plan for Places of Worship to reflect the latest easing of restrictions under Stages 5 and 6 of the Roadmap. This will take some time to go through the approvals processes and receive Chief Health Officer sign off, and they are unable to provide an estimated timeframe for this.

In the meantime, and as outlined in the Industry Plan, *where there is an inconsistency between the [Restrictions on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Direction](#) (the Direction) and the [Industry Plan](#), the Direction will take precedence over the Industry Plan for the extent of the inconsistency.*

Please note that our churches do not need to wait for a revised, publicly available version of the Industry Plan to take advantage of COVID-19 relaxations in restrictions under Stage 6. To recap, this includes:

- **Gatherings:** 50 people allowed to gather in homes and 100 in public spaces.
- **Increased indoor attendance:** Increase from one person per 4 square metres to one person per 2 square metres, or 100% capacity at seated, ticketed venues with patrons to wear masks on entry and exit. Performers can distance from audience at 2m, except choirs which remain at 4m from the audience.
- **Wedding Ceremonies:** Up to 200 people can attend a wedding and all guests can dance (both indoors and outdoors).
- **Funerals:** Up to 200 people can attend a funeral.
- **Outdoor events:** Increased outdoor events from 1,000 to 1,500 with a COVID Safe Event Checklist. Larger events require a COVID Safe Plan.

Training for service of food

The Industry Plan for Places of Worship calls for churches who are providing food to comply with the [Retail Food Services Industry Plan](#). This Plan mandates training and so we have sought clarification on whether this only applies to churches who operate food businesses. The advice received is that churches must ensure staff (including volunteers) are educated, informed, protected and aware of their responsibilities regarding their safety, and the safety of others during the activities of the church.

As such, COVID Safe training is mandatory and is freely provided online by [TAFE Queensland](#). This must be completed by all staff (including casuals and volunteers) who are involved in food services (e.g. – places of worship who may run a café **or where they are providing food or beverages as part of pre or post service gatherings**).

- Training must be completed within two weeks of a business opening / reopening, and by staff commencing with your business after this two-week period.
- Training is **online, free and takes approximately 30 minutes** to complete.
- Completion of training records should be maintained for inspection by compliance officers, if/when required.