

## Queensland Baptists COVID-19 Update 4 March 2021

We are pleased to provide some more clarifications around the requirements for events and also operating at 100% capacity.

In recent updates to the Restriction on Businesses, Activities and Undertakings Directions, including the recent [\(No.14\)](#) we have seen some specific wording relating to events that indicate multi day events providing on-site accommodation with shared facilities must be operated under a COVID Safe Event Plan with Public Health Unit (PHU) approval, regardless of numbers and despite all the other conditions for events (such as operating under Approved Industry Plans etc.). This wording suggests implications for activities such as youth group camps, church family camps, retreats etc.

In close collaboration with QCCC and the Public Health Unit, we now have established clarity around the requirements for multi day events.

### Events – Indoor & Outdoor

#### Using an Approved Industry Plan

Indoor and outdoor events operating under an Approved Plan (not including a COVID Safe Event Plan), such as the one for Places of Worship, and where all parts of the event fall within the scope of that Approved Plan, may operate as follows:

- If more than 500 people (indoor events) or more than 1,500 people (outdoor events) will be in attendance, the event organiser must notify the local PHU a minimum of 10 business days prior to the event taking place.

NB: if all the event activities fall under the Industry Plan **and** the numbers are less than 500 people (indoor events) or 1,500 people (outdoor events), no PHU notification is required.

#### Using a COVID Safe Event Checklist or Plan

Where an event is outside the scope of an Approved Plan, or only parts of an event are covered by an Approved Plan, event organisers must follow the process under the [Industry Framework for COVID Safe Events](#) (as well as the relevant components of Approved Plans which are applicable to the respective parts of their event). Events operating under a COVID Safe Event Checklist or COVID Safe Event Plan must operate in accordance with occupant density and the following:

##### Indoor events

- Fewer than 500 people per day – must comply with a COVID Safe Event Checklist, no further approval needed;
- Between 500 and 10,000 people per day - must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by local PHU's. The event organiser must submit the COVID Safe Event Plan for approval a minimum of 10 business days prior to the event taking place;
- Over 10,000 people per day - must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by the Chief Health Officer. The event organiser must submit the COVID Safe Event Plan for approval a minimum of 20 business days prior to the event taking place.

##### Outdoor events

- Fewer than 1,500 people per day – must comply with a COVID Safe Event Checklist, no further approval needed;

- Between 1,500 and 10,000 people per day - must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by local PHU's. The event organiser must submit the COVID Safe Event Plan for approval a minimum of 10 business days prior to the event taking place;
- Over 10,000 people per day - must comply with a COVID Safe Event Plan approved by the Chief Health Officer. The event organiser must submit the COVID Safe Event Plan for approval a minimum of 20 business days prior to the event taking place.

## Events – Multi Day

Requirements for multi-day events providing on-site accommodation with shared facilities do not require a COVID Safe Event Plan and PHU approval **IF** the venue being used is operating under an Approved COVID Safe Plan such as the 'Queensland Tourism and Accommodation Industry COVID-SAFE PLAN'. Where there is a cross-over of event activities, you must opt in a separate Industry plan for that activity.

The multi day event criteria for providing on-site accommodation is intended to capture premises that do not ordinarily operate as accommodation and/or have an approved Industry Plan in place.

A clear example to demonstrate the delineation here is our QCCC sites. They operate under (and interchange in between as required) the Queensland Tourism and Accommodation Industry COVID-SAFE PLAN and the Outdoor Education Providers Industry Plan, and providing accommodation is a part of their ordinary operations. As such, where an event's activities fit under these Plans, no COVID Safe Event Plan or PHU approval is required.

Where a church is hosting a multi-day event providing on-site accommodation with shared facilities and **ARE NOT** using a venue that operates under an Approved Industry Plan where providing accommodation is an ordinary part of their business activities, a COVID Safe Event Plan and Public Health Unit approval would be required.

For any multi-day events providing on-site accommodation with shared facilities, we strongly encourage churches to liaise early in their venue selection process to understand what option needs to be taken for the event. We urge churches to check with their host venue:

1. What Industry Plan they are operating under;
2. Their total capacity observing the 4m<sup>2</sup> rule in bedrooms;
3. Request a copy of their Health Management Plan for your records; and
4. Request a copy of their Statement of Compliance.

Our QCCC venues have done a lot of work to ensure compliance, and to facilitate the effective organisation of COVID safe camps. Churches around the State are welcome to access [QCCC's COVID Safe Info Page](#) to download templates for camp organisation and understand the documentation required for a COVID safe camp.

## Operating at 100% Capacity

The ability to operate at 100% capacity is determined by the provision of **ticketed and allocated seating**.

Ticketed and allocated seating means fixed seating where an attendee is:

- given a record of their assigned seat number by way of a ticket; and
- remains in their assigned seat to the extent possible while they are present at the venue or event.

Places of Worship operating at 100% capacity with ticketed and allocated seating **must require attendees to wear masks on entry and exit.**

We recently sought relaxation on the mandating of face masks for entry and exit, given that other businesses operating at 100% capacity are not all required to mandate masks.

We have been advised:

*"The key risk identified by Queensland Health with Places of Worship is that worship events are generally attended by communities of people, who often know one another and are more likely to connect with many others within their congregation, beyond those they arrived with. As a result, when Places of Worship are operating at 100% capacity, advice from Queensland Health is that masks should be mandatory, not just strongly encouraged, when they are not sitting in their allocated seat and it is not possible to physically distance (i.e.: when entering and exiting the Place of Worship).*

*If a Place of Worship is unable to comply with this requirement, they should operate under the 1 person per 2 square metre rule instead, as masks are only mandatory when operating at 100% capacity."*