

Queensland Baptists COVID-19 Update 1 June 2020

Dear Churches and Pastors,

As you would have likely seen we commenced an early transition to Stage 2 of the [Roadmap to Easing Restrictions in QLD](#) from midday today 1 June 2020. In the latest update of the [Restrictions on Businesses, Activities and Undertaking Direction](#) we see a separation of Weddings, Funerals, Religious and Civil Ceremonies and Places of Worship. Details of this are as follows:

Weddings, Funerals, Religious and Civil Ceremonies

- Wedding ceremonies with a maximum attendance of 20 guests. The couple and celebrant are in addition to the 20 attendees.
- Funerals attended by a maximum of 50 people, except if an exemption is granted on compassionate grounds by the Chief Health Officer. A maximum of 3 people can conduct the funeral service in addition to the 50 attendees.
- Religious ceremonies at a place of worship or civil ceremonies with a maximum attendance of 20 people.
- Live streaming of one of the above services may be conducted with the maximum number of people outlined above, including the camera operator, with social distancing observed.

Places of Worship

- Limited to 20 people at a time.

We also note changes to the record keeping requirements with information now to be retained for 56 days. The Direction is specified below:

Restricted business (applicable to our churches and related ministries) *must keep contact information about all guests and staff for contact tracing purposes, including name, address and mobile phone number for a period of at least 56 days, unless otherwise specified. If requested, this information must be provided to public health officers. The information should be securely stored, not used for any other purpose and deleted after 56 days.*

Continuing conditions that remain applicable include:

- Social distancing and hygiene
- Tracking, tracing, rapid response
- COVID safe business WH&S plans in place
- Work at home if it works for you and your employer

COVID SAFE Plan

Starting from Stage 2 under the Roadmap to Easing Restrictions in QLD eligible businesses who wish to have additional customers on their business premises, and whose business premises are large enough to do so and still meet the 4 square metre rule, will be able to apply the strategies and protocols outlined in their relevant approved Industry COVID Safe plan to do so.

From Stage 2, eligible business who are following an approved Industry COVID Safe Plan will be able to offer their services beyond the limits prescribed in the Roadmap. An approved Industry COVID Safe Plan may specify a higher number of persons for Stage 2 if they have clearly demonstrated measures that satisfy the Chief Health Officer that they can safely do so and continue to meet one person per four square metres. An industry should highlight this as a component of their plan submission.

An Industry COVID Safe Plan can be developed by an industry through a representative group or a group of businesses within that industry.

A Guide for Industry COVID Safe Plans has been created to provide insight into the content that will be assessed when the health authority approves the plan. There is no official template for the plan, the format can be determined by industry whilst following the information provided in the Guide for Industry COVID Safe Plans.

To ensure consistency of safety standards and compliance, Queensland Health will only approve one Industry COVID Safe Plan per industry. Where there are multiple associations within an industry these groups should develop a plan together or select one plan to submit for approval.

Places of Worship are not listed as an eligible industry for COVID SAFE Plans, however Queensland Baptists are working with Heads of Churches to progress the development and submission such a plan for Christian churches across QLD. The QLD Government have not consulted with our Baptist denominational leaders as yet, and so further information on the progress of this will be provided as it becomes available.

In the interim, we encourage churches in their ongoing commitment to working within the restrictions, particularly ensuring their COVID safe business WH&S plans are comprehensive and in full effect. We recognise these obligations are a baseline and that any approved COVID SAFE Plan will articulate *best practice guidelines* (above and beyond the WH&S) that would need to be met for any relaxations to be afforded.

Please see below for previously provided links to useful resources in relation to WH&S.

[BIS COVID Safe Business WH&S Plan](#)

[Worksafe QLD COVID WH&S Plan](#)

[QB COVID - 19 WH&S Checklist](#)