



Queensland Baptists – COVID – 19 Update 24 March 2020

Frequently Asked Questions

School is still open, so is it ok to run youth group?

Running youth group as an activity on church property is captured under the non-essential business directive. Some churches are thinking through ways of how to modify this ministry to maintain fellowship and discipling. For some this looks like recording podcasts, streaming kids worship services and issuing study tools.

We have a wedding booked for this weekend, can we do it outside?

Under the restrictions to facilities of the non-essential business directive from QLD health, we see weddings captured. *These measures also apply to outdoor spaces associated with our venues.*

Churches who choose to move weddings to offsite locations need to consider how they will still meet the restrictions outlined in Part 1 Section 9 of the directive on [mass gatherings](#) and adhere social distancing requirements and recommended hygiene practices.

Can we keep having our usual prayer meetings at the church property?

Churches would need to consider this carefully and be able to maintain *only very small groups with 1 person per 4 square metres*. Some churches are choosing to continue running regularly prayer meetings via phone/video conferencing.

For the purposes of contact tracing in the event of a confirmed case of COVID - 19, churches should consider ways to a record attendance at such very small gatherings.

We have been streaming our services, but that involves using our church. Are we still allowed to use the church building for this?

Production and/or worship teams that are required to facilitate live streams/recording of services also need to abide by the latest restrictions, more specifically to have *only very small groups and where the 1 person per 4 square metre rule applies*

Can we keep running our OP Shop?

“Retail” stores are not captured in the latest restrictions, and so churches that operate these would need to ensure they continue with the previous recommendations in relation to social distancing and good hygiene.

What about our home group ministries?

With the ambiguity in the latest restrictions from a National and a State level, we encourage churches to implement new virtual meeting arrangements, using platforms such as [Skype](#) or [Zoom](#) for small groups to connect with one another from the comfort of their own homes.

Can we continue our normal pastoral care services?

Depending on the nature of the pastoral care, churches would need to ensure they continue with the previous recommendations in relation to social distancing and good hygiene, and also where the *1 person per 4 square metre* rule applies.

Can we hold Easter services?

We don't expect to see the current restrictions lifted in time for Easter, and we note that the National Cabinet will be considering further Stage 2 restrictions if social distancing measure are not adhered to.

Many churches are coming up with amazing ways to share the Good News at Easter. One Pastor wrote to us suggesting that we all place a cross on our front lawns on Good Friday and a sign declaring Christ is risen on Sunday. Such great innovation coming out of necessity!

Can we do church outside?

Under the latest restrictions, church buildings are considered as facilities that are no longer able to open from midday 23 March 2020. This restriction applies to outdoor spaces associated with your facilities.

What about church giving?

We encourage churches to be promoting options for electronic giving. [Baplink](#) can assist with setting up individuals with this.

What about copyright if we are live streaming?

Under Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) live streaming is permitted. If churches wanted to save their stream for later viewing, they would need to remove the worship section or be holders of an APRA Performing Licence. Please see [CCLI](#) for FAQ in relation to licensing.

What about weekly meetings booked in our church hall?

As a non-essential business, the restrictions that came into effect 23 March 2020 capture our churches as *facilities will be restricted from opening*. We recommend that churches comply with this even in relation external hire of their venue.

What cleaning recommendations should we follow?

We recommend referring to health authorities as information changes regularly. The latest from the Department of Health can be found [here](#)

Can church staff still work at the church office?

It is our interpretation that employees of the church can still perform their office based duties at the church office and that any workplace recommendations would apply, as well as previous recommendations in relation to social distancing and good hygiene, and also where the *1 person per 4 square metre* rule applies.