

COVID restriction advice dated 18 June 2021

Yesterday the Government, through the Acting Chief Health Officer, issued new Directions, published overnight.

1. Metropolitan Melbourne congregations

With regard to the conduct of religious ceremonies in metropolitan Melbourne, there are two new Directions papers I draw your attention to, namely:

Stay Safe Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) (no. 3), effective 17 June;

Restricted Activity Directions (Metropolitan Melbourne) (No. 4), effective 17 June.

Within metropolitan Melbourne, you may meet for public worship but with provisos, the most significant of which appear to be:

- a) attendees must wear masks indoors (with the usual exceptions);
- b) the density quotient remains at 4 (i.e. allow one person per 4 sqm of interior building space);
- c) the total number of members of the public in all indoor spaces combined at any time does not exceed 75 (while not breaking the density quotient);
- d) the total number of members of the public at the facility at any time does not exceed 150 (while not breaking the density quotient).

With regard to proviso (c) above – counting people – *“Note: the persons required to conduct and/or facilitate a service are not included in the limit of people referred to...”*

Weddings and Funerals

Please refer to **SSD**, 7(5) - (7).

2. Regional Victorian congregations

With regard to the conduct of religious ceremonies in regional Victoria, there are two new Directions papers I draw your attention to, namely:

Stay Safe Directions (Regional Victoria) (No. 6), effective 17 June;

Restricted Activity Directions (Regional Victoria) (No. 4), effective 17 June.

Within regional Victoria, you may meet for public worship but with provisos, the most significant of which appear to be:

- a) attendees must wear masks indoors (with the usual exceptions);
- b) the density quotient is 4 (i.e. allow one person per 4 sqm of interior building space);
- c) the total number of members of the public at the facility at any time does not exceed 300 (while not breaking the density quotient).

Weddings and Funerals

Please refer to **SSD**, 7(5) - (7).

For both metropolitan Melbourne and regional Victoria, all the other usual COVID-safe practices apply such as cleaning regimes and registering attendees through a QR code.

The Acting CHO's Directions may be found:

<https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au/victorias-restriction-levels-covid-19>

or, if you're searching their website:

[dhhs.vic.gov.au](https://www.dhhs.vic.gov.au)

- CORONAVIRUS

- Victoria's restriction levels

As responsible persons governing all activities of the local church, each time there is a variation it's always best to have your Session read the Directions themselves and come to its own mind. This document remains only advice, the law is the current CHO's Directions.

with warm regards,

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