## RETURN TO GATHERING

## A THREE STEP FRAMEWORK FOR COVID19 SAFE PARISH LIFE

**Government Guidelines** 

Step 1 in place from May 15, 2020

## **Grafton Diocesan Guidelines - Updated May 15**

Whatever plans we make as churches, we must continue to show concern for the most vulnerable within our fellowship and community and be good citizens in seeking to follow Government regulations. These guidelines assume 1.5m distancing and good hygiene. Any decision to recommence gatherings in person will need the approval of the Bishop. Updates will be issued by the Bishop or the Registrar.



## STEP1

Connect with friends and family - allowing groups of people to be together in homes and in the community.

Businesses reopen, and more people return to work.

WEDDINGS, FUNERALS & RELIGIOUS SERVICES

Weddings may have up to 10 guests in addition to the couple and the celebrant

Funerals may have up to 20 mourners indoors and 30 outdoors

Religious gatherings may have up to 10 attendees

Every gathering must record contact details

CHURCH SERVICES

No public worship in church on Sundays or weekdays.

Services should remain online.

Outdoor weekday services of the Word with max. of 10 participants as per the Bishop's letter. SMALL GROUPS

Prayer meetings and small groups in homes - a maximum of five visitors.

On church premises, a maximum of 10 persons and each person's contact details must be recorded. This includes Parish Council, Staff Meetings, Bible Studies etc. YOUTH & CHILDREN

Up to 10 people (including leaders) with social distancing and full hygiene measures.

We recommend postponing these ministries in person unless Government guidelines can be strictly followed.

FOOD

Food service must be done hygienically, maintaining social distancing and observing other guidelines for any food consumed on church property.

requires a record to be kept for every person to enable contact tracing if someone later tests positive for COVID-19.

CONTACT

RECORDING

The Government

We recommend that names and at least one contact detail (such as a phone number) be recorded for all attendees. **HYGIENE** 

Stay home if unwell.

Enable easy access to sanitiser and handwashing.

Use Government posters to promote good hygiene. Download posters.

CLEANING

Clean and disinfect communal areas frequently.

Download cleaning advice from Safe Work Australia.

**OTHER** 

Halls and facilities may be used or hired by external groups limited to 10 people for non-contact activities with 4m² per person. Physical distancing. Sanitizing of space before and after each group. Hirers should be asked to submit a WHS plan to manage risk.

STEP 2

Building on slightly larger gatherings and more businesses reopening.

Higher risk activities may have tighter restrictions.

Weddings may have up to 20 guests in addition to the couple and the

celebrant
Funerals may have
up to 50 mourners
Religious

gatherings may have up to 20 attendees Every gathering

Every gathering must record contact details

Services could remain online.

Measure the seating area of your building to calculate the maximum number of people who can gather. Reflect on the hows and whys of continuing online church into Step 3.

Up to 20 people meeting on church property. The people can meet in different locations but not exceed the total number.

Ensure adequate supplies of hygiene and cleaning products are procured before more people are allowed to gather. Develop an approach for cleaning between gatherings.

to open churches for private prayer, but this would need someone on duty to monitor COVIDsafe Guidelines, including cleaning after each person visits. These may be onerous restrictions that will need to be carefully managed before making a decision to open the church building.

It may be possible

STEP 3

A commitment to reopening of businesses and the community with minimal restrictions, but underpinned by COVIDSafe ways of living.

Allow gatherings of up to 100 people Every gathering must record contact details Public church services may recommence.

A maximum of 100 people including all adults and children provided space allows  $4\mathrm{m}^2$  per person with 1.5m physical distancing.

Consider how to continue online ministry if people are also in the building.

Larger groups, bounded by building and space restrictions of 1.5m distancing and 4m<sup>2</sup> per person. Questions to consider

What have you STOPPED? (that you don't want to go back to)

What have you CHANGED? (that you want to continue with)

What have you STARTED? (that you want to adopt from now on)