



Queensland Baptists – COVID – 19 Update 1 April 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

Greetings Pastors and Churches,

In the last 48 hours there has been 2 main issues that pastors and churches are seeking clarity on, and so in response we provide the following to assist with decision making.

Can we record at or livestream from our church?

Under the Non-Essential Business Closure Direction from the QLD Chief Health Officer, QB Baptist churches as places of worship have been significantly restricted in how we can now operate, with exclusions only pertaining only to weddings and funerals.

No.4 of this [Direction](#) issued **today 1 April** has seen the following update, providing some clarity around online activity.

Part 1 (7) *A person who owns, controls or operates a non-essential business, activity or undertaking may continue to do so online or through the internet, unless stated otherwise in Column 1 of the Definitions table at paragraph 8.*

In the Definitions table ([here](#)), no exceptions currently exist for places of worship in relation to this additional provision – meaning churches can operate online (stream/record content).

Our understanding of whether or not this can be done from the church property is determined in accordance with the [Home Confinement Direction](#) which prohibits the following:

- a. *persons from leaving their residence except for permitted purposes; and*
- b. *groups of more than two persons who are not members of the same household from gathering in any place except for permitted purposes.*

The permitted purposes that is of specific relevance here is:

"to perform work on behalf of an employer that is engaged in an essential business, activity or undertaking, and the work to be performed is of a nature that cannot reasonably be performed from the person's principal place of residence;"

Based on this we recommend only church employees be involved in streaming/recording, that it be limited to 2 employees (maintaining social distancing requirements) and where it cannot possibly be performed from a private residence.

Can we do other work from our church office?

Based on our understanding of the QLD Health [Home Confinement Direction](#), we consider that churches can have employees performing duties where the work to be performed is of a nature

that cannot reasonably be performed from the person's principal place of residence;" AND where the 2 person limit and social distancing requirements to apply.

This is very much a grey area when considered against the Non-Essential Business Closure Direction that defines churches as non-essential businesses (only permitted to operate in accordance with the current wedding and funeral exclusions). As such we expect this will be addressed in further advice from the National Cabinet and/or The QLD Chief Health Officer in coming days.

We will continue to do our best to provide guidance to our churches and will be continuing to pray that we as a body be strengthened for love in action during these changing times, just as Romans 12:11-13 calls us to: *"Never be lacking in zeal, but keep your spiritual fervour, serving the LORD. Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer. Share with the LORD's people who are in need. Practice hospitality"*.

Blessings.

Stewart Pieper

Director of Services