

Queensland Baptists COVID-19 Update 1 December 2020

As you know we recently welcomed further of relaxations under the [Stage 5 COVID - 19 Roadmap](#) which come into effect on 17 November 2020.

These changes related to:

- **Gatherings**
- **Increased indoor attendance:** Increase from one person per 4 square metres to one person per 2 square metres.
- **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.
- **Outdoor dancing:** Outdoor dancing allowed.

We continue to await the release of an updated Industry Plan for Places of Worship to reflect these relaxations.

As at today 1 December, we saw a change to gatherings under the [Movement and Gathering Direction \(No.7\)](#). This Direction specifically increases gatherings in **public outdoor spaces** and areas from 50 to 100 people.

Please note this does not apply to gatherings on a private property. Gatherings on a private property are still capped at 50 people including household members.

This means there is no change for those who wish to use their home residence as a place of worship. When using a home residence (or private property) as a place of worship and you wish to exceed the maximum number of people allowed under the latest Movement and Gathering Direction (which is 50 people) will have to abide by all aspects of the Industry Plan for Places of Worship.

Frequently Asked Questions

Do we need to consider occupant density and social distancing with children?

Yes. We do however have confirmation from the Department of Children, Youth Justice and Multicultural Affairs that our request for this to be reconsidered has been submitted to QLD Health in the process of updating the latest revision of the Industry Plan for Places of Worship.

Do we need to make sure there is 2m² per person and physical distancing of 1.5m?

Physical distancing of 1.5 metres between household groups is a recommended guide only, so it is to be facilitated just 'as much as possible' (for example, upon entry and exit to your place of worship so you are avoiding bottlenecks when people are getting to their seats). If you have members of your congregation who fall into a vulnerable category, we recommend ensuring the 1.5m physical distancing for these people.

Does the 2m² per person rule apply if we have individually allocated ticketed seating?

If you have seated, ticketed venues (i.e.: the ability to have individual, allocated ticketed seats) you can have 100% capacity (the 1 person per 2 square metre rule does not apply) with patrons to wear masks on entry and exit. The wearing of masks on entry and exit is mandatory, not just to be encouraged.

If you have bench seats (i.e.: not an individual seat such as in a theatre, stadium, cinema or auditorium, despite the fact that you can allocate a ticket), places of worship should apply the one person per 2 square metre rule, because bench seats run the risk of more people crowding into an area than if there were individual seats for each person to sit on.