

PCV COVID-19 restriction advice – 1 December 2021

Last week the Government, through the Acting Chief Health Officer, issued new Directions. This is summary advice written especially for PCV congregations. In red you will see an alteration from the previous advice, based upon change in the Directions.

Sources - issued 25 November 2021

- Stay Safe Directions (Victoria) (No 30) – abbreviated to **SSD**
- Open Premises Directions (No 7) – abbreviated to **OPD**
- COVID-19 Mandatory Vaccination (Workers) Directions (No 8) – abbreviated to **CMV**
- Workplace Directions (No 57) – abbreviated to **WPD**

For the purposes of reading and applying the figures in this table:

- children under 12 years and two months, and those with an official medical exemption, are considered as being vaccinated; (see **OPD p. 2 & SSD p. 6**)
- children under 1 year old are NOT to be counted as part of any attendance cap/limit.

	Unknown vaccination status activities (QR code check-in required)		Vaccinated (or exempted) ONLY activities (QR code & vaccination status required)	
In Places of Worship	indoors	outdoors	indoors	outdoors
Church services	the lesser of DQ4 and 50 patrons for whole of premises (OPD p. 15) - masks compulsory (SSD p. 2)	the lesser of DQ4 and 50 patrons for whole of premises - not mandatory to wear masks	no cap and no density quotient - not mandatory to wear masks	
Funerals & weddings	the lesser of DQ4 and 50 patrons for the whole premises - masks compulsory (SSD p. 2)	the lesser of DQ4 and 50 patrons for the whole premises - not mandatory to wear masks		
Home groups	no limit - not mandatory to wear masks			
Outdoor gatherings – public place	no limit - not mandatory to wear masks			

We note:

- A patron is a person (over 1 year of age) 'who attends a premises' who is not a worker. A worker is 'a person engaged or employed' at the premises by the Session or the minister. Workers do not count toward the patron limit.
- There is no restriction on sharing of food, drink, crockery, utensils, vessels or other equipment on church premises.
- Correct signage at each entrance door, strict cleaning regime after services and a Session-approved COVID safe plan remain requirements for every place of worship (see **WPD p. 11, 12**).
- A COVID-19 Check-in Marshall must be at each entrance door ensuring that people check in with the QR Code, plus checking their vaccination status (but only when that is required).
- Ministers are exempted from the mandatory vaccination requirements for workers because they conduct services of public worship; perform marriages and funerals; or visit people in homes or institutions to provide religious comfort for the purposes of end of life faith reasons (see **CMV p. 17**).

We leave this with the wisdom of Session. As responsible persons governing all activities of the local church, Session will come to its own mind. This document, formulated with the best of this committee's ability and wisdom, remains only advice.

with warm regards
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